



Newsletter

12 March 2021

www.stheliers.school.nz

Dear Parents

This morning, the Prime Minister announced that Auckland moved to Covid-19 Alert Level 1 at midday today, 12 March. That is great news for the Auckland community and the country.

For our school, it means that there are no restrictions about schoolwide events or parents being onsite. The timing is very opportune because we can now go ahead with our Year 7 & 8 and Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports on Monday and Tuesday respectively at the Glen Innes Pool.

Thank you all for following our Alert Level 2 guidelines when you have been dropping off or picking up your children from school this week.

Lockdowns and Effects on Children’s Learning

Over the past few weeks there have been articles in the media about parents concerned about the effect of distance learning during lockdowns on their child’s academic progress.

I can only comment on what we have found at our school in relation to this issue.

Through our data collecting last year, there was no impact on the overall levels of achievement in the core learning areas of reading, writing and maths compared to previous years, even though there was approximately 6 weeks of distance learning last year.

This is an indicator of the strong teaching and learning programmes at the school, teachers providing appropriate learning opportunities during distance learning and the great support that you, as parents, gave your children at home whilst in those periods of lockdown.

2020 Reading, Writing, Mathematic End of Year Data

The tables below record the schoolwide levels of student achievement in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing and mathematics in relation to the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC)

READING - All Students		
Not achieving at the NZC	Achieving at the NZC	Achieving above the NZC
10.3%	46.9%	42.8%
Female		
8%	48%	44%
Male		
12%	46%	42%

WRITING - All Students		
Not achieving at the NZC	Achieving at the NZC	Achieving above the NZC
11.4%	61.9%	26.7%
Female		
8%	60%	32%
Male		
14%	64%	22%

MATHEMATICS - All Students		
Not achieving at the NZC	Achieving at the NZC	Achieving above the NZC
9.7%	59.1%	31.2%
Female		
10%	67%	23%
Male		
9%	53%	38%

Comments on the Data

- It is most pleasing that between 88% & 91% of all children at St Heliers are **at** or **above** their respective curriculum levels in reading, writing and maths.
- It is most pleasing that many children are achieving **above** the curriculum levels, with noteworthy achievement in reading.
- The results are an indicator of the strong teaching and learning programmes at School and the support from parents at home.
- For the children who have not yet reached the appropriate curriculum level, targeted support is given in a multitude of ways to meet and accelerate their needs. Examples include learning support programmes, ability grouping within the classroom, ESOL support from the Language Centre and in some cases individualised learning programmes.

Teacher Only Day Thursday 1 April

On the School Calendar you will have noticed that Thursday 1 April is a Teacher Only Day. The Children's Autism Foundation is presenting our Teacher Only Day and is for all our staff as we work or engage with children on the Autism Spectrum.

As well as gaining a deeper understanding of ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), one particular aspect that we will be looking at is those on the spectrum and how they deal with anxiety.

Anxiety is a topic that is at the forefront for all sectors of society. Not only will the staff gain a deeper understanding of this topic with children on the spectrum, but it will also help staff when supporting all children with this issue at school.

The date of 1 April was chosen as it will give school families the opportunity to have a slightly longer break over Easter with family and friends.

Alert Level 3 Bubble

During last week's alert level 3 lockdown, we had up to 20 children in a bubble, carrying out their distance learning supported by several of our staff. Thank you to the staff who worked with these children at school to support those parents in essential work.



Weet-Bix Kids Tryathlon

On a wonderfully sunny morning on Sunday 14 February, we had a team of approximately 80 children take part in the Weet-Bix Kids Tryathlon at Point England.

Well done to every single child who took part. They looked amazing, tried their best, and deserve to feel very proud of themselves. Well done parents for making it happen for them.

Kathy Harding. School Running Club



Uniform Shop

For parents who cannot make it to purchase their uniform on Tuesdays or Thursdays (8am – 8.45am) you can email Mary Hoff to place your order. Upon payment Mary would despatch your order to your child. The Uniform Shop Bank Account Number: 06-0266-0025598-30. Email your request to Mary Hoff: maryh@stheliers.school.nz

Swimming Sports

Now that we have had confirmation that Auckland will be at Alert Level 1, next week's swimming sports will proceed as follows:

- Year 7 & 8 Monday 15 March 10am – 2.30pm at the Glen Innes Pool
- Year 5 & 6 Tuesday 16 March 10am – 2.30pm at the Glen Innes Pool

Parents are most welcome to attend, but please bear in mind there is limited seating.

Kind regards



Principal

Auckland University Rugby Club

Auckland University Junior Rugby Registrations for the 2021 season are now open.

If you are new or wanting to find a top-quality club that has great people, players and coaches then head along to www.AURFC.co.nz and register at the [register here](#) link on the top of the page.

We have grades across the board ranging from U6/U7 Rippa rugby that is played on Friday night's and then U8-U13 tackle rugby played on Saturday mornings. We even have girls only teams for U9, U11 and U13s.

If you have any questions around the season or wanting to find out what grade will be best suited for your child, please contact the Junior Rugby Development Officer, Cory at rdo@aurfc.co.nz for more information.

St Heliers Out of School Care

OSCAR's will be providing an out of school care service at Glendowie Community Centre for parents that need childcare on **Teacher Only Day, Thursday 1 April 2021 9am to 3pm.**

Before school care 7am to 9am and after school Care 3pm to 6pm will all be at Glendowie Community Centre.

To book please click on this link: <https://enrolmy.com/st-heliers>

Price \$45 - Teacher Only Day, Thursday 1 April 2021 9am to 3pm- Easter Theme

Activities will include: Easter Bake off, Minute to Win It, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Craft

For more information please contact: oscar@sthelierscentre.org.nz or ph 575-8442

St Heliers Garden Club

We are a fun and friendly group who meet each month on a Thursday at 1.30pm at the St Heliers Community Centre. We have guest speakers and garden visits.

New members would be very welcome. Phone Roseanne - [021 1705 655](tel:0211705655)