

4 February 2020

TO THE PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF ROOM 8 STUDENTS



Welcome to 2020! The purpose of this class letter is to inform you of how Room 8 will be working and some of the routines and expectations for the 2020 year.

There are 28 students in Room 8 (4 Year 7 students and 24 Year 8 students). I am lucky that nine of the Year 8 students were in Room 8 last year so that should make the start of the year even smoother. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and meeting you.

Mrs Cath Moore will cover my release time from the classroom this year. Cath and I have discussed our expectations and will keep in close communication to ensure that the class runs smoothly. I have linked a [class timetable](#) for your information. You will notice it is split into even and odd weeks. Odd weeks I teach full time, and during even weeks I have my syndicate leader release on Wednesday morning, and am Acting Principal for Carmel while she does her Community of Learning Lead Principal work on Thursday and Friday.

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 encouraging students to be reading at home. The Timaru District Library has a great selection of books too and the librarians are very helpful and knowledgeable, and can help with finding books that your child may be interested in.

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 Thursdays and Fridays for P.E. lessons please (both weeks). Your child needs to have the school sports uniform for these lessons (St Joseph's sports top and navy shorts).

Uniform

As Room 8 are the 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 and needs to be of a natural colour. More information about uniform etc. can be found on our [school website](#) - just search 'uniform'.

Integrated Studies

The school wide theme for 2020 is *Te Arahia - A Pathway to Life*. We will be covering a few Health Curriculum topics to start with including: identity, well-being, growth mindset, and Keeping Ourselves Safe. We will also look at the Caritas unit for 2020 as well. The theme for the unit is *Caritas in Action: Restoring Hope and Spreading Love*.

Camp

Room 8 is on camp from **Tuesday 18 February** to **Friday 21 February** in Christchurch. Please ensure all [consent and medical forms](#) are completed as soon as possible. A separate camp notice was emailed home on Monday 3 February.

Routines and Expectations

The students in Room 8 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 Thursdays 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 five expectations they have for behaviour, attitude, and learning in the classroom:

- Kindness
- Responsible
- Respectful
- Trustworthy
- Teamwork

Technology

Room 8 students start Technology at Roncalli College on Wednesday 12 February. Students leave St Joseph's at 12.15pm and travel by bus to Roncalli. They return to St Joseph's at 2.30pm.

Devices

Room 8 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. If their device is being repaired or is not coming to school I would appreciate an email or note from you regarding this.

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 to be looked after prior to the 9.00am bell. They will be handed back at 3.00pm.

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 [2020 Room 8 St Joseph's School](#) Facebook group. Please click on the link and request to be added. I will post photos, reminders etc. on this page. If you do not have a Facebook account, please email me and I can email you photos or information that involve your child that would otherwise be on the Facebook page.

Cath and I are looking forward to an awesome year in Room 8.

Kind regards

Amanda O'Brien
CLASSROOM TEACHER

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