

Takahē Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Welcome back to Room Takahē and Term 1 2018. Our class will again have two teachers this year. I, Miss van Beek, will be in the class in the morning until lunchtime teaching Literacy, Mathematics, some of the Art and some of the Inquiry Topics. Whaea Poihaere will come into the class after lunch to teach Te Reo, Sports, Art and Inquiry. While I am taking children for Reading Discovery. Whaea Poihaere will also be covering the release that I have and any days when I have Reading Discovery training.

This is an 11 week term and all children must wear the school blue hat daily when out in the playground. No hat means they will be in a shady spot to play. Children need to have t-shirts that cover their shoulders, not singlets. It is important that all clothing, including shoes and socks are named so they can be quickly returned if found in the playground. We recommend that all children have a named water bottle daily. Please ensure that if you are packing packaged food for morning teas and lunches that your child can open them independently and if they have a yoghurt pot please send a spoon.

We are looking forward to our exciting camp to Blue Lake in Rotorua in Week 7 of this term. The children will be updated regularly as we get closer to this and more notices will come out with further information. However if your child has not returned their permission slip for this camp, can it please be returned as soon as soon as possible.



This term for Maths we are focussing on Number strategies and on Statistics. Strategies will include counting-on, counting-back, doubling and halving, near doubles, rounding and place value. Your child will get a Mathletics password in their Homework book. Please encourage your child to go on Mathletics at home. An additional 10 to 20 minutes 2 to 3 times

weekly will help your child's progress immensely; we have seen the positive results of the use of Mathletics on building knowledge and confidence. Mathletics enables your child to further practise number knowledge and skills (this is also available on APP based devices).

For Writing it is expected that Takahē children will write many sentences daily on a variety of topics. We will be developing our ability to write recounts and creative, imaginative narrative texts There is a weekly spelling assessment on Friday, the spelling is divided into 5 words to learn each week, most weeks have been set up ahead of time but students do not need to learn ahead of the week we are in. However, if they have not successfully mastered all the words from earlier weeks they can continue to practise these words to master them. A good knowledge of spelling can make it easier and faster for children to write as they do not need to consider how each word is spelt.

We will continue to develop Reading skills by reading and listening to a variety of books. Your child will bring home a reader from Monday through to Thursday each week; readers need to be returned each day. Listen to your child read each night and ask them to answer questions about the vocabulary used in the text and what the words mean or what word could be used in place of another word. This will help to engage them with the text and develop their vocabulary and understanding of new words. It is important that they are able to make links between what is written and what they know, not just to read the words on the page. The computer programme Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress which your child has a password for should also be used regularly to develop understanding of sounds, letters, sentence formations and to develop comprehension skills. Reading Eggspress Library also has hundreds of books on it which your child can access to read (this is also available on APP based devices).



Fridays will be very busy as we have Waiata, Library and P.E. On alternate Fridays we will also have Māori Language lessons. In Te Reo Māori, the children will have an opportunity to continue building their skills in the topics of "Myself" and "My Classroom" If you have a copy of a photograph of your family that would be okay for your child to have as a talking point in these lessons, that would be really appreciated. Children will be issued with up to two library books which can be returned at any stage during the next week. Books must be returned if children wish to get new books out. We will have ICT time on Thursdays and some Fridays.

This term for P.E. we will be working developing endurance when walking in preparation for walking around lake Okareka when on camp. We will also be having swimming lessons at Kawerau pool this term.

We have an open door policy and if you wish to see either of us feel free to drop in before or after school for a quick chat, or call the school to make an appointment. You can also contact either of us by email at maria@otakiri.school.nz or poihaere@otakiri.school.nz.

Maria van Beek and Poihaere Knight

Takahē Teachers