



# WELLSFORD SCHOOL

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1 February 2012

Talofa, Bonjour, Bula, Kia ora, Kia orana, Konnichi wa, Ni hao, and Greetings to all Team One families for 2012.

An especially warm welcome to all new children and their families who are joining us this year.

## **Teachers:**

Mrs Claire Buchan in Room 11

Miss Holly Burke in Room 15

Mrs Sharon Ketter in Room 16

Mrs Serina Wade will be releasing both Holly and Claire on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, just before school started, Holly broke her foot. Doctor's orders mean that she is unable to start work until they can be sure that she can walk without further damage. This means that Room 15 will start with a different teacher. Mrs Gillian Wharfe and Miss Sue Spry will be team teaching for the first couple of weeks. Holly is just as keen to be at school as we are to have her so we wish her a speedy recovery.

## **Homework:**

This will vary between classes but will generally be literacy based, ie, reading, writing, spelling. Our junior classes will all be doing a big push on phonics learning this term. Phonics are the sounds that letters make, either alone or together and children need to learn these to be able to both read and write. Please spend a little time reviewing these each day. Each sound will have a story and action that accompanies it. Get your child to share them with you as this will help their learning.

## **Topic studies:**

This term we are focusing on learning about ourselves, others and how we can all work together as a community of learners. We will be learning skills such as being responsible, being a friend, helping others and working alongside each other both in the classroom and school environments. We are currently planning for Dinosaurs as a topic for next term. As much as possible, we integrate all topics across the curriculum (eg, literacy, maths, P.E.) so that learning is meaningful for the children.

## **Dropping off and picking up children:**

Please have your children at school well before the bell goes at 8.55am. They will need to bring their book bags and brain break into the classroom when they arrive. Please talk to them about closing their bags so they are less inviting to other children. Children need to do these jobs themselves. Please do not do this for them, instead give them any verbal prompts if needed.

Please leave your child promptly once you've said goodbye. This helps them settle easier. Teachers are here to help with this if needed.

At the end of the day, we will not let children leave the class until someone has come to pick them up. If you are happy for them to walk up to the car, or they are responsible to leave the class on their own, please let the teacher know. Parents are welcome to come quietly into the class at the end of the day however please respect the teacher's requests of your child. Teachers will not ask anything of your children that they know they cannot do themselves.

## Swimming

Term 1 is our major swimming term and all children are asked to bring their togs and towels in a named bag. Once children have settled into the swimming routines, we would love to have helpers – particularly if you can get in the pool with the children. (No pre-schoolers for this activity please). If you have any concerns about your child swimming, please let the teacher know. Please help us by ensuring your child can change themselves and please don't be offended if teachers remind you of this in the classroom. Children with runny noses and sores will not be allowed to swim.

Room 16: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 2.15.

Room 11: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 2.15

Room 15: Wednesday, 2.15; Thursday and Friday, 12.05

## Questions and Concerns

Should you wish to know anything or share any concerns, please don't hesitate to talk with your child's teachers. Nobody knows their child as well as a parent and we acknowledge that your child's learning is a partnership between both home and school. We will support you wherever possible to ensure that your child's first years at school are happy healthy ones.

## Absences

If your child is not going to be at school, please let the school or your teacher know. We need to know the reason for the absence as we are required by the Ministry of Education to record this.

Phone: 423 8042

Text: 021 0025 302

Email: [clairebu@wellsford.school.nz](mailto:clairebu@wellsford.school.nz)

[hollybu@wellsford.school.nz](mailto:hollybu@wellsford.school.nz)

[sharonke@wellsford.school.nz](mailto:sharonke@wellsford.school.nz)

## School Website

[www.wellsford.school.nz](http://www.wellsford.school.nz). Current newsletters can also be accessed here. Individual classes will have their own webpage. Links to these can be found on the school website. Teachers will be updating these with information as events happen and time allows. Please feel free to check these regularly and add comments if you wish. Please note that these pages are a work in progress so please be patient as we as teachers do some learning around setting these up.

Room 16: [www.wellsfordroom16.wikispaces.com](http://www.wellsfordroom16.wikispaces.com)

Room 11: [www.mrsbuchansclass.wikispaces.com](http://www.mrsbuchansclass.wikispaces.com)

Room 15: [www.wellsford15.wikispaces.com](http://www.wellsford15.wikispaces.com)

We look forward to sharing your child's learning this over the coming months.

Claire Buchan, Holly Burke & Sharon Ketter  
Class Teachers

