

The Bachelors' Programme 2016

Term One Newsletter – February 24

A big welcome to:

- all the families who have moved up from the Undergrads
- the families new to Chelsea School

The Bachelors' Team 2016:

This year our syndicate is made up of 72 children in 3 classes.

The teachers in the Bachelors' Syndicate are:

Mrs Jennie Le Sueur in Space 10 (Syndicate Leader)

Mrs Prue East in Space 11

Mr Jono Lange in Space 12

Each class will also spend an hour a week with Mr Anderson working on Health and P.E. skills - team games, co-operating and relating to others.



Bachelor Syndicate newsletters - See the Chelsea website – Our People - Bachelors page if you need to check for newsletters and other notices - <http://www.chelsea.school.nz/>

Emails - an email will be sent out on Friday each week to inform you of important notices for the following week. Have you been receiving these? If not, please see the office to update your email.

EOTC – Education Outside the Classroom for Term 1

We are organising several outside the classroom events across Term One rather than a whole week of activities like the Master and Phd syndicates.

Challenge Day with the Undergrads - Tuesday 23 February

Kendall's Bay Beach trip - now Thursday 3 March (see separate notice)

Swimming Sports - Tuesday 8 March at 1.30

Homework

Homework is very much an individual family matter. Children are busy with after school activities, sports and helping around the home - all these activities help grow a well-rounded individual.

Here are our thoughts on how Homework should/could be handled.

Reading:

We feel that daily reading is **the most important** at home activity at the Year 2 level. Read to your child and with your child. Books will come home daily - your child is reminded to change their reader each day. **Bug Club** is also an option.



Homework Activity sheets

Our Homework Activity sheets, **which are voluntary**, are guidelines to help you focus on what might be important after school activities for your child. Children will share these each week. Homework books will now be coming home in book bags. In it there should be a Homework activity sheet, your child's Google logon and password and The Essential Spelling word Lists - words to learn at home.

Alongside reading, spelling, basic facts, opportunities for writing stories, handwriting and keyboard skills are extra activities that can be practised at home.

Alphabet Rain and BBC Dancemat are great learn to type websites

[Alphabet Rain](#) [BBC Dancemat typing](#)

Please come and see us if you are having difficulties over homework.

Homework Clear files

There may also be clear file folders coming home for the children to work in. The main idea behind these is to give writing practice at home, as well as oral language practice and confidence when they read the work back to the class. If you can't complete the sheet in 2 nights please take it out and keep it until it is finished and send back the folder for the next person to use. The first one is called "Introducing Me..."

Introducing

**the fabulous
the wonderful
the amazing
the fantastic
the incredible**

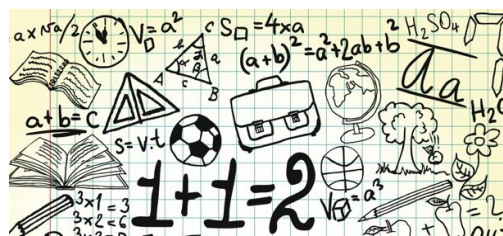
..... Me

Maths

We start the term with Statistics – gathering and recording data, interpreting graphs and charts. This will be followed by Number which includes Addition & Subtraction. The Maths topics to be covered this year are -

80% of each term will be devoted to Number – number knowledge, place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals (money.)

The other maths strands to be covered during the year are – Statistics, Algebra, Geometry and Measurement which includes -time, length, weight, capacity



Basic Facts

This is another important part of the Maths programme and is an excellent opportunity for you to take part in your child's learning. By doing basic facts practice at home you are helping your child work more quickly during Maths at school. There are lots of card games and activities, apps/websites to help learn these facts. This year we have a new online basic facts programme for students at Chelsea School to use. There are now online practice forms available on the school website for students to use - Learning - Basic Facts - [Practise Sheets](#) Your child will need to logon with their Google logon (pasted in their Homework book)

Spelling

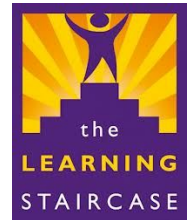
The Essential word lists form the basis of our spelling programme. These are the Basic Sight words. Please test your child on these words (find them in the Homework book)and learn the ones they don't know. By the end of years at school (80 weeks or 7th birthday) they should know all of List 1 and 2.



[Essential Word Lists PDF](#)

At school we will be learning these words as well as other words important to the current Inquiry topic and words they use regularly in their writing.

We will also be using **The Steps to Literacy Programme**, a computer based literacy programme which develops all aspects of literacy, including vocabulary, comprehension and verbal reasoning. The children are tested and then start at a level that suits their needs – so it is individualised to meet the needs of each child.



Reading

Our reading programme follows on the same as the Undergrads' reading programme. The book bag will be sent home each day including weekends. There will be readers that have been chosen by the teacher or your child, and eBooks (see Bug Club below), poems and songs in a Poetry clear file, which will form the basis of the home reading programme. We are not asking you to keep a log of the books your child reads this year.

It is really important that your child has plenty of practice reading and discussing what has been read. This helps develop comprehension and word meaning as well as word recognition and deeper understanding of the text.



Reading to your child is still an important part of learning to read. Please read to them to build an enjoyment for books and to help grow their vocabulary of words.

Book bags need to be returned each morning to the tote boxes in your child's class. If your child is on Red, Yellow, Blue or Green they will have the list of words to learn to read, (not spell), just like last year.

Junior readers - please look after the readers that come home with your child. They often come back in a damaged state which makes them unpleasant to read. These reading books are nearly \$10 each, so please help your children learn to treat them with respect so that others can enjoy them.



