

5 February 2009 - Week One - Term One



Assembly

Our assemblies are held fortnightly on Friday at 2.20 pm, starting next Friday 13 February.

Dear Friends and Families

Welcome to the 2009 school year. I hope you all had a relaxing break and enjoyed some special family time. It has been a great start to the year, with the children well prepared and enthusiastic for starting back at school.

We are delighted to have our new staff on board and excited about being a part of Marton School.

Our virtue for this term is "Courtesy". Courtesy is being polite and having good manners. "Please", "Thank You", "Excuse Me", "Hello", "Goodbye", "You're Welcome" are not just words; they are courteous expressions that show people you respect and care about them.

In this newsletter and continuing next week are many reminders about our expectations. Please take the time to read them and discuss them with your child.

We look forward to having you actively involved in your child's education so please expect (and ask for) the newsletter each Thursday, so you are informed about what is happening. This year we will be sending the newsletter home with the youngest child in the family.

We welcome Hayden, Andrew, Mason, Mahalai and Hori, Taneesha, Tamahou, Michael and Caden.

2009 Term Dates

The term dates for this year are:

- Term 1: Monday 2 February—Thursday 9 April
- Term 2: Monday 27 April—Friday 3 July
- Term 3: Monday 20 July—Friday 25 September
- Term 4: Monday 12 October—Tuesday 15 December

Welcome Back: Family Lunch and Games Wednesday 11 February



We would like to start the year by having the chance to get together and celebrate being back at school. Lunch will start early at 12.00 and be followed by opportunities for parents to get involved in playground games and / or organized teacher / parent versus student games. If you are working, we hope you can get away and join us for part of this

Absences

If your child is absent from school, we would appreciate you ringing the office by 9.00 am to let us know. If we do not know why a child is absent, office staff will endeavour to contact parents by phone to find out why. Children are required to be at school unless they are sick or have a justified reason for being absent. It is most important that your contact details are kept up to date. A blue form was sent home to update this information on Monday.

You can now inform us of absences by text. Our school mobile number is 027 211 3009. Please ensure you state who is absent and why!

Weekly Challenge

Week —Challenge

- Junior** - Which country recently had a brand new President appointed?
- Middle** - How many children does this new President have and give their names.
- Senior** - What are the full names and surname of the President?

School Leaders

This year with help from staff, we have selected our school councillors and house captains by considering each student's strengths, service, commitment and potential. We will announce the leaders at our assembly on Friday afternoon.

Teacher Only Day

Once again the Minister of Education has provided all school with one day to use for developing our school curriculum. This year our cluster has the opportunity to hear Lester Flockton, University of Otago and contributor to the writing of the revised curriculum.

Lester will be working with the staff of all our Cluster schools on the afternoon of Wednesday 25 February. In the morning, each school will have their own time. We will be using this to follow up on the work we did last term.

I apologise for this disruption so early in the term, just as you are enjoying being back in routine, but this will be excellent PD for us to use in our work for the rest of the year.

Remember if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We are here to work with you and to achieve the best we can for your child/ren.



Houses

As occurred last year, we have once again reallocated students to house groups for 2009. This year we have renamed the houses as: Swindell, Vili, Van Dyke and Ulmer (all famous New Zealand Sportswomen). We appreciate that within this system, students may change house group every year, but have identified that it allows us to create a balance that makes for healthy competition each year instead.

Uniform

Thank you for the commitment you have shown to our school uniform. The children look great and stand out, proudly, as belonging to our school.

Our uniform expectations include:

- That it will be worn every day, unless the student council has organised a "Mufti Day". This means washing it overnight and on the weekend. Extra clothing should not be visible over or under the uniform.
- Shoes should be appropriate for school activities and in appropriate school colours. Covered shoes for Technology.
- Jewellery includes a watch, non-dangly earring, taonga.

If for any reason your child cannot wear their uniform, they will need to bring a note of explanation to their teacher. Consequences will be given to students who do not follow our expectations.

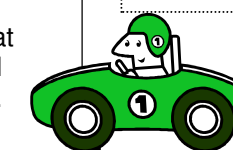
Children will need to bring a change of clothes to school for PE.

Car Parking

We really appreciate parents that make choices to help to keep all our children safe in these areas. Remember:

- Drive slowly
- Get to school before the bell, so you are parked before children come out
- Back into your car park so you can clearly see as you pull away
- Only park in proper spaces—NO double parking
- Use the old site car park and walk through to meet your children.

This is especially important with the work that is being undertaken outside the school at the moment.



IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

- **Wednesday 11 February: Meet the Teacher**
- **Friday 13 February: Assembly: Room 10**
- **Tuesday 17 February: BOT Meeting**
- **Wednesday 18 February: Parents and Friends Meeting**
- **Wednesday 25 February: Cluster Teacher Only Day**
- **??: Swimming Sports**
- **Tuesday 10 March: Cluster Swimming Sports**
- **Tuesday 17 March: BOT Meeting**
- **Wednesday 18 March: Parents and Friends Meeting**
- **Tuesday 24 March and Wednesday 25 March: Parent/ Teacher/ Student Conferences**
- **Tuesday 24 March: Athletics Day**
- **Friday 3 April: Cluster Athletics**

Regards Brya Dixon
www.marton.school.nz