



19 November 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Board of Trustees is absolutely delighted to announce that today Greytown School officially had a visit from the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, who announced that we will get a new classroom building additional to the one we already had planned.

Most of you will know that the current senior block is due for replacement, and that planning work for this five-class block is well underway with construction starting now in March/April 2021.

This announcement means we will get a whole new additional four-class block. This is due to our roll growth and the forecast growth of our wider community. That is, we will have nine new classroom spaces in total! In addition two existing classrooms will be relocated and refurbished as well as other important infrastructure repairs.

We have to acknowledge right up front that this is the result of some exceptional and persistent work by Patrice O'Connor, alongside current BOT Chairperson Jane Cooper, previous BOT members Matt Bell and Alistair Plimmer. When Patrice arrived three and a half years ago, she recognised the shortfalls and irreparable state of the senior block as well as the climbing roll and worked with these Board members to address it. Together, they analysed data and presented a robust case that has culminated in the replacement of the Senior Build and this new roll growth build. Over the last 18 months they have been working together on design plans catering for the needs of our children's teaching and learning programmes for the future. We will be sharing these in the next few weeks.

We will therefore, in just a couple of years, have the most wonderful, modern and stimulating learning spaces for our children!

What you need to know

- The existing senior block is to be replaced. This build will be on a different site to the senior block so that students will have somewhere to learn while the new build takes place. This construction will begin in March/April 2021 as Stage 1.
- The current senior block will then be sold for removal or demolished. Sadly, it is totally beyond repair, which students and staff are acutely aware of every day!
- The new/additional block will then be built on the site of the current senior block consisting of 4 new classrooms. This is Stage 2.

I hope you will join us in celebrating this great news for our school and community. It really recognises a strong, growing community and the commitment of our school in achieving our teaching and learning vision.

Thanks again for your support.

Greytown School Board of Trustees.