Bug Club online reading programme – is available again for a \$3 subscription. These online readers complement the reading programme in the classroom. These online books have activities that check up on comprehension and word knowledge for each book. It is an excellent way to make sure your child is reading each night – no more excuses about forgetting to get a book or book bag.

Inquiry/ C.O.T. - **“Action - Reaction”**

Below is an outline of the topics we hope to cover this term in our attempt to investigate the whole school-wide focus for the year.

During Inquiry we cover aspects of the Science, Social Sciences, Health/P.E. and Arts curriculum to help us research answers to the school-wide topic.



Term One – Social Sciences: The Language of Learning - classroom goals, expectations, routines, procedures; the brain, how we learn;
Managing ourselves, Respecting others, respecting property
Groups – families, friends, teams, cultures, traditions and festivals
Health & P.E. – Keeping ourselves healthy and safe - summer safety, water sense;
swimming confidence and skills, ball skills, team games, PMP
Science – the beach environment, water investigations

During these studies we will use various thinking strategies and extend the children's knowledge of how we learn. The children will have opportunities to work individually, with partners and in small and large groups. All these aspects of our programme ensure that we are meeting all parts of the curriculum.

By the end of the term children will need to explain how and why water is essential to our existence .



The rest of the term we will set up investigations based around the other classical elements - Air, Fire and Earth

Flexi learning

Bachelors all work as a team of 3 classes most of the time. This year we are calling it Flexi learning - flexible teachers, flexible groups, flexible activities, flexible spaces, flexible times - we are flexible to change. Our students are getting used to this moving around the 3 classes and working with a different teacher and different children. This way we get to know all the children in the Year 2 group and can cater to all their different learning styles and rates of learning.



The School Day

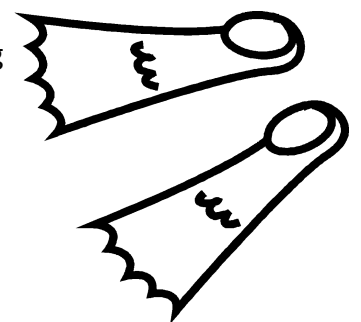


The bell goes at 8.55 for the start of school. Please make sure you have your child here in time to get themselves ready. Before 8.45 is a good time. They need time to take their book bag to their class and to talk with their friends before school starts. There are always games, paper for drawing, books to read or activities to do in the classroom or they may play outside between 8.30 and 8.55. Please feel free to come in and read or play a game with your child and their friends if you wish. There is a sample timetable on the Bachelors' page on the school website to show you how your child spends their day at school.

Swimming

Please have the children bring their togs each swimming day. Our swimming days are every day except Tuesday.

Please make sure that all their clothing is named, including swim goggles and towels. We already have had children go home with the wrong T shirts. So please check that your child has the correct clothing. Please return any clothing that doesn't belong to you as children often grab the wrong sweatshirt or hat in the rush to go home.



Junior Swimming Sports are on Tuesday 8 March at 1.30.

We join up with the Undergrads for this event. You are invited to come and watch. More details will come shortly.

Milk in Schools and Brain Food

The Bachelors have been eating their Brain food at around 10 am and then drinking cartons of milk after lunch. The time taken to do both of these is impacting on our quality learning time. We would like to make a change to this and trial having our carton of milk at 10am and doing away with brain food altogether. Children who don't drink milk can drink their water and bring a small piece of fruit. Let's see how this goes this term.



Stars of the Week - School Values

Each Friday afternoon the 3 classes meet to share their learning with each other, sing songs, discuss important issues as well as hand out certificates to 2 children from each class.

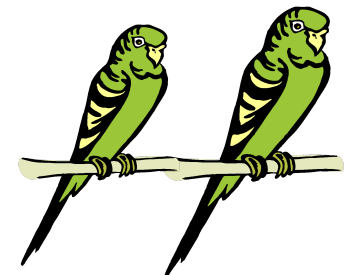
Certificates are given to children for:

1. success for learning achievements
2. acknowledgement of displaying the school values of respect, responsibility, honesty and excellence



The Budgies

Space 10 has 2 budgies that have become part of the class and syndicate. They enjoy going for sleepovers at the children's houses over the weekend. This gives children who perhaps don't have a pet a chance to care for one for a weekend. If you would like to take the birds home for the weekend send a message or come in and choose a weekend from the roster on the wall in Space 10. Budgies are very easy pets to look after for the weekend.



eLearning and class blogs - Seesaw

eLearning in the Bachelors is an important part of the everyday class programme. It will include using digital cameras, computers, laptops, TV and iPads to help facilitate learning. You will see the children using web tools and apps that will encourage them to write, record using voice and photos, practise, research and collaborate on tasks with each other.



The Learning Journal

Seesaw will play an important part as the place where we will share our learning with you, our audience. We hope you will encourage the children in their attempts to communicate their learning, by giving feedback in the form of comments on their work. Items will be added most days depending on what we are learning. Every child learns how to post photos and captions on their class blog to show what we are learning.

(Please note that all posts and comments need to be approved by the class teacher first before they will appear)

Children can add to their Seesaw page at home as well. They will need their Google logon to do this - (pasted in their Homework book)

Keeping in touch

Teachers and parents working together form an important part of a child's education. So we welcome any contact from you - suggestions, ideas, problems etc or just purely a social call to introduce yourself or say hello. Notes in Homework books or e-mailing us are also ways to keep in touch. Feel free to make an appointment to see us if you want a more formal meeting.

Check for information about happenings in the Bachelors on the whiteboard outside Space 10 or on our syndicate page on the school website. [Bachelors page on the school website](#)

We will write notices here for parents and children to read to help keep you in touch with things.

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We're looking forward to a great year with lots of learning and fun.

Jennie Le Sueur (Team Leader, Bachelors)

Prue East

Jono Lange