



West Park School

Te Kura O Papa Hauāuru

Every student matters, every moment counts.

Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037, Phone (04) 478 7074, Fax (04) 478 7593

17 August 2020

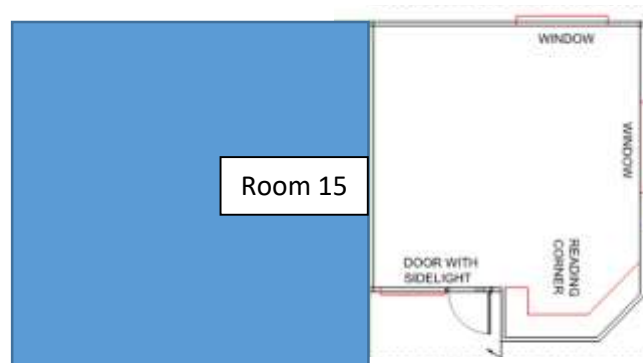
Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy some of the lovely weather that came our way during the past weekend.

A correspondence was sent out yesterday regarding the school's Alert level 2 status, if you haven't yet had a chance to read it please do so as it has important information for us all.

This correspondence is to provide an update on a number of items currently underway.

1. **School Library** – Peryer Construction have been awarded the school library project. They have indicated that work will commence in a couple of weeks. An exact schedule and likely completion date is due to be settled on later this week during a site meeting. A reminder that the new space will be located beside room 15.



2. **Rooms 3-6** - Work on remodelling and refurbishing rooms 3 to 6 continues, there has been a small delay due to timetabling specialist trades. The completion date for the project has been moved out to the last week of term





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- Roll growth classroom** – As a result of the Rooms 3-6 project running behind schedule we will be, from next week, closing down our staffroom and setting it up as a roll growth classroom space. The staffroom will be used as a classroom until the end of term at which point in time the rooms 3-6 project will have been completed, freeing up much needed classroom spaces, and allowing us to re-establish the room as our school staffroom. For the 4-5 weeks a reduced sized staffroom space will be set up in the school hall nearby the kitchen area.
- Kapa Haka** – Kapa Haka lessons began last week, with a great deal of positive feedback from students and staff alike. These lessons will continue to be held in classroom spaces until the hall again becomes available at the start of term 4.
- Alert level 3 school devices** - Thanks to all the parents and caregivers that contacted Kathy or Jo in our school office to register your need for a school device if we ever had to move to Alert Level 3 again. If you haven't registered your name, please do so. Note that device would be on loan and that if the device is damaged all repair costs are expected to be covered by the parent/ caregiver.
- Rock and Water** - School was closed on Friday the 31st of July for a staff only day. During the day our teaching staff were introduced to 'Rock and Water', a programme used to develop social skills, self-control, self-confidence, emotional awareness, resilience, self-respect and self-realisation for students and adults, using a holistic approach. Staff had a great day, were challenged and empowered with a range of new strategies and activities through which to support students. Many teachers have already started introducing the strategies and language into their classrooms, with immediate results visible. The day was the first of two days with the second day being held early in 2021. In addition, a team of staff will be attending a three-day programme to upskill them to be able to provide additional support to staff and students. We plan to give the programme and its strategies great emphasis during 2021 and beyond.
- Alert level 3 school attendance clarification** – In an earlier correspondence we stated that at alert level 3 only children of essential workers would be permitted to attend school on site. This was stated following the Prime Ministers public announcement on Tuesday 11 August. Since that announcement there have been further changes to the Ministries guidelines, which now state that under alert level 3 '*Where possible we encourage students to learn from home. Schools can safely open but will have limited capacity.*' This further change would at Alert level 3, now add yet another challenge to the school if parents and caregivers elected to send



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their child to school. When we were last at alert level 3 it was the very small number of students needing to be physically at school that allowed us to have all teachers working from home and focusing on their own classes, the small school based group was supported by two relieving teachers that the school employed. In the event that greater number of students are sent to school during alert level 3, then we would have to look at possibly restructuring classes and the teacher they work with. The school request at alert level 3 would be that students learn from home unless neither parent/ caregiver would be at home to provide supervision.

Reminders

1. All students are expected to be kept at home if they are ill. If a child becomes ill during the day, their parents will be contacted, and expected to come pick their child up.
2. The office should be notified of all student absences by 9am whenever a child is going to be away.
3. If you haven't already done so, please download the school app onto your phone, as it is the easiest and quickest way for the school to send out on mass emergency correspondences. The app also has an easy to use Covid-19 registration tab, to register when you come in and out of our school grounds.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Luis Echegaray
Principal