

Ruru Newsletter Term 2 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We have had a great start to the term, I am thoroughly enjoying being back with the children, they are so motivated and ready to learn after their holiday. A special thank you to Mrs Leanne Blackwood who is teaching in Ruru for the first 2 weeks while Ms Shattock is in Australia. Mrs Blackwood has inspired the children to find out about their relative's war stories as we have studied ANZAC and why it is important for us to remember this part of our history. Some of the stories we have heard have been fascinating. The children are publishing these and we will be displaying them in the classroom and on Seesaw. We also welcome to Ruru, Whaea Dolly Pryor from Te Whare Wānanga O Awanuiārangi. Whaea Dolly will be teaching in Ruru during the first part of the term. A special welcome to two new students in Ruru this term, Kyrus and Alex and also to their whanau.

Teaching and learning:

We are learning to work together and self-direct our learning by:

- ❑ Developing success criteria together to complete tasks successfully (**Key Competencies-*Thinking & Relating to others***)
- ❑ Reflecting and self-assessing our learning; thinking about the 'Next Steps' for our learning; being able to talk about our learning (**Key Competency-*Thinking***)
- ❑ Working independently, with a buddy or in small groups to share learning (**Key Competency-*Participating and contributing***)
- ❑ Focusing on Thinking skills, problem solving and Inquiry (**Key Competencies-*Thinking, Relating to others & Using language, symbols and texts***)
- ❑ Understanding what self-directed learning is and using self-directed learning skills to ***Learn with Purpose*** (Key Competency-*Managing Self*)



Inquiry learning this term will continue to focus on the concept of *Relationships*. We will be enquiring into the scientific relationships related to Astronomy such as The Moon and Space and their effect on our daily lives.

Maths: Units this term will include:

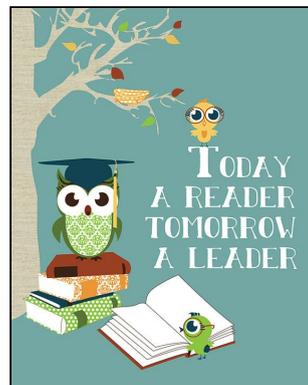
- Number knowledge
- Collaborative problem solving
- Integrated Maths themes relating to our Inquiