



**Matikao Team Newsletter**  
**Term 1 2020**

Welcome back to everyone for Term One and a special welcome to new families joining our team. Our focus this term is ***Journey***. We will also be spending time establishing classroom routines and practice in order to create a positive learning environment for 2020.

**Our Enduring Understandings:**

1. God is our companion on the journey of life.
2. A journey begins with a single step.
3. The journey can be as important as the destination.

**Our Essential Questions:**

1. Why journey?
2. How can we prepare for journeys?
3. How do we overcome challenges on our journeys?

**Our Marian Values:**

1. Courage
2. Strength
3. Service

**Our Key Competencies:**

1. Managing self
2. Participating and contributing

If you have any concerns, questions or need more information about anything happening in the school, please talk to your class teacher first. They work with your children on a daily basis and have the most information about your child, their learning and social interactions. Amanda Bates is Team Leader in Matikao. She is based in St Lucy. We want the best for your children, so please let us know if you need any assistance at all. All our team teacher email addresses are at the end of this letter for your information. It is a good idea to email your classroom teacher (no message required!) so that we can save your email addresses.

**Routines:**

With our younger students, establishing routines is critical. Children will need their Book Bags at school **every day**. They will also need PE uniforms at school each day and these can be left at school during the week. Every class has a Library session each week, so please ensure library books are returned by the class library day.

School begins at 8.45 each day so please ensure your children are at school *by 8:30* to allow them time to organise themselves for their learning. It can be stressful for children who arrive late and it is disruptive to the class if latecomers arrive when morning prayers have started.

**Independence:**

This is another critical skill that we encourage. We find that children who are involved in packing their own bags (with support initially) feel more in control and have a better knowledge about what they have with them on any given day. You may consider the drop off and pick up zone at the beginning and/or the end of the day. This has staff and older students to help younger students enter and exit their cars. It may be an easier option for parents who have pre-school children so you do not have to get everyone out of the car.

**Reading:**

It is recognised that shared reading is a very effective way of modelling different aspects of reading and providing opportunities for peers to model reading skills. We are going to focus on shared reading initially in our classrooms. We will work on shared books as part of our reading programme, giving students opportunities to work on texts at a range of levels. Guided reading starts soon, and students will bring home readers when this begins. Please return readers each day. A new reader cannot go home if books are not returned. This upsets reading progress and will eventually result in a replacement charge of approximately \$10 per book.

**School Bags:**

We strongly encourage students to wear their bags on their backs. Research proves this is essential in assisting children with self regulation and helping to calm any early morning nerves. Please support us in this by allowing them to carry their own bags and unpack them independently. This is a part of your child learning to self-manage.

**Uniform:**

Hats are compulsory this term. Please ensure these, and black sandals are **named**. Please ensure long hair is tied back and children are not wearing extra jewellery or nail polish. More details about the uniform are on the school website <http://www.stellamaris.school.nz/> alternatively you can ask class teachers if you are not sure.

**Absences:**

If your child is not coming to school, please either ring or email the office and leave a message with your child's name and class - [absences@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:absences@stellamaris.school.nz)

**Brainfood:**

Students have a brainfood break every day at 10am. This is a **small** healthy snack to help them retain focus and energy. It is not an extra morning tea and we encourage students to continue working while they 'nibble'. Some examples of suitable brainfood include: a small pot of dried fruit, sliced cheese, vege sticks. Please do not send in whole apples or oranges for brainfood as this takes too long to eat. We are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

**Lunch eating:**

This year we will be continuing to follow the Play, Eat, Learn model and will have supervised lunch eating at 1pm, after children have had time to play. The children are allowed to eat at any time during the lunch break, as long as they are sitting down.

**WasteWise:**

Our school is a WasteWise school and we are committed to reducing, reusing and recycling wherever possible. We encourage families to use reusable containers in lunch-boxes. We have a school compost bin, so organic scraps will be collected. We encourage lunches that minimise, or have no landfill refuse. If you would like ideas or support in this, please talk to your classroom teacher. We thank you for your support.

**Communication:**

Information about school and team events are included in the weekly newsletters that come home every Thursday. All this information is also on our website. You can be included in The Beacon, which is an email with information and reminders and events. Please see the office if you would like to receive these emails if you are not already on the list. In the next week or so PTFA class reps will be organised and they will also send out relevant texts to families for reminders. If you need any further information or detail, email or talk to your classroom teacher. We hope that all these options ensure you are informed of everything you need to know.

**Summer Heat:**

We encourage students to apply sunscreen before coming to school in this very hot weather. There is a bottle of sunscreen for reapplication in each class as well. We also ask that students bring a drink bottle of water each day. Only **WATER** is permitted at school.

**Class Needs:**

We would appreciate it if each student could please bring in a box of tissues some time during the year. These are so necessary for running a clean and pleasant classroom! Also a hand sanitiser, if possible. Thank you very much for these.

**Book bags:**

The year 2 children did not receive a new book bag with their stationary order as you all have one from year 1. If you wish, you may send along last year's one or else, purchase a new one from a stationary shop, The Warehouse etc. The school office does not have any for sale.

We are excited about this year and we look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming weeks.

Thank you and God bless

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Amanda Bates, St Lucy

Pam Pyatt, St Mary

Diana Pearson, St Nicholas

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