



2nd July 2020

Dear parents/caregivers

During the school break there are a number of suggestions we have for you to talk with your children about, as this will reinforce the messages that teachers and leaders are giving, as well as the importance of the safety elements behind these rules.

1. Today we held a **drill for a lockdown** (as we do most terms for other emergencies such as earthquake or fire drills). Further to teacher explanations some children will still need reassurance of why we needed to stay in our classrooms and under our desks to ensure our safety, until any immediate danger has passed.
2. You may be aware that in South Auckland several weeks ago an adult attempted to abduct a child (by holding their hand) whilst they were walking to school with their parent. The offender was quickly apprehended and charged. However these type of incidents are a timely reminder that it is really important to talk through **what your child should do if they were in a situation where they feel unsafe** (for example if someone was following them, or someone they didn't know stopped in a vehicle).
3. Since COVID lockdowns we have become very aware that there is an increase in some students sharing derogatory comments online, causing a continuation of negative behaviours at school. I know that as parents, safety and care of your child is paramount, but our children are being exposed to information and behaviours online well beyond their levels of maturity. Over the holidays we suggest you **do an internet safety check either with or without your child**. Find out what your children are accessing on the internet, check what texts or messages they are sharing online with their friends or in chat groups. It is possible you may not even be aware of this "**hidden danger**" and you may be shocked at some of the sites your children may be visiting, the type of language or abuse used in chat groups, or the violence of some online games. We know you would never leave a window open at night to your child's bedroom, allow children to see an R18 movie, or allow children to verbally bully or abuse each other - yet online so much of this behaviour may actually be occurring in your own home, and as parents you may be completely oblivious. Early next term we will be offering a parent meeting to support you to learn more about how to be an engaged parent in a digital world.

To reinforce this message, you may also be aware of the [Keep it Real Online campaign](#), currently on TV, which has been developed by the government with support from Netsafe, aimed at encouraging parents to start a korero / conversation with their children about the risks that exist online. The [Online Safety Parent Toolkit](#) offers parents and caregivers further information so you can continue conversations and build confidence to keep your children safe online.

4. A reminder of the schools non negotiable expectation about the use of personal devices, smart phones or watches in school grounds—If your child brings a cell phone to school for any reason it must be kept in the child's bag until he or she hands it in to the teacher for safe keeping at the beginning of the day. The cell phones are then collected by the students at the end of the day to go home. If for any reason your child has his or her phone out before or during school the phone will be collected in and you will be notified of this. You all will appreciate the close monitoring of this given our guidelines around social media and its access and usage by our students.

Together in learning,

Maree Bathurst
Principal



Dates subject to change dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions

TERM 3—20th July—25th September

17th July	Office open for enrolment enquiries
Week 1	
20th July	First day of Term 3
21st July	Powhiri welcome assembly, 9.10am
21st July	FOS meeting, 6.00pm in the staff—all welcome to attend
Week 2	
27th-31st July	Dances for Schools
Week 3	
5th-7th August	Dances for Schools
Week 4	
10th-11th August	Dances for Schools
13th August	BOT meeting, 6.00pm
14th August	Full school assembly, 9.15am—all welcome to attend
Week 5	
18th August	Sports photos
20th August	Student Led conferences, school closes at the earlier time of 12.30pm
21st August	Accord day— school closed for Teacher only (accord) day
Week 6	
28th August	Full school assembly, 9.15am—all welcome to attend (note change of date)
Week 7	
4th September	FOS disco—further details closer to the time
Week 8	
7th—11th Sept	Book week
10th September	BOT meeting, 6.00pm
Week 10	
25th September	Full school assembly, 9.15am—all welcome to attend
25th September	Last day of Term 3

TERM 4—12th October –16th December

Includes public holiday, Labour Weekend - 26th October

Includes full day closure 27th October for Teacher only (accord) day

2nd—4th November Year 5/6 camp 1

4th—6th November Year 5/6 camp 2

Please note earlier close date of 16th December as set by MOE due to COVID closures.

SPORTS UPDATE

Year 5/6 Tackle Rugby players are required for a one-off Festival Day, playing on Thursday 27th August (please note that this event will only proceed if we have enough players). Rainsaver date 1st September.

Year 3/4 Hockey players are required for a mixed team playing at North Harbour Hockey after school on a Monday. Season dates are 27th July to 21st September.

Year 3/4 Basketball player required for a team playing after school on Wednesday. Season dates are week of 20th July – 2nd December (18 weeks).

Please email Mrs Moody tmoody@albany.school.nz (with your child's year level and sports code you are interested in as the subject heading).

The following events have been cancelled for Terms 3/4:

- Winter sports day (held at Kristin School)
- Northern Bays Football Tournament

The following events have been rescheduled for Terms 3/4:

Rippa Rugby Festival (East Coast Bay) - Thursday 27th August, rainsaver Tuesday 1st September.
North Bays Athletics Day—Tuesday 1st December, rainsaver Wednesday 2nd December.