

Kia Ora Parents,

4.2.12

My name is Tina ter Ellen and I am your child's teacher for 2012. I already know a few faces however if I haven't met you before, please feel free to come and have a chat. These first few weeks are all about getting to know each other. Here is some basic information about myself to get you started. I am married with two children, Ana is in Year 8 at Berkley and Nathan is in Yr 11 at Hillcrest High school. I have taught at HNS for six years and overall for 18 years. I am currently senior teacher of the Year two syndicate. We have an excellent group of teachers and plan to combine our various talents over the course of the year to provide an interesting programme for your children.

Start up information

I encourage you to arrive early enough at school [any time **after 8.30** am] so that your child has time to put away their belongings and be organised for the start of the day. It is very important [if sometimes frustrating for the parent] for your child to unpack their own bag. They have now moved out of the morning stars transition programme and will be expected to be more independent and self-sufficient.

The first few weeks will be largely spent re-testing your children in core subjects and easing the children back into school as they adjust to the dynamics of a new class and Year two routines. Most if not all children have some 'holiday loss' so don't be alarmed if they are for example re-reading books they have already read, or going over familiar Maths material.

Reading/Book bags [Beginning Week 3]

Monday to Thursday your child will have an instructional book to read at home. On Friday they will bring home their poetry/songbook. These books and their book bag need to come to school every day. In the book bag there will be a Home book. This contains a reading log to be signed nightly. Our emphasis in the junior school at Hillcrest in terms of work at home is reading, reading and more reading. As the year progresses there will be further homework sheets relating to class topics and our specific spelling programme.

Library

Our Library day is **Friday**.

Your child is able to take out two library books. The children are encouraged to exchange their books each week. They are also able to return and exchange their books at play and lunchtimes.

Swimming

We are fortunate enough to be swimming **every afternoon** until approximately Week 7. Swimming is compulsory and if your child is unable to swim for any reason could you please send along a note or catch up with me in class. Swimming caps are strongly encouraged as they help our filter system cope and if you could name your child's clothing we would be incredibly grateful.

Our major topics this term are Pets [all about the care of others] and Mini-beasts, a science topic.

We have a 'Meet the teacher' evening in a few weeks [time and date to follow] but please don't hesitate to speak to me if anything comes up prior to this.

Yours sincerely
Tina ter Ellen