



Newsletter

10 February 2022

www.stheliers.school.nz

Xīnnián hǎo Happy Chinese New Year

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou kātoa

It was lovely to see all the children return to school, and for me to finally meet them. I could see how excited and eager they were to meet their new classmates and teacher. I know that the staff were also looking forward to seeing all the children. It has been over 5 months since all the children and staff have been able to be at school all together.

I managed to get around to all the Year levels on the first day to talk to the children outside. I must say how respectful and polite the children have been. A real credit to Craig and the staff over many years and of course to you as parents. After the first day I have been able to meet many during the break times outside where I can see and talk to the students. I have learnt some names already but it will take me some time before I remember them all.

I understand how difficult it is for you to say goodbye to children at the gates while we are in Red, especially for our very young students. I do thank you for helping to keep all the children safe. It has been so nice to have met many of you at the school gates while dropping off your children. Thank you for being so welcoming.

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my start at St Heliers School. I look forward to the challenge of upholding the values, maintaining high expectations for our school and getting to know the school community. I look forward to applying my own educational experiences to St Heliers School.

Attendance

It is very pleasing to see that the school community has confidence in the school to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 and that our COVID-19 Health and Safety plan is robust and responsive to changes. We had 98.4% attendance on the first day back which is fantastic, and it looks like that has continued through the week.

Masks

We would have liked to have been at Orange and avoided mandatory mask wearing but I have to say the children have been very adaptable. We have been fortunate that the rain has stayed away allowing students to remove their masks outside during break times. Teachers, when they can, have learning and regular mask breaks for the students outside.



I have been pleased that students have been respectful of the few students we have who are not able to wear masks. This is the inclusive environment that we encourage at St Heliers School.



For those who are having the same issues as me with fogging glasses we can recommend using Bright Wipe StopFog Gel available from the Chemist Warehouse.

Meet the Teachers' Evening

Normally at this time of the year we would have 'Meet the Teachers' Evening'. Unfortunately, at Red it is not safe to have so many parents on site. This year, each classroom teacher will share with you a digital presentation to introduce themselves and share routines and expectations for the new school year. You can expect to receive this by Friday 25 February. We hope that in 2023 we will return to our physical 'Meet the Teacher Evening' held in our school hall and the classrooms, as we value this opportunity as a key event to develop home school connections.

Student Photos

Part of the enrolment process is completing a 'Consent to Publish Child's Learning'. This means that from time to time a child's learning may be shared online, by the school, including photos, blogs, videos, and written work. This form of publishing is for educational purposes only.



From time to time, parents might take photos of their child at school, on a class trip, at a sports day and such like. It is important to remember that for privacy reasons, parents must not publish a photo of any other child on social media platforms without the permission of that child's parent.

Tuckshop

The school tuckshop will be open from Wednesday 23 February, and as before, is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The menu will stay the same for now with healthy additions from time to time.

We would recommend you email your child's order through before 9pm the previous evening.

Email: gfbirkenhead@gmail.com

The tuckshop box will still be located in the school office. However, during COVID-19 at Red, to avoid congregating in the office we would appreciate that **envelopes with orders are prepared before coming into the office so that they can simply be dropped in the box.**

Welcome to Scholastic Bookclub 2022

Children will have the opportunity to bring home brochures twice a term where you are able to purchase books should you wish to do so. Miss Franklin in Y6 is the school Scholastic Coordinator.

All purchases of books must be **ordered online.**

Some benefits of Bookclub:

- Carefully curated with age-appropriate titles.
- Value for money. Children can take home a book from as little as \$3.
- Quality publishing. Access to some of the best in children's publishing from bestselling authors and illustrators.
- Rewards that go back to the school to buy more books and educational resources.



Find out more online www.scholastic.co.nz

Communication

Teachers are in the process of phoning parents throughout the week. I find this is a great opportunity to have that more personal connection with your child's teacher and talk about all the marvellous things. If, and when your child's teacher needs to talk on the phone again, or finally meet, you already have that rapport.

I understand that the previous lock downs and current restrictions have caused anxiety amongst many children throughout Auckland. We will be doing all we can to create a safe and welcoming environment and incorporate wellbeing initiatives into our school programme throughout the year. Please keep your child's teacher informed if there is anything they need to be aware of.

Thank you again for the wonderful welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi
Principal