

18th December 2019



Dear parents/

What a delight it has been to share in our recent prizegivings, celebrations and Year 6 graduation on Monday night. Thank you parents for all of your support in attending these events, to the teachers for organising the celebrations, and to our students for the high standard of your performances.

Attached are some initial dates for your 2020 family calendar. Please note that due to Ministry of Education and NZEI Union negotiations there are several additional teacher only (Accord) days next year. These additional "non pupil contact" days were identified to support our teachers' workload issues. This will ensure professional development is not just scheduled for after school meetings and holiday call back dates, but allow us to spend quality time as we address new curriculum areas, revise reporting models and moderate data, etc. We are issuing these dates early so that you have plenty of time to make alternative arrangements for your children.

While the Christmas music and TV ads would have us believe that every moment of the countdown to the holiday season is a jolly, fun filled family time, the reality of the of end of school/work year, holiday planning, and shopping/budgeting means that as parents, there are additional pressures. For some, Christmas may not be able to be spent with family or loved ones—elderly relatives may not be able to travel or stay in touch on-line. Take this time to remember those people and find a way to extend kindness to them.

For children, the anticipation of the festive season is a time of magic and wonder. Remind them of the concept of receiving with gratitude, and giving with joy and grace. This may extend to writing Christmas cards to neighbours and those on their own over this Christmas time or, sending "thank you" notes to relatives.



This "kindness" idea is wonderfully displayed in our junior courtyard where students, under the guidance of Lesley Wilson, worked on two murals—the garden of "one kind word can change someone's entire day!" and "nurturing kindness". The "nurturing kindness" concept incorporated self portraits of some students joined holding hands around the world. The peace symbol was used as a reminder of this additional message for all of us. Thank you Lesley for your skills on this project.



A new mural was also unveiled last Wednesday "he waka eke noa—we are all in this together". Thank you to Chelsey McDonald and Ashleigh Jarrett (and their fathers), Sol Lee, Monique Tordeich and Pamela Birley. The concept of the design is a visual representation of our school's diverse community displayed across the continents, represented in a waka (maori canoe) of our New Zealand culture, and those who have travelled to our country. The waka represents the idea that although we may come from different backgrounds when we are together anything can be achieved.

Thank you for a great year at Albany Primary School for 2019. Memories created, friendships formed, knowledge gained, resilience displayed. On behalf of our school staff and BOT I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and Holiday season, and look forward to seeing our returning families in 2020.

Meri Kirihimete (Merry Christmas) to all  
Maree Bathurst, Principal





# 2020 Dates

## BRIEF YEAR OVERVIEW

### TERM 1

#### Monday 3rd February—Thursday 9th April

30th/31st Jan	School office open, 9.30am-12.00noon
3rd February	Term 1 start
4th February	Powhiri welcome assembly, 9.10am
6th February	Waitangi Day public holiday— <a href="#">school closed</a>
11th February	FOS meeting, 6.00pm in the staffroom
14th February	Parent/Teacher (partnership) meetings— <a href="#">school closing 12.30pm</a>
27th February	BOT meeting, 6.30pm in the Boardroom
28th February	Swimming sports
6th March	FOS family fun evening
26th/27th Mar	Year 4 camp 1
5th April	Shore to Shore fun run/walk
6th/7th April	Year 4 camp 2
9th April	Last day of Term 1 (please note this is a Thursday). End of term assembly
10th April	Good Friday (Easter)

### TERM 2

#### Tuesday 28th April—Friday 3rd July

28th April	Term 2 start (please note this is a Tuesday)
28 Apr—20 May	Life Education on site
29th April	Powhiri welcome assembly, 9.10am
29th May	Teacher only (Accord) day— <a href="#">school closed</a>
1st June	Queen's birthday public holiday— <a href="#">school closed</a>
2nd June	COL teacher only day— <a href="#">school closed</a>
16th-17th June	Class and individual photos
3rd July	Last day of Term 2. End of term assembly

### TERM 3

#### Monday 20th July—Friday 25th September

20th July	Term 3 start
21st July	Powhiri welcome assembly, 9.10am
21st August	Teacher only (Accord) day— <a href="#">school closed</a>
25th September	Last day of Term 3, End of term assembly

### TERM 4

#### Monday 12th October—Friday 18th December TBC

12th October	Term 4 start
26th October	Labour weekend public holiday— <a href="#">school closed</a>
27th October	Teacher only (Accord) day— <a href="#">school closed</a>
2nd—4th Nov	Year 5/6 camp 1
4th—6th Nov	Year 5/6 camp 2