



**At West Harbour School we stand tall, proud and confident, continually discovering and applying new learning. Together we encourage our learning community to realise its unique talents and aspirations.**

Hello Everyone: This year has simply flown by - it feels like just the other day that we were welcoming you all back to school for Term 1. And, again, it has been an interesting if disruptive year with the lockdowns and changes to routines. Our students have handled everything very well, generally speaking and have shown great resilience. After the latest lockdown, we had to come up with a plan to keep everyone safe and the student groupings have worked very well. To those students who were not able to come back - thank you for your continued learning. Thank you to everyone for the support you have shown and thank you for the fantastic job you have done over such trying months. We know that this has been extremely challenging for many of you and are keeping our fingers crossed that 2022 is better. I would also like to thank our staff for their commitment to your children's education during this difficult time.

**Staff Changes:** We have had several staff changes this year - our caretaker of many years, Richard Olsen, retired and was replaced by Dave Stavers. Dave only stayed a short time and has now been replaced by Stephen Byrnes, who has settled in well and has been able to build on the initiative already started to make the environment and grounds better for your children. He has been helped in this by Felix Rhodes, who has been acting as a groundsman. We also farewelled Glenn Harold, who taught in Y 7/8 and Kaye Flowers who covered his room up until the end of this year.

**Even Bigger Staff Change:** Mrs Janet Bell has worked at West Harbour School for over 30 years, starting as a classroom teacher, moving on to team leader and has made the SENCO role her own as part of her responsibilities as our Deputy Principal. Janet has retired from her position at the school and will be leaving us at the end of the year. She has been a much loved and valued member of staff and has taught literally hundreds of children over the years. She has also mentored new teachers, passing on her extensive skills and guiding them through the first part of their own teaching journey. Her humour, patience and willingness to help is second to none. She has proven to be a very able deputy to our Principal and has lifted what is a very heavy load from Vicki's shoulders on many occasions. So, what do you say to someone like Janet? Simply this: *You have left huge shoes to fill and absolutely will be missed. Our school, the children you have taught and their families, as well as our wider community, owe you so much. Your work on behalf of children and families who needed someone to advocate for them, particularly with government agencies, has been invaluable and beyond measure. Take our love with you into your next adventure.*

**YEAR 8 STUDENTS:** We are farewelling our 58 Year 8 students next week. This is always a hard time because we so enjoy watching their progress over their time at our school and now they are entering a new phase in their lives. Our best wishes go with them all as well as our hopes that they reach their potential at secondary school and beyond. We were really happy that the graduation and Y8 camp were able to go ahead. Thank you Mr Tyack for your unwavering commitment to ensuring that our leavers finally made it to camp.

**Bubble Class:** Since coming back from the Level 4 lockdown, we have been fortunate enough to have Teacher Hall in charge of our bubble class (the last 11 weeks). Teacher Hall, you have done

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Monday & Tuesday, 13 & 14 December**- Year 8 & Group A students back at school. Final day Tuesday, 3.00 pm. **The bubble class, with Teacher Hall, will have their last day on Wednesday, 15 December, and need to be collected at 12.30 pm**

**First Day Term 1 2022:** Wednesday 02 February.

### **2022 Term Dates**

Term 1: Wednesday 02 February - Thursday 14 April (*Waitangi Day - Monday 07 February, Accord Day Thursday 11 March, school closed*)

Term 2: Monday 02 May - Friday 08 July (*Accord Day Friday 03 June, Queen's Birthday Monday 06 June, Matariki Celebration Friday 24 June, school closed*)

Term 3: Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September (*Accord Day Friday 12 August, Mid-term Break Monday 15 August, school closed*)

Term 4 Monday 17 October-Friday 16 December (*Labour Day Monday 24 October, school closed*)

a wonderful job with the children in this class and we certainly couldn't have done it without you. You have created an amazing programme for the children lucky enough to be in your bubble.

**Last Day of Term:** Only Group A and our Y8 students will be back at school next week, on Monday and Tuesday.

**Fridge Magnet:** We will be getting the magnets done early in the New Year, giving term dates and breaks, and these will be sent home as soon as we receive them.

**Start of Term 1 - First Day of School/2022 Classes**

On the first day of school next year, Year 1 & 2 students will meet in the courtyard between Rooms 18 & 22; Year 3 & 4 will meet in the Totara courtyard; Year 5 & 6 will meet outside the Hall; Year 7 & 8 will meet in the Pohutukawa courtyard. Class lists will be read out at these meetings.

**Please make sure that your child is at school by 8.45 so that the groups can be settled and ready to listen**