

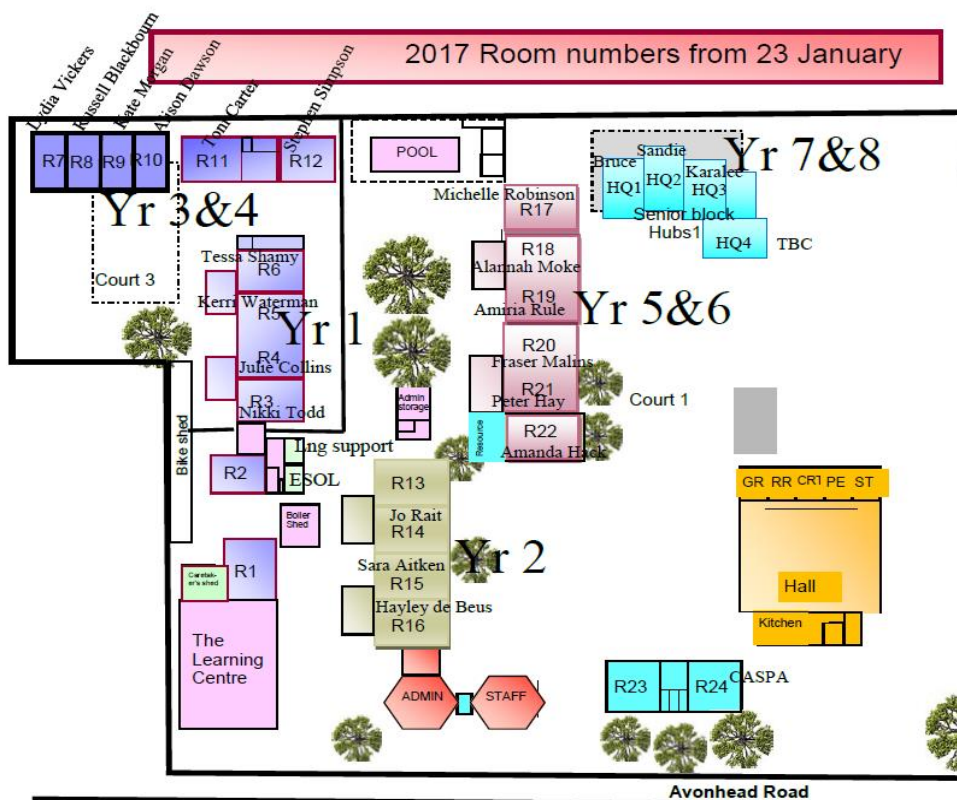
We are one of the luckiest schools in Christchurch! All our new and refurbished buildings will be ready for school at the beginning of next year on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February when all children will return. To everyone here at the school, it seems like a very long wait as the construction has moved through the different phases.

Our planning started at the beginning of 2014 with the planning of the four Year 7/8 classrooms. We moved into this building in February 2015. We moved into the next new building (Year 3&4 block) and the refurbished Year 5/6 in April 2016, by February 2017 the fences and builders will be gone.

We are so used to construction happening and we are getting used to the fences and having to take the ‘long way around’ the school rather than taking the shortcuts through the school. The great news, is that we are soon to be at the end of the mammoth job costing nearly 6 million dollars!! The classrooms are stunning and I want to thank and congratulate our teachers, our children and of course our parents who have worked hard to ensure that the disruption of building has not affected student’s learning and the great things we offer children over the year. Thank you for your good humour, your resourcefulness and your understanding. It’s all going to be worth it.

Our roll is currently 638 students and we have been able to accommodate them in every space we have available throughout the school.

The map below shows you where all the teams will be located through the school and where our teachers will be located. We have also renumbered all the school. You will note that there is a big courtyard to the left of the hall. The prefab classrooms will be taken away and the Multi-Purpose-room will be demolished and a full-size basketball court will be located in this space.



**Special Alert regarding the buildings:** Next Thursday 8th, Mrs Moke and Mrs Robinson’s classes will join the rest of the Year 5&6 in their block (Room 3-6 above) and will be located there until the end of the term. The same with Mrs Rait, Mrs Law/Guy and Miss Aitken will shift over to R11&12 (above) for the remaining days of the term. The prefabs will have the services removed and on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, a big crane will come in and lift two prefabs and put them on a truck to take away. On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup>, a truck will come into the school to take away the final prefab and over the next couple of days, there will be a lot of noise as they demolish the Multi-Purpose Room. We will be monitoring this. All the affected areas will be fenced off including the entrance to the staff carpark so trucks can come and go in safety. They will not be allowing service trucks to come and go within an hour of the school opening and closing for the day. Just be aware that there will be some difficulty in the last week with so many areas fenced off.

The teachers in the teams will be made up as follows:

#### TEAM 1

R3 Nikki Todd  
R4 Julie Collins  
R5 Kerri Waterman (Team Leader)  
R6 Tessa Shamy

#### TEAM 2

R14 Jo Rait  
R15 Sara Aitken (Team Leader)  
R16 Hayley De Beus

#### TEAM 3&4

R7 Lydia Vickers  
R8 Russell Blackbourn  
R9 Kate Morgan (Team leader)  
R10 Alison Dawson  
R11 Toni Carter  
R12 Stephen Simpson

#### Year5&6

R17 Michelle Robinson  
R18 Alannah Moke  
R19 Amiria Rule  
R20 Fraser Malins (Team leader)  
R21 Peter Hay  
R22 Amanda Hack

#### Year7&8

Hq1 Bruce Rodger (Team leader)  
Hq2 Sandie Gamperle  
Hq3 Karalee Moore  
Hq4 Kaela Jakub



**Ella and Katie Fogarty, Sophie Dyer, Shannee Sellars and Anna Sawyer** – all students from Avonhead, were among 40 children from Sharon Howells School of Ballet that were recently selected from Christchurch ballet schools to perform with the **Imperial Russian Ballet Company** in the famous **Nutcracker Christmas Ballet**.

You may not know this but **Tim Weusten** has trained as a teacher and he has been doing a lot of wonderful things around the local schools over the year but we are in a position to employ him for three days a week next year. He will be working in Team 5&6 for one day. He will also be taking the sports academy and special sport development squad and will work for one day a week in each of the Year 5-8 classrooms over the term. Tim is a multi-talented young man and we are delighted to have him on our staff.

We have been fortunate enough to employ **Mandy Dempsey** who will be working every Wednesday, supporting students and staff using ICT to enhance and enrich learning in the mornings and in the afternoons, she will be working with extension/groups of students on coding and programming.

For the first time next year, Avonhead School as part of the ALLiS (Asia Language Learning in Schools) where we will be offering Mandarin teaching in Year 5&6 and 7&8 in 2017. The children will be taught by tutors who are Student teachers in China and who are doing their Masters Degrees. Next year, we are offering a basic course – starter level in Mandarin and a 'basic-level' plus. At this stage, is not designed for our native, fluent speakers, but they can join the classes if they want to assist. There might be some Chinese parents who could offer some voluntary help to the tutors and I'm sure this would be appreciated.

If you would like to register your child's interest in opting into the programme and your child will be in Year 5-8 next year, please type this site into Google <https://goo.gl/NJzGuk> and it will take you to the form to fill in.

Darelle Busfield is sadly leaving us next year. She has been keen to teach in her children's school and has won a position in Prebbleton. We will very certainly miss her as she has offered so much to our Year 7&8 programme. She's a wonderful teacher!!! In her place we have appointed Kaela Jakub to the position. Kaela has an honours degree in science with a major in maths. These skills will be extremely useful to the Year 7&8 team. Kaela is well known to the students as she was a student teacher in the room for the last six weeks.

We also farewell Amber Perriam in Year 1. She is moving to a permanent position at Harewood School and will be closer to her children's school as well. We will miss Amber, her delightful manner with children and her professional approach will be very sorely missed. She is also a great teacher. We have been very lucky to have had both Amber and Darelle at our school.

**Chingju University – Korean College of Education Students coming next year:**

We have three female students being posted to our school – arriving on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and leaving on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017. We are looking for three families to look after the student teachers. They are excellent students. Approximate age in early twenties and very easy to look after. They pay \$240 per week (non-taxable).

If you are interested in hosting a student, please contact Heather Burnby [admin@avonhead.school.nz](mailto:admin@avonhead.school.nz) and indicate availability. Thank you

**Congratulations Kate Morgan:**

"We know that at Avonhead School we have the best teachers in the country, but one teacher has been recognised for her hard work and expertise. Kate Morgan along with 335 other teachers across the country has been given special recognition as an **expert classroom teacher**. The special accreditation known as ACET (Advanced Classroom Expertise Teacher) was set up to recognise teachers with exemplary classroom practice and to encourage highly experienced expert teachers to stay in the classroom.

The process of selecting the applicants is a rigorous process carried out by a panel of five independent experts from the primary sector and there is a need to demonstrate with compelling evidence a very high standard of classroom teaching practice. Well done from everyone at Avonhead School, Kate. We are so grateful for the talents and expertise you bring to your class, your team and every student you teach.

Charles Levings  
Principal