

## Newsletter to all parents and caregivers – 14 December, 2009

Today, you will receive notification of your child's class for next year. Please support your child by talking positively about the class change next year as change can make some feel uncomfortable. A lot of thought has gone into deciding which is the right class for each child and it is not possible to change the classes now that they have been decided.

You will be aware that as a school we often combine two year classes in most rooms. This gives us a greater flexibility in placing children in the class that is most appropriate to the needs of each child.

Parents often ask the question....."Don't children have to learn work that is appropriate to the year group that children are in? For example, if they are in Year 6 next year, don't they need to learn Year 6 curriculum?"

The answer is emphatically no. There is **no such thing as a Year 6 curriculum**. Because of the difference in children's needs in any one class, teachers need to plan for up to three to four levels of learning in any subject. The NZ curriculum prescribes learning at **levels** rather than learning in year-groups. If you have a bright child, you can expect your child to be working at a much higher level than a child in the same class that needs support and assistance. That's why in subjects such as maths and reading, teachers can have up to four groups, all working at different levels. Some syndicates group children according to ability and use interchange as a way of addressing the individual needs of children across the syndicate.

Finally, teachers always 'pitch' their teaching to the older children in the classroom rather than teaching to the youngest. Being in a combined year class will not dumb down the learning of children but in fact, enhance it.

This year we need to have a Year 6/7 class. This class will be attached to the Senior Syndicate and the class teacher will be Marilyn Farrelly. Alison McAllan will be the class teacher in R14 while Chris Tweedie is in Singapore. Alison is an excellent teacher and I know the children will enjoy her for the first half of the year.

You will find a stationery list in most of the class-placement envelopes. We would like you to purchase the required stationery by the start of school next year. You can buy the stationery in late January when the big supermarkets and stationery shops sell it all at competitive prices. However, the Junior team will issue their stationery list at the start of school next year as most of their 'specialist' stationery is difficult to buy so we will be selling it all through the school as a service to parents. Stationery lists (except for the junior team) will be posted on our website in case you lose this important page!

Library books need to be returned to school ASAP please.

Finally, I would like to thank all our children and parents and staff for a very busy, productive year. The achievement levels of children at Avonhead School have been amazing and we look forward to next year with even greater enthusiasm. Please enjoy your Christmas and holidays with your children.

### Term dates for 2010

#### TERM 1

Start date for teachers	Monday 1 February
<b>Start date for children</b>	<b>Tuesday 2 February</b>
End of term 1 date	Thursday 1 April

#### TERM 2

Start date	Monday 19 April
End of term 2	Friday 2 July

#### TERM 3

Start date	Monday 19 July
End of term 3 date	Friday 24 September

#### TERM 4

Start date	Monday 11 October
End of term 4 date	Friday 17 December

Charles Levings  
Principal