



# Kārearea Term 1, 2018

**Teacher:** Mr Brown

Kia ora koutou,

A very warm welcome back to you all. It has been great to begin to build upon relationships from last year with the students over the past couple of days, hear about their holidays and get excited about all that a new year has to offer!

To begin our year, lots of mahi will be based around the exciting new PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) systems that have been developed over the past year. This fits in nicely with our conceptual focus which is **Relationships**. This will also include work around Growth Mindsets which I have spent parts of my break researching and believe will benefit all students in Kārearea to be their 'Best Always'!

Through regular collaboration, team building activities and discussions the goal is to unearth all of the amazing talents and skills that the students have and placing them in the class kete to ensure we have a positive, unified and supportive class culture moving forward in 2018!

## Teaching and Learning

***We are learning to collaborate and be self-directed by...***

- Working in a range of learning contexts; *individually, in small groups and as a whole class*. **Participating and Contributing**
- Using LEAD to develop self managing, and interpersonal skills both inside and outside of the classroom. **Managing Self and Relating to Others**

## Literacy

The conceptual focus of Relationships will feature heavily within the Term 1 Literacy programme in Kārearea. Due to the success of 2017, the students will once again participate in the "Get NZ Writing" initiative however, to follow up from this writing context, I have been in contact with other teachers throughout the North Island to set up regular writing exchanges for the students with other kiwi kids! This is a great way to not only develop literacy skills, but to also connect and build relationships with other tamariki from around Aotearoa. We will

also be exploring the local connections and relationships based around other contexts such as the upcoming Commonwealth Games, ANZAC and sharing our own knowledge of who we are through Pepeha.

Kiwi Kids News and Reading Eggs will be used as our two main online Literacy learning contexts throughout Term 1.

### **Maths**

Collaboration will be a key theme in Maths to begin 2018. Students will develop their Maths skills while working alongside each other through a range of real world contexts including cooking challenges based around such things as our inquiries into ANZAC and the Commonwealth Games, as well as using the online Banqer programme to build upon our prior knowledge in finances and money. Another key focus will be on basic facts and number knowledge and retention to develop a solid foundation for the year.

Mathletics will be used again as an online learning context in Mathematics.

### **P.E. and Fitness**

Kārearea will be participating in a daily fitness and P.E. program alongside Ruru. This will include development of small balls skills through softball, tee-ball and non-stop cricket as well as providing many opportunities to work in teams and continue to develop interpersonal skills and strengthen relationships through sport.

Swimming for the senior school will begin from Week 8 which will be great in this heat! There are also opportunities to try out for the Top School team, be involved in inter school competitions such as Touch Rugby and I will be on the field most days running a range of sports for students to participate in!

Although some of the contexts for learning have been outlined in this newsletter, it is very important to me to have the students input to guide their own learning, meaning there will be a number of opportunities for each student to have a say in what they are learning and I will do all I can to facilitate this while integrating each student's passions and interests within each curriculum area!

I look forward to working alongside you all in what will be a productive, positive and exciting Term One at Otakiri School. If you have any queries please feel free to either email me at [matt@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:matt@otakiri.school.nz) or pop in before or after school for a kōrero!

Ngā mihi Koutou,

Matt Brown