



Newsletter

5 February 2021

www.stheliers.school.nz

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to the 2021 school year. I hope all school families had a great Christmas & New Year and enjoyed special family holiday time together.

A special welcome to families and children new to our school. We hope your time at St Heliers is happy and rewarding.

We have had an excellent start to the school year. Teachers and support staff put in many hours of work in preparing for the year ahead and the children returned to school in a positive manner and settled smoothly into classroom routines and work patterns.

We welcome four new teachers and three Learning Assistants:

- Kellie McLean, Year 6, Room 23
- Ben Christie, Year 8, Room 19
- Brittany Abrahams, Year 3, Room 12
- Liz Kelly in a job share role in Year 2, Room 5
- Tiffany Thompson, Learning Assistant
- Jo Macdonald, Learning Assistant
- Joanne Rennie, Learning Assistant

Teachers and Class Structure

| Year group | Classes per year level | Room numbers | Teachers |
|------------|------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 4 | 2, 3, 7, 8 | Jackie Lyon (TL), Katie Pearce, Sue Cran, Claire Smith |
| 2 | 3 | 4, 5, 6 | Lyn Williamson, Linda Bartlam (TL) & Liz Kelly, Jackie Buchanan |
| 3 | 3 | 11, 12, 13 | Kim Sanson, Britany Abrahams, Anna Kelso (TL) |
| 4 | 3 | 16, 17, 18 | Cathy Preston, Sherine Hall, Sarah Mill (TL) |
| 5 | 3 | 25, 26, 27 | Catherine Jackson (TL), Louise Morton, Sarah-Jane Darke |
| 6 | 4 | 20, 21, 22,23 | Stephanie Crang, Adrian Young, Lizanne Franklin (TL), Kellie McLean |
| 7 | 3 | 28, 29, 30 | Sam Harrison, Erin Clarke (TL), Kate Abela |
| 8 | 3 | 14, 15, 19 | Kerry Herbert, Lisa Ward (TL), Ben Christie |

Setting Standards and Classroom Routines

One of the most important tasks for staff at the beginning of the year is setting academic and behaviour standards. Both school wide and in classrooms, teachers set the very highest of standards and expectations, and insist that all children maintain these. Your help in re-enforcing these at the beginning and throughout the year, is a great support to the staff.

All classes construct class treaties, which talks about the way that these standards and expectations happen. Our School Values feature prominently in these class treaties.

Morning Bell Times

- 8.15am – children can enter the school grounds.
- 8.30am – classrooms are open.
- 8.50am – classes commence.

Parents Onsite for Morning Drop-offs & Afternoon Pick-ups

There was a necessity to limit parent access to the site for large periods of last year because of Covid alert levels. There is no restriction this year and let us hope that it stays that way!

Meet the Teachers' Evening

Wednesday 17 February is 'Meet the Teachers' Evening'. The evening is a great opportunity to continue to build up the positive relationship between staff and parents and for you to hear from your child's class teacher many aspects of the year ahead. Some of the topics teachers will cover are:

- Academic and behaviour standards
- Values in the classroom
- Classroom practices, rules and routines
- Curriculum priorities; literacy & numeracy
- Other curriculum areas
- Inquiry topics
- Homework
- How parents can support the teacher

The evening starts at 6.30pm outside Rooms 1 – 3 with drinks and nibbles kindly provided by the PTA. At 7.00pm we move into the hall, where I will introduce the staff to you and talk about some school priorities for the year ahead and current issues in education. Following my address, you will be invited to move to your child's classroom to hear individual teacher addresses.

Student Photos

Part of the enrolment process at St Heliers 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.

Mobile phones & watches with internet capability

Mobile phones & watches with internet capability are not permitted at school unless a parent requests, in writing to the class teacher, that the device be brought to school for personal safety reasons. The main reason a student might bring a device to school is to communicate with parents after school about school pickups. In such circumstances the student must give the mobile or watch to the class teacher in the morning and it is the student's responsibility to collect it at the end of the day.

The reason we have this policy is for internet safety purposes. Children have internet access for their learning in their classrooms under the supervision of their teacher using school devices (and for some of the older children, their own optional BYOD). Whilst on the school grounds, children cannot have the ability to access the internet during playtimes and lunchtimes for obvious safety reasons.

Student Attendance Term 2, 2020

Term 2 last year was a combination of almost five weeks of distance learning whilst NZ was at either Covid-19 Alert Levels 3 or 4 and then seven weeks of onsite learning at school. Almost 100% of schools coded their students as learning offsite for the first 5 weeks of the term and then normal attendance coding once back at school for the remaining 7 weeks of Term 2. Therefore, the information below is a combination of both offsite and onsite attendance data.

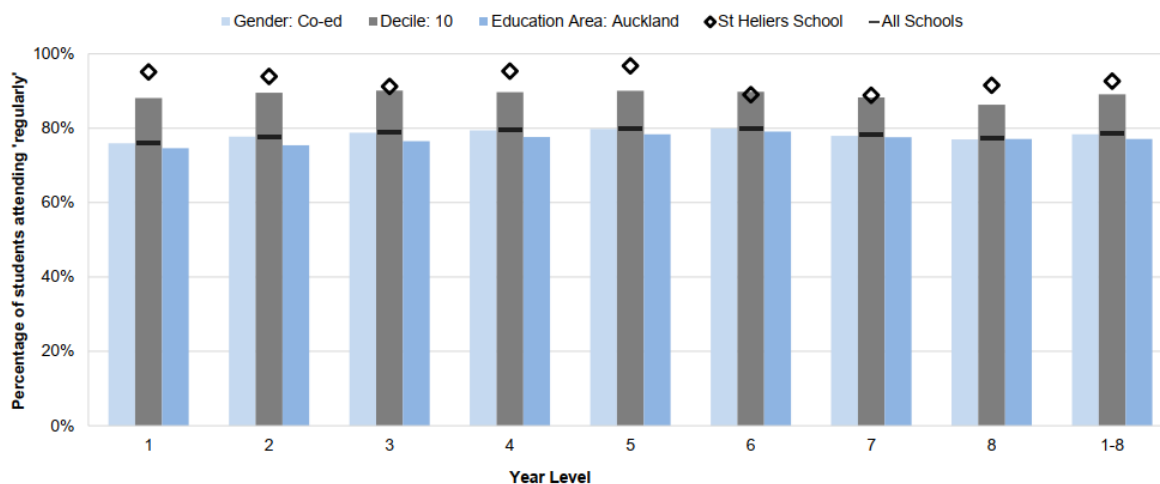
The Ministry of Education send attendance data to all schools, which allows schools to compare their school’s data against various benchmarks.

As you can see from the table below, the attendance data for our school is excellent. The data tells us many things about our school, including children’s engagement in their learning, parents’ involvement in their child’s education and the high quality teaching and support that our staff provide.



'Regular' attendance, by Year level (Term 2, 2020)

Comparing the proportion of students with 'regular' attendance at your school with national and like-school benchmarks.



NB. The attendance data from the offsite learning has inflated the overall Term 2 attendance rate nationally.

Tuckshop

We are pleased to announce that Gillian Birkenhead-Lusk has taken over the lease for our school tuckshop. Gillian knows the school well, as she worked in the tuckshop last year alongside Jo Davis. The school tuckshop will be open from Wednesday 10 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.

A new service is that you can have an account and pay monthly, but you must email the order in before 9pm the previous evening to GBsKitchen123@gmail.com . The timing is essential as there is no time to allocate monies to accounts the morning of service. No exceptions. The email must have your child’s name, room number and order.

School Fencing

From time to time, schools enrol children who have specific needs that relate to property. An example of this is if a school enrolled a child who was wheelchair bound, but the school did not have wheelchair access and ramps. In such a case the Ministry of Education must make property modifications to the school to enable that child attend. This is a cost to the Ministry, not the school.

In this instance relating to perimeter fencing, schools enrol children from time to time who may have a propensity to suddenly leave the schools (during school time). Therefore, it becomes a health and safety requirement for that school to be fenced, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. This is now the situation with our school.

We have worked alongside the Ministry and fencing designers to come up with a concept that will enhance and beautify the school property and add another layer of safety for our children.

The current entrance ways will have gates of varying sizes that have easy access, will be able to close once school has started and then opened once the school day is finished to continue to allow community access to the site.

Welcome to Scholastic Bookclub 2021

Children have the opportunity to bring home brochures twice a term where you are able to purchase books should you wish to do so.

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.



Issue 1 OUT NOW!



Find out more online www.scholastic.co.nz

Lizanne Franklin, Scholastic Coordinator

Payments to School

We are very pleased to report on the high uptake of parents using the online payment portal. If you are not already signed up to the portal please click here to register <https://shop.tgcl.co.nz>.

While the Online Payment Portal is our preferred payment method, we can still receive payments by internet banking or by Eftpos at the school office (surcharges may apply).

Payments made using Kindo will appear on your statement under the name The Growth Collective.

More information and these links can be found on our website.

<https://www.stheliers.school.nz/en/for-parents/school-payments>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Anthony'.

Principal

Set a good example... walk to school!

Why not walk to and from school with your child? It's the perfect opportunity to teach your child road safety skills and it is good for family fitness.

Walking is Fun, Free, and Fast!



Make 2021 the
year you **LEARN**
TO CODE!



<codechampions/>

Learning computer coding is one of the best ways to prepare your child for the future. It enhances not only a knowledge of digital technology but also helps to develop important life skills, like **confidence, focus, accuracy, problem solving, collaboration, and logical thinking.**

<After-school coding classes/>

Our after-school course develops computational thinking and understanding for **Year 5 to 8 students**. In 2021, we'll focus on the **Python** coding language. Classes run on **Thursdays** at the **St Heliers Community Centre** (100 St Heliers Bay Road).

<Turn a passion into purpose/>

Whether it's to support school studies or just for fun, our engaging and effective sessions will **get your child on the front foot with this important digital skill.**

<Join us and learn to code in 2021/>

For more information go to codechampions.nz or contact **Greg Adams** at info@codechampions.nz

 **SUMMERNOVA**

Summernova Waitemata Harbour Clean-Up

SAT 13 MARCH 12-2PM

Register at sustainablecoastlines.org/events

TE ATATU PENINSULA Harbour View Reserve
SHOAL BAY / NORTH SHORE Milford Reserve
TAMAKI ESTUARY Point England Reserve

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUCKLAND UNLIMITED

