

Dear parents.

Welcome to Room 15. I am excited about being your son's/daughter's teacher for the year and look forward to meeting you in the weeks to come.

### **John Fowler**

I trained as a teacher in Auckland and graduated from the Auckland College of Education in 1999. Before becoming a teacher I had careers in IT and banking. I have worked in three schools in and around Epsom and Remuera. I grew up on the Shore attending Rosmini College. I am married with two children, one who is still at school and one just starting University. Six years ago I made the move back to the Shore to teach at Mairangi Bay.

My personal pedagogy in teaching is that children learn best when they know their teacher knows them. In this regard, I will be sending home shortly a short questionnaire where you can tell me all I need to know about your son's/daughter's expectations for success. There will be lots of opportunities for fun and laughter in room 15. In particular, I enjoy performing magic tricks and include that along with some science and maths magic to amaze and educate Room 15 from time to time. While there are high expectations for learning and behaviour, my philosophy for senior students is that they are personally responsible for the choices they make. The focus in the first couple of weeks will be about them understanding how that works. Children are encouraged to think, display confidence and curiosity as well as taking responsibility for themselves and their belongings.

Room 14 & 15 has been remodelled over the school holidays, with a new coat of paint, wall coverings and a doorway between the rooms, we are looking forward to using this modern learning environment in new and exciting ways. We also have a lovely area outside Room 15 sitting where the children can work, and a seating area outside Room 14 that will be used during drama, plays, and speech practices.

### **Homework**

Homework is usually given on a Monday and should be handed in on the Friday of the same week. This allows children to manage their homework around other activities that they may be involved in. As all children will have their own email accounts homework may be e-mailed to them in the future, however for most of this term homework will be handed to them on Monday and handed in on the Friday. At some stage during the day I will talk to the children about the homework and give them an opportunity to ask questions. As well as having a specific task for homework I expect children to find some time each day for personal reading. There will often be something to do from Studyladder or another website. Please allow children to have some Internet time to complete

these tasks. Account details for Studyladder will be given to the children in the following week. If for some reason a child cannot complete their homework or they find it too difficult and become frustrated please let me know.

### **Digital learning (eLearning)**

We have enough digital devices (one for every two children) to allow students to complete some of their work without pencil and paper. The Chromebooks will also be used for researching items from the Internet and then analysing, using and presenting information in a variety of ways. Please rest assured that our system is safe and has filters in place which prevent children from visiting inappropriate sites. All children have their own Google accounts and can communicate and share information with others. Children's accounts may be suspended if they use the Internet inappropriately. Digital citizenship is constantly being emphasised.

If you need to communicate with me I can usually find five minutes before school for a quick discussion. I will also respond promptly to any emails you may send to me.

[johnf@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:johnf@mairangibay.school.nz)

I am more than happy to arrange a time to meet with you after school but please arrange a time. The home-school partnership is really important so please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Our team newsletter, which you will receive next week, will address events that will occur during the year as well as providing you with curriculum information.

At parent-teacher interviews in week 4, I will be able to share with you how your child has settled in Room 15 and give you my initial impressions of them and any areas that I think they may need to work on.

Kind Regards

John Fowler