

# A big "Hello"

## to all parents, whanau and caregivers of Kiwi Class children.

My name is Julie Cook and I am privileged to be the teacher in Kiwi Room for Term One while Mrs Attwood is on leave. I have already met many of you as you come to drop off or collect your children and I hope I will quickly learn to instantly recognise 'who belongs to who'!

We have, as a whole school, developed some exciting incentives which will allow children to further excel in all areas of school life. Hopefully you will hear your children talk about **PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning)** and of the "**Golden Time**" rewards incentive.

Kiwi class will be fully involved in activities that will support and promote this programme and as such, PB4L will be our Inquiry unit of learning throughout Term One.

**Class Expectations:** Children will work collaboratively with peers and staff to take ownership of deciding on the values that will guide us in our classroom, around the school and beyond. In other words rules and guidelines that **THEY** feel they need to ensure a happy and safe learning environment.

**Juniors Camp:** Information sheets and consent forms were sent out Term 4 2017 about our camp planned for March 15-17th. Many consent forms have already been returned, but for children joining Kiwi class this term, please come to Kiwi class to collect these forms. Without signed consent forms we are not permitted to take children to camp, so please return these as soon as possible. More information will be sent out as camp approaches.

**Library:** Kiwi Class library day is on Thursdays, when children can select books for their personal enjoyment. These must be transported in their book bags along with other instructional class readers and Homework books and kept away from food and drink bottles.

**Headphones:** This year the children will have a dedicated headphone bag. This will make identification and protection of their headphones easy and ensure that they will only be used for your child. The headphones should still be named.

**Homework:** Books will be set up with Spelling lists, a Reading log, poems and a 100s board for counting practice. For all children who have access to broadband at home, **Reading Eggs** and **Mathletics** practice should also become part of regular home learning. These two programmes provide a huge range of excellent Reading and Maths practice activities. Children who started school last year already have logon codes. Children who have started this term will be given their personal login and these will be written inside the cover of their Homework books.

**Curriculum focus Term One:** For Writing this will be basic sentence structure, learned through writing recount and reports. The Maths focus at this early stage is number knowledge, patterns and shape. There is a wealth of opportunity to reinforce this learning in

real terms such as when visiting the supermarket and helping children to become visually aware of pattern and shape around them in their daily lives.

**Water bottles and hats:** It is essential that children have a school bucket hat and preferably a drink bottle during this very hot first term. These must be named.

**Lunches and milk:** The Fonterra Milk programme will again be running this year. Please advise Michelle in the school office if your child should not be drinking milk. Lunch orders can be put into the office on Thursdays, for Friday delivery. Try to give your child food in wrappers that they can manage themselves and provide a spoon for yoghurts/fruit salads etc. Children are responsible for disposing of ALL food wrappers & scraps either in the school bins or to take home for disposal.

**Personal items from home:** On occasion, your child may be asked to bring something from home to share (usually on Mondays). After sharing, these items will be put back into bags to go home. Please discourage your child from bringing personal treasures and trinkets to school unless requested by a teacher. It can be upsetting for the child and waste valuable learning time if these items are lost or damaged at school.

**Naming Clothes:** If a child misplaces an item of clothing which is unnamed, it is quite likely that we will not be able to reunite them with this item. If named boldly, it is a simple task to return the item to the child from the lost property collection.

Well, that is quite a lot to take in! I hope this has been helpful but if there is anything else you are unsure of please contact me. My email is [julie@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:julie@otakiri.school.nz) The priority at this time is to get all **camp forms completed, signed and returned.**

Working together, we can ensure your child has a positive and happy experience as they begin school life.

All the best  
Julie Cook

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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