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Kia ora, Bula Vinaka, Talofa, Kamusta, Ni hao, Mālō'e tau lava, Hujambo, Ayuboan, Ciao, Bonjour, Hello

Dear Whānau, Family and Friends

Ko Taranaki te maunga

Ko Huatoki te awa

Ko Tokomaru te waka

Ko Te Atiawa te iwi

Ko Ngāti Te Whiti te hapū

Ko Otūmaikuku, ko Pūkākā, ko Whakawhitiwhiti ngā pā tawhito

Ko Westown te kura.

Ko Kim Theyers te tumuaki.

Tihei mauri ora!

Welcome Back for an exciting year of learning in 2025!

It was so great to see all of our existing students and whānau as well as many new faces come through the gates yesterday ready to re-connect with friends, meet new teachers, check out new learning spaces and get back into the routine of school. Thank you to everyone that came along and joined in with the Mihi Whakatau.

This was such a special way to start our term of learning and welcome into our Westtown Community new students, whānau and staff members.

2025 is going to be a fantastic year here at Westtown School. We have so many exciting things happening



throughout the year and we are celebrating our 100-year Centenary!

Today we welcomed 37 new students to our Westown Whānau and their families. Thank you for choosing Westown School to work with in partnership to educate your children. Our school roll is continuing to grow and we are starting the year with 151 students. We also welcomed 4 new staff members to our team. Welcome to Rachel Ammundsen and Marcellina Belarmino (Classroom Teachers of Room 14), Liah Hughes (Classroom Teacher of Room 12) and Janine Ritchie (Classroom Teacher of Room 11). Also Nicky Paterson has joined our Teaching Team as the Teacher in Room 7 in the morning and Release Teacher in Room 6 in the afternoons. Tracey Ogle is our new Deputy Principal and our Team Leaders are—Junior Team—Tracey Ogle, Middle Team—Casey Wooffindin, Senior Team—Darren Guthrie, Montessori Team—Rachel Ammundsen.

Westown School is still part of the Ka Ora Ka Ako School Lunch Programme which means every child receives a free school lunch everyday. This year we are excited to still be receiving these lunches from KDJ Catering. They provide two lunch choices every day and lots of lovely fresh fruit for our students. Please let the school office or your child's teacher know if your child has any dietary requirements that we need to pass onto our lunch caterers.

The weather over the summer has been amazing. I hope you have all found some time to enjoy it. Our school pool continues to be very popular. Here at school our students will be swimming every day. Swimming is part of the Physical Education Curriculum. With New Zealand's terrible drowning statistics learning water safety is extremely important for every child. Please help us and your child by ensuring they have their togs and towel in their school bag every day.



It is school policy that all students must wear a hat when outside in Term 1 and Term 4. We have school bucket hats for sale in the school office for \$12. We would prefer students to have one of these, however, any sun hat is ok. If children do not have a hat they will have to go to Friendship Club or sit in the shade during the breaks. Please also ensure your child has a named water bottle at school. We are a water only school so no other drinks are allowed.



Drop-off time and pick-up time are extremely busy at every school and we are no exception. Please keep all of our students safe by ensuring you are parked in a proper parking space. Please do not park in the staff car park, on the yellow lines or in the disabled parking spaces unless you have a permit. Students must use the pedestrian crossings to cross Sanders Ave and Clawton Street so please do not just walk your child across the road without using the crossings. It is a really good idea to organise a meeting spot with your children or a direction to give them to walk towards.

We offer Breakfast Club every morning here at school from 8.30am until 9am in Room 9—the Music Room. Ms Rowan is always happy to help you get some yummy breakfast and sets up a lovely space for the students to enjoy. Tomorrow our country celebrates Waitangi Day. The school will be closed.

However, **Friday is a normal school day.**

Enjoy the rest of this short week.

Take care and be kind to one another!

Kim Theyers—Tumuaki

