

Dear Parents,



Welcome to the 2010 school year and a special welcome to families who are new to St Heliers School. The Year 1 teaching team for Term 1 is:

- Room 1 Mrs Astrid Herbert
- Room 2 Mrs Penny Knight
- Room 3 Miss Kate Burroughs
- Room 9 Miss Rebecca Owen

Outlined below is information relevant to Term One. This information will enable you to assist your Year One child in getting ready for the school day and their learning throughout the term.

Topic Study

We are beginning the year with a combined Social Studies and Health unit about "Me and My Family" and "Building a Happy and Safe Classroom." The St Heliers School values and school rules will also be discussed and these are displayed in all classrooms. We will then begin a Science unit based on butterflies and caterpillars. We have planned to visit Butterfly Creek later in the term. You will receive further information about this nearer to the date.

Reading

Home reading will commence in Week 2. Books that have already been read in class will be sent home with your child on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For those children who have already started school the books sent home may initially be at a lower instructional level than last year until teachers have completed testing. Please remember to sign the yellow "Home Reader" book after reading with your child each night and return the book the following day. To help care for our precious home reading books the junior school has a policy of, 'No book bag-no book'. Please encourage your children to look after our resources as they are very expensive to replace. (Every reader costs between \$5-10 each.)

On Friday children will have their poetry book to bring home. Each week your child will have a new poem, song or book extract to read with you. Please return the poetry book every Monday.

From Week 2 children will also receive a list of keywords to read and will be tested on these every week. When your child knows all the reading keywords your child may be given spelling words to learn.



Buddy Class

Every class has a buddy class. We often read or write with our buddy class. Sometimes they will help out with other activities such as art.

Maths - Number

Children will learn to count, identify and order numbers. They will also learn to name the number before and after a given number. Additionally, they will learn to add and subtract numbers using various mental strategies.

Your child will be grouped according to their ability and may be working with numbers to 10, numbers to 20, numbers to 100 or numbers to 1000 and beyond.



Maths-Strand

This term in maths we will be learning about statistics. The children will be counting objects using tally marks, sorting objects and making simple graphs.

Writing

Encourage your child to write at home. Once your child knows some letter sounds they are encouraged to write down the letters they can hear when they are trying to spell a word. You can help by praising your child for all attempts and take notice of whether they know where to start on the page, that they have spaces between their words and their stories make sense.



Handwriting

Any practise with letter formation would be very much appreciated paying particular attention to the correct starting place when writing a letter and correct pencil grip.

Art

Please send a named painting shirt or apron to school with your child to protect their school uniform. This can be an old t-shirt or shirt that will cover their uniform. This term we are learning about portraits using mixed media and simple construction.



P.E.

This term we will be teaching ball skills and the children will be using a variety of P.E equipment that we have available. Fitness and movement to music will also be part of our programme. The children will be required to wear a hat whenever they are outside and if they do not bring their hat they will not be able to participate. Year 1 children do not get changed for P.E.

Ordering Lunches

If you want your child to have an ordered lunch please put the money in an envelope. You will need to write what they want to buy, their name and room number on the envelope. Children can then put the envelope in the lunch order box in the school office before 8.50am. Their lunches will be delivered to the classroom at lunchtime. A price list is available at the school office. Year 1 children are not allowed to stand in the tuck shop line.

Personal Belongings

PLEASE name all your child's belongings. This includes lunchboxes, drink bottles and **all uniform** items. It is very time consuming for teachers and children to sort out clothing items that are not clearly labelled. With the changeable weather the naming of socks, shoes, sandals, jackets and jumpers is particularly helpful. **School hats are required to be worn in Term 1 everyday and the school policy is "No Hat, no play"**. Sunscreen should be applied at home daily as due to particular children's allergies this can not be done at school.

Pick Up and Drop Off Times

The children can enter the classrooms anytime between 8.30 and 8.50. This allows them to unpack their **own** bags, get organised for the day and become settled before learning begins. If you are late your child will need to report to the office to receive a green slip.

It is appreciated when parents move quickly out of the classrooms when the bell goes at 8.50 so that there is a smooth transition to the start of our school day.

We have a Year 1-2 assembly every Wednesday morning at 8.50 so being on time is important on these days. Parents are most welcome to stay and watch these assemblies. We also have Merit, Citizenship and Excellence assemblies throughout the term. You are also welcome to attend these and the dates for these are on the term overview which you will receive.

The school day ends at 3.00 and it would be greatly appreciated if your child could be picked up promptly after the bell goes, as various teacher meetings begin at 3.15. If your child is not picked up by **3.10** they will be taken to the office. It is also very helpful if you could wait to pick up your child at the end of the day away from the classrooms. The lack of distraction makes packing up and ending our school day so much easier for both the children and the teachers.

If you need to pick up your child early or drop something off, it is school policy that you report to the office for security reasons.

Contact

If you would like a quick word about anything, you can talk to us before or after school. If you would like to discuss something in detail you can make an appointment with your class teacher. There is a Meet the Teacher Evening on Wednesday the 10th of February which will be an opportunity for you to meet your class teacher and hear about specific routines and programmes in your child's class. You will receive information about this at a later date.



We are all looking forward to an exciting year full of fun and learning!!

The Year 1 Teaching Team