



Wednesday 26 January 2022



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou kātoa

It is an honour and privilege to introduce myself as the new Principal of St Heliers School. Some of you will also be new to the school but for others this may mean quite a change. I have been the principal of several schools, and apart from a few years at Whangarei Heads, these have mainly been in my home city, Auckland.

When I am not working, I enjoy staying fit by running and walking, which I need to do as I also enjoy going to restaurants. I enjoy travelling, when that is possible, and I like a variety of water activities. I live relatively nearby, in Freemans Bay. Some of you might be interested to know the origins of my surname. Our whanau have been able to trace it back to a Greek Fisherman who travelled here from Santorini.

St Heliers School is highly regarded throughout Auckland as a high achieving school with dedicated and capable teachers and a community which cares about children's education and wellbeing. I am very proud to be leading it. St Heliers is a city school with a village feel.

I am very much looking forward to the start of school as are the staff. I am sure that the children are too. This will be the first time that they have been able to be together as a whole school since August last year. For some of our younger children it will be their first time at school.

I do understand you may be feeling anxious about your children starting back at school with the country at the red light setting and the Omicron variant extending beyond the border. Please be assured that the Senior Management Team have been updating the Health and Safety Plan, with recent advice provided by the Ministry of Education, and we have put in place measures which will mitigate any risk. I will be sending out communications this Friday 28 January with the measures we are taking and how you as a family can help to ensure your child's transition back to school is a smooth one. I hope this will answer many of your questions and we will continue to communicate with you regularly as the situation changes.

In the meantime, I am very much looking forward to seeing all the children, who I have been told are caring, conscientious, diligent, and well mannered. I ask that you are a little patient with me as it will take me some time to learn family names.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi  
Principal