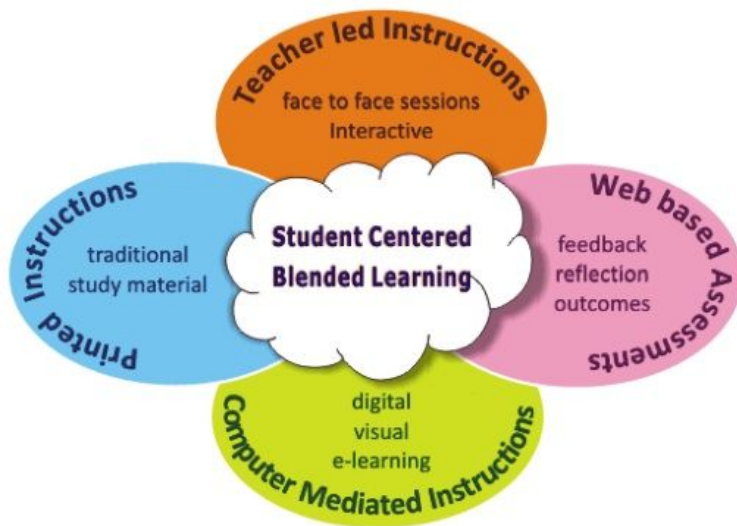


Ruru Newsletter Term 1 2018

Kia Ora Koutou and a special welcome to our new children and their families to Otakiri School. Well the holiday sped by very fast! I guess that's how it is when you are busy and having FUN! I hope you managed to have some happy family times and enjoyed the great outdoors.



We thoroughly enjoyed the Professional Development we attended last week through our Teacher Only Days and Community of Learning Conference Day. We are looking forward to implementing some of the new teaching approaches we heard about and sharing some great learning strategies with our Ruru students and whanau this year.



After the positive feedback we received from parents and students last year, Ruru will continue to operate as a flexible learning space with two teachers sharing 51 Year 4-6 children. We will be using a range of teaching and learning strategies with a focus on collaboration. We will also use a Student Centred Blended Learning approach which incorporates e-Learning and using devices for learning, with more traditional approaches such as book work.

The Otakiri Way Expectations: This week we will introduce the children to The Otakiri Way LEAD Expectations which have been developed after consultation with the school community last year. The expectations will form the basis of the way we participate and develop as members of our school community and will also be the system we use for behaviour management and rewards school wide. When you visit our classroom you will see the expectations displayed and the children will be able to explain how they work once they have been introduced to and have used the new system.





Inquiry Learning: Our concept theme for the term is "Relationships." Children will learn about the skills and attitudes necessary to become a self-regulated learner and how different groups of people relate to each other as members of a community. Through their inquiries the children will be encouraged to explore, question, research, collaborate, participate and respond creatively, demonstrating their understanding of the Key Competency - *Relating to Others*.

Stationery: The children will use a range of tools including books to record their ideas and learning. Thank you for purchasing their stationery. It is pleasing to also see many with their own headphones and devices. This year Ruru children will store their headphones in an individual journal bag to protect their headphones. Please make sure all items are clearly named with a vivid.

Maths: Units this term will include:

- Number knowledge
- Addition and subtraction
- Open-ended problem solving
- Integrated Maths themes relating to our Inquiry Concept
 - Financial Literacy - ASB Getwise Programme
 - Algebra - Number Patterns

This year all children will again be able to access the Mathletics Programme thanks once again to the generosity of the BOT. Children will be expected to work on this programme for at least 30 minutes five times a week. They will have opportunities during class time during the Independent Maths Activities part of our weekly Maths Rotation, but are also expected to work on the Mathletics Programme at home as well. We will be monitoring their progress regularly and conferencing with children about their Mathletics reports and overall Maths progress so that they have a clear understanding of what they need to learn and what their next steps are.

Literacy: We encourage children to develop a regular Reading routine and to read a variety of text types. Children will do Focussed Silent Reading daily and participate in group discussions where they will have the opportunity to think critically, question, listen and respond. Current research tells us that the more minutes children read per day, the more fluent their reading becomes. From 5 to 15 minutes per night there is around a 200% increase in word exposure over one year! The research shows, that the benefits of regular reading improve performance in: general knowledge, vocabulary, Reading comprehension, verbal fluency and spelling. If you can support your child at home to read that would really be helpful for their ongoing progress. The children will practise writing a range of texts mostly related to Inquiry Learning topics. They will also have the opportunity to write on topics of their own choice. **Our library day is Monday.** The children can also exchange books at lunchtimes. Please make sure your child has a journal bag to carry their library books in.

Te Reo: We are fortunate to have Whaea Poihaere teach the children for Waiata and

Kapa Haka. She will also spend time in our classroom teaching Te Reo. Our first unit of work is "Ko Au" (I, me, myself). Later in the term we will work on "Taku Akomanga" (My classroom). We will also be integrating Te Reo into other curriculum areas. Whaea Poihaere will teach in Ruru on Thursday and Friday mornings while Mrs Richmond is on Release.

The Arts: Visual Art, Music, Dance and Drama will be integrated into the Relationships Inquiry unit and the Literacy programme.

P.E/Sport: We are focussing on Summer Games - Cricket, Softball, Tee Ball, Newcombe Ball and Swimming. As part of our weekly P.E. and Sport programme the children will participate in skill-based fitness and sports activities. It is **essential** that they are prepared with suitable clothing, hat and a water bottle. Fitness will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; Sport will be on Wednesday.

The Rangitaiki Swim Team will travel by bus to train at the Kawerau Pools once a week beginning on Monday 5th February to assess competent swimmers, followed by every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30am for 4 weeks. Children will need to wear goggles and girls a full swimsuit with long hair tied back please. Class swimming will commence in **Week 8**. If you have any expertise in coaching swimming you are welcome to come and help.

Homework: Children will self-manage the tasks they do at home. It may include spelling words for some children, Reading, Athletics, Reading Eggs/Eggspress, unfinished class work and sometimes Inquiry work. Children will have a Spelling notebook to record personal words from their written work they need to practise and learn.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions and queries. We welcome your ideas and feedback. It's going to be a very busy but exciting term ahead. You can contact us on anthea@otakiri.school.nz or heather@otakiri.school.nz.

Thank you for your support,
Anthea Shattock/Heather Richmond