



# Devonport Primary School

Kerr Street, Devonport, Auckland. Ph: 09 445-0183 Fax: 09 445-408

## ***Letter to Room 1 Parents***

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what should be a rewarding and exciting 2011 school year.

I do hope that this will be the very best year your child has ever had at school. At the time of writing there are 28 children in our class (14 boys and 14 girls). This is the first year for some time where there are equal numbers of boys and girls, which I think is a tremendous positive. I hope your children will agree that Room 1 is a really great classroom and is ideal for a Year 6 class.

Some of you will already be aware as to how I teach and manage my class, as there are ten of this year's children who previously have had older brothers or sisters in Year 6 with me. Of those, there are three children who are the third member of their family in my class. For those of you who are having children in my class for the first time and as a refresher for others, it is probably worthwhile to briefly outline my beliefs and standards for the beginning of the new school year.

It is most important that the senior pupils project a very positive and responsible image around the school and I have a consistent approach for encouraging this and modelling appropriate standards. This is essential in terms of establishing and then reinforcing appropriate work quality and work effort. During the first few weeks I will be establishing classroom routines and where appropriate assessing the children in my class. In this way, planning and learning needs of individual children can be better catered for.

The establishment of routines and expectations is also particularly important in terms of behaviour management and the reinforcement of appropriate manners and courtesies. Thank you to those parents who understood that having the senior children initially assemble in the school hall this morning allowed for an ordered entry into the classroom for the first time and for a feeling of a fresh, organised start, rather than simply carrying straight on from last year.

Because I am the Deputy Principal and have other jobs to do in school, I have a release time from the classroom. This will usually be every Thursday and Friday and Mrs Thompson will be teaching your children during this time each week. She will teach the core subjects on Thursday and will guide them through the more 'cultural' activities on Friday. I feel very lucky to have Mrs Thompson as my DP Release teacher, as she is very talented and creative and has very similar standards and expectations to my own.

I have also written a letter to the children in the class, which outlines in more detail some of the things I have mentioned in this letter. I have asked them to share and discuss their letter with you, which then begins that vital link between home and school.

### Absences

It is important that I am aware if children are away from school. It would be most helpful if you could either email me on [brucet@devonport.school.nz](mailto:brucet@devonport.school.nz) or text me on (021) 230-5822 first thing in the morning (or the night before) and I will relay the information to Linda in the office. If this is not possible please ring the school office.

Please feel free to communicate with me via email on other matters throughout the year.

### Homework

Homework is set and is related to the class and school programmes. It is usually given from Monday to Thursday nights, with Friday night and the weekend seen as quality time with the family. Extra-curricular activities out of school activities are also valued as educational.

Activities may include spelling, times-tables and short English and Maths activities. At various times we will be giving set homework activities at the beginning of each week with a variety of topics and mini projects.

In Year 6 children should have approximately 30 minutes of homework per school night (excluding Friday). I am aware that a number of children have other commitments on certain days after school and this is why homework will often be with a completion time of a whole week. Homework should be done willingly by children, with support from parents often important. It is equally important for parents not to take over and do the work for their children.

### Tabloid Sports Evening

We are not having the usual 'Meet the Teacher' evening this year, as our first parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for the beginning of March. The timing of the senior interviews has been changed so that we can discuss initial test results and learning goals as early as practicable. We will be having a family 'Tabloid Sports Afternoon/Evening', scheduled for Wednesday, February 16 and beginning at 4:30pm. I am looking forward to talking with many of you on that afternoon/evening.

The programme will be as follows:

4:30pm to 5:30pm - Tabloid Sports

5:30 to 6:00pm - Family Picnic Tea

6:00pm to 7:00pm- Discussion with class teacher in classrooms.

### Important Details

I would kindly request that you fill in the attached sheet and return it to me as soon as possible. I would like to establish a class contact list and set up a group email. I have also asked for specific and confidential information about your child, including your hopes for their 2011 year and their health needs. Please contact me if there is anything that requires clarification.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

**Bruce Tilby**

(Deputy Principal / Room 1 Teacher)



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## *Important Room 1 Information*

2nd February 2011

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent's Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_.

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number/s: \_\_\_\_\_.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_.

I give permission for my contact details to be included as part of a 'Class Contact List' - which will be distributed to all Room 1 parents. Yes / No

I am able to be contacted by email about class information and events - Yes / No

I am able to be contacted by the PTA about school events - Yes / No

*Please circle Yes or No as appropriate:*

**My Child:** (please continue writing on the back of this sheet if necessary)

1. Please outline what you consider to be your child's strengths and/or learning needs:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are your goals for your child this year in Room 1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Are there any important health, emotional or behavioural issues I need to be aware of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Is there any other important information that you wish to make me aware of?

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)