

7 February 2020



TO THE PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF ROOM 9 STUDENTS

Welcome to 2020! The purpose of this letter is to inform you of how Room 9 will be working and of some of the routines and expectations for the 2020 year.

There are 27 students in Room 9 (eight Year 6 students and 19 Year 7 students). We have had a great few days together already and I am looking forward to getting to know your children and meeting you as the term goes on.

Homework

Research evidence shows that reading is the most important and worthwhile homework for our students to do. Therefore I am not setting any homework but will be encouraging students to be reading at home.

Websites like *StudyLadder* and *Maths Buddy* can provide activities for students to do at home. I will ensure there are activities set up on these sites for students to use if they want to. We will also use Maths Buddy as part of our class programme.

Please also encourage your child to “*Push Play*” for at least 30 minutes a day (i.e. be active – kick a ball around, go for a bike ride, shoot some hoops, dance, or go for a swim etc).

Fitness/P.E.

We will be having fitness every day and students need to bring sports shoes to school every day (have their sports shoes in their bag to put on, please do not wear them to school).

Full P.E. gear will need to be at school on Wednesdays and Fridays for P.E. lessons please. Your child needs to have the school sports uniform for these lessons.

Uniform

As Room 9 are seniors of the school, it is important that our students wear their uniform correctly and with pride. A reminder that there is no jewellery except gold or silver stud earrings, a medic alert bracelet, and a watch. Shoes need to be leather-look black or brown school shoes, not sneakers. Hair that touches the collar needs to be tied up.

Integrated Studies

The school wide theme for 2020 is: *Te Arahia- A Pathway to Life*. During Term 1 we will look at identity, well-being, expressing feelings, listening skills, and friendship. We will be preparing for camp and will also be looking at the CARITAS unit for 2020.

Camp

Room 9 is on camp from Wednesday 26 February to Friday 28 February at Mt Hutt Retreat. Please ensure all consent and medical forms are completed as soon as possible.

Routines and Expectations

The students in Room 9 will be encouraged to be as independent as possible, e.g. get ready for school before the bell, complete jobs and roles at school without having to be reminded, remember to have their sports shoes at school daily, and their sports uniform at school on Wednesdays and Fridays. I also expect students who need to wear spectacles to have them at school and not to have to be reminded all of the time to wear them.

The students have come up with some expectations they have for behaviour, attitude, and learning in the classroom:

- Kindness
- Responsible
- Respectful
- Positivity
- Teamwork

Technology

Year 7 students in Room 9 start Technology at Roncalli College on **Wednesday 12 February**. Students will have an earlier lunch and then leave St Joseph's at 12.15pm and travel by bus to Roncalli. They return to St Joseph's at 2.30pm.

Devices

Room 9 is very much a digital classroom and electronic devices are used daily for a variety of subjects.

If your child has a device please remind them to charge it each night and to have it at school daily.

Students who do not have their own device will use a school chromebook.

Students are not on devices before school or at break times unless they are completing school work and being supervised by a teacher.

Cellphones are not used or really needed at school. If they are at school, they need to be handed into the teacher at the beginning of the day and will be returned on the home bell.

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am often available before or after school, but at times I may be busy with duty, class preparation or meetings. I am only too happy to make an appointment to see you if you would like to sit down and talk about your child.

This is the link to the [St Joseph's Timaru Room 9](#) Facebook group. Please click on the link and request to be added.

I will post photos of the students learning and reminders etc on this page.

Kind regards

Katie Scannell
CLASSROOM TEACHER

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