



# Newsletter

**Tuesday 24 March 2020**

It has certainly been an interesting week or two. I would like to thank you all for your support, cooperation and care. It has been appreciated by all of us.

The school is open today and tomorrow for the care of essential workers. All teaching staff are also in for the day today to fine tune our home learning programmes. From Thursday the school is closed with teachers and support staff all working from home.

## **So, what NEXT?**

Over the past few days we have spent time updating the [learning section of the school website](#). Yesterday we updated it even further with online learning links and suggestions for offline activities. These are quite generic and applicable to all students. Check them out!

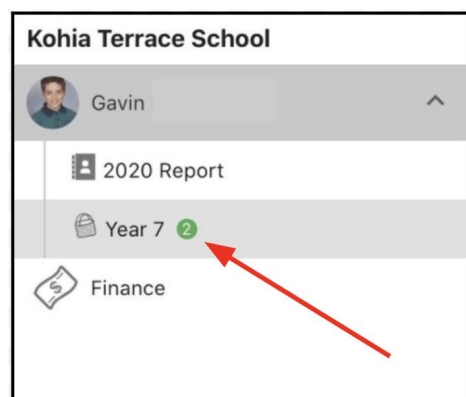
Guidance from the MOE highlights that if you need to have your child cared for by someone else, you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This will need to be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4-week period. Your group (your partner, children, parents or such) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

## **HERO**

We have opened up the “celebration of learning” section of HERO as planned yesterday. If you look at Gavin’s profile (pictured right) you can see he has two posts as a Year 7 student.

In this section you will see celebrations of learning for the whole class along with individual posts (much like SeeSaw). You have the ability to comment as well. As we move into this new learning mode, teachers and students will be celebrating learning success in this area of the programme.



## **Distance Learning**

From Wednesday, teachers will be supporting learning. This week it is a little more generic. We wanted to ensure 3-Way Learning Conferences were completed before ensuring ready access, particularly for the younger students – clearly this has not happened for all. Teachers will send out instructions to those who need it, on how to set this up at home.

The Year 4–8 classes will be using Google Classroom or Google Docs. All students will know how to access these if they were at school the last few days. In some classes this was covered on Monday but there were a number of students away. If this was the case for you, the classroom teachers will be in touch with instructions.

The Year 2 and 3 classes will be using Google Docs and teachers will send emails about learning to you. Students have log-in addresses for Google now, with passwords set up yesterday. If your child was absent this week, their teacher will help you get set up with this. Email for these junior students is not activated, the log-in is designed to provide access to shared docs for learning.

The Year 1 students will be supported through emails directly to you, their parents.

We recognise that for some families with more than one or two students, screen time will be an issue. Teachers will be sending through ideas and suggestions for “unplugged learning” as well as “plugged”. Again, check the [learning at home page](#) on the website as we have offline learning ideas. It is certainly going to be a time to be creative.

We also recommend you ensure students have time during their learning day to be working on independent tasks – creating lego, or making a character or scene from their book, creating a dance to their favourite piece of music to perform to the family later on. This does not have to be full on, one-on-one learning for 5 hours a day according to a timetable; be flexible and have fun. We will keep drip feeding ideas through HERO, Google Docs or Google Classroom.

### School Holidays

School holidays have been brought forward so that they are completed within the 4-week period. Holidays will now begin from **Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive**. At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning with teachers supporting learning from their home until schools are able to open again.

### And finally some celebrations from last week...

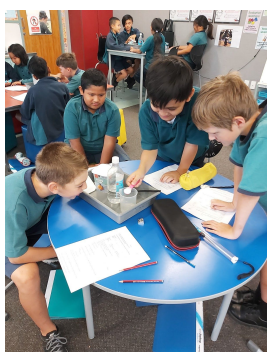
The intermediate “zoomed” their assembly out to classrooms on Friday, which was a first for us. We learned how to get this streaming app up and running quickly; congratulations to staff and students for their adaptability, talk about authentic learning in the moment, for old and young!



Science has also been really engaging for students, as reflected in the photos below:



Year 3 students learning about the four seasons



Year 6 students investigating possible temperature changes after a chemical reaction has occurred




Year 8 students analysing and comparing differences in footwear prints

I am contactable by email over the next four weeks, so please message me if you have some great learning to share or need our help in some way.

Please keep safe and well – we look forward to working in a different way, being creative about new ways of connecting and ensuring that we work together to beat this virus.

Alison Spence  
Principal  
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P.S. Your children may want to consider entering this short story competition, see details below...



A promotional poster for the Alex Rider short story competition. The top half features a dynamic action scene from the book 'Stormbreaker', showing Alex Rider on a motorcycle with a gun, set against a fiery, orange and red background. Below the image, the text '20 YEARS' is inside a circular graphic. The main title 'ALEX RIDER' is in large, bold, white letters, with 'STORMBREAKER' in orange below it. To the right of the title, it says 'ACTION ADRENALINE ADVENTURE'. Below the title, it reads 'MISSION ONE IN THE SERIES THAT HAS RE-INVENTED THE SPY GENRE' and 'ANTHONY HOROWITZ' in large, bold, orange letters. To the right of the title, the text 'WRITE YOUR OWN SHORT STORY AND WIN!' is in white. Below this, a red box contains the text 'WINNING STORY CHOSEN BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ!'. Below that, a list of prizes is shown: 'YOU COULD WIN: A Scooter, An Ebook of your story, A signed letter from Anthony Horowitz, Books for you and your school!'. At the bottom, a red box says 'COMPETITION CLOSING 15 MAY 2020'. At the very bottom, it says 'ENTER NOW' and 'WALKER BOOKS alexriderstory.com'. Small text at the bottom right says 'Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.'

20 YEARS

ACTION ADRENALINE ADVENTURE

**ALEX RIDER**

STORMBREAKER

MISSION ONE IN THE SERIES THAT HAS RE-INVENTED THE SPY GENRE

**ANTHONY HOROWITZ**

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