

Takahē Newsletter

Term 2 2018



Welcome back to Room Takahē and Term 2 2018. Our class will again have two teachers this term. I, Miss van Beek will be in the class in the morning until lunch time taking Literacy, Mathematics 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.

As it is a winter term children are not required to wear their Otakii Blue hat in the playground. As the weather can be unpredictable children should come with adequate clothing for the changing weather. Woollen hats and gloves can be worn outside but children will be asked to remove them and put them in their bag during class time. 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.



This term for Maths we are focussing on Number strategies, Time and Geometry. Strategies will include counting-on, counting-back, place value, skip counting and array patterns. Your child has 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 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 following a writing structure aligned with the style of text. We will be developing our ability to write descriptive, imaginative narrative texts with themes of space and friendliness. There is a weekly spelling assessment on Friday, the spelling is divided into 5 words to learn each week, this term has 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. Junior and School Journals will be read over a week. Some weeks your child may have worksheets to go with their reading - they will have had time to do these in class but may need to finish them at home. They are designed to help them engage with the topics, vocabulary ideas from the texts. When listening to your child read each night ask them to answer questions about the vocabulary used in the text and what it means or another word that could be used in its place. 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 Maori, the children will have an opportunity to continue building their skills in the topics of "Kai (food)" and "Hakari (feasts)". This term we are preparing for our annual Matariki Dinner which is on the 22nd of June (5 - 8pm). There will be more details about this when planning has been completed.

Regarding the Library, 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.

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