



## Newsletter

Thursday 4 February 2021

Welcome to everyone who will be associated with Ilam for 2021. A special welcome to new families to Ilam. I hope you all enjoyed some sort of break and feel refreshed for the year ahead.

The school opened yesterday with a roll of 404. It has been wonderful to observe the children as they caught up with their friends, met new classmates and their teacher for this year. It was a reminder to us all of just how much of a privilege it is to be involved in educating your children. Our teachers are well aware of the huge impact they have on your children and the responsibility of ensuring that every child in their care receives the best possible education. I can assure you all that the school has a team of very dedicated and educationally focused teachers who are well prepared to deliver quality, teaching programmes.

This notice contains information on the following topics:

- **Paper copies of class and school newsletters**
- **Upcoming Events in Term 1**
- **COVID-19 Update**
- **Start-of-Year Learning Conferences - Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 February**
- **PTA**
- **Donations**
- **Road Patrol on Ilam Road**
- **Uniform**
- **Room 2's dog - Skite**

### **Paper copies of class and school newsletters**

Parents associated with the school in 2020, will recall that in Term 4 we have made the decision to go back to paper copies of notices. Unfortunately, and to our great disappointment, a lot of parents have had difficulty accessing emails via the HERO app and emails via HERO. In an effort to ensure notices from the school are received and read by parents, class and school newsletters will be sent out as paper copies for the first four weeks of the term. At our Learning Conferences on 24 and 25 February, parents will be given the choice of receiving either paper or emailed copies of class and school newsletters. Please be aware that there may be occasions when we will email parents because of an emergency or pandemic situation.

### **Upcoming Events in Term 1**

The Upcoming Events page of our website - <https://www.ilam.school.nz/our-school/upcoming-events> has a detailed list of events for parents. Please keep a note of this page so there are no surprises for you and your children when an event occurs.

### **COVID-19 Update**

As we have seen during the summer break, community COVID cases can emerge. We will continue to be advised and guided by both the Ministry of Education and Health if a community case were to emerge in Christchurch. We continue to display QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App and ask that anyone who is unwell to remain at home. We will continue to reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying as well as good cough and sneeze etiquette. We will also continue to regularly clean all parts of our school.

### **Start-of-Year Learning Conferences - Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 February**

Learning Conferences for all children, except those in Room 15 are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24 February (3:15-6:00pm) and Thursday 25 February (3:15-8:00pm). The Learning Conferences will be 15 minutes in duration where parents will be doing the majority of talking as they inform teachers about children's learning strengths and needs, in order to allow teachers to understand individual children more fully, and so cater more adequately for their individual requirements. Details on how to book a time for the conferences will be sent home on Thursday 11 February.

### **PTA**

The Ilam School PTA are a very small group who make a large contribution to the school. I encourage you to attend their AGM and first meeting on Tuesday 9 February at 7:00pm in the staffroom. By attending the AGM you will not be cajoled into positions of responsibility but rather will show your support of the PTA. You may even decide you would like to assist in some small way this year, as the saying goes – many hands make light work!' Hopefully you will be able to support the PTA's Family Fun Night on Friday 26 February.

### **Donations**

You may be aware that last year the Board of Trustees opted into the government's school donation scheme. As a result the school receives \$150 per student from the Government in lieu of requesting any donations from parents, this includes contributions towards trips, however the cost of school camps are excluded. Therefore, like last year the only charges on School Accounts for 2021 will be for Senior Class Camps and any extra-curricular activities that children opt into such as Choir, ICAS, Sport held outside of school time, etc.

### **Road Patrol on Ilam Road**

Thank you for your patience as our very newly trained Year 6 children put their newly learned skills into practice on the morning and afternoon crossing on Ilam Road. This is a really important role and they do this in all weather conditions that can be testing at times.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for ensuring your children are dressed in the correct Ilam uniform. The hot weather this summer is a timely reminder that royal blue wide-brimmed hats are part of the uniform in Term 1 & 4. For your own sanity please ensure these are clearly named.

### **Room 2's dog - Skite**

Skite is Ilam School's friendly local greyhound based in Room 2 with his owner Tanya Kenworthy. Skite's lovely social nature and relaxed outlook on life means he is at home napping in the classroom or out and about in the playground getting lots of love from the children. One of his jobs at school is to encourage children to interact mindfully with dogs, encouraging respect, while also letting those who don't have a dog relax around K9s. Getting up close to Skite will always be optional for the children but he has lots of success turning non-dog people into confident dog lovers.

I hope you have all survived the first few days of the delightful school routines such as making lunches and getting children out the door on time!

Nga mihi nui (Kind Regards)



Paul Dolan  
**Tumuaki/Principal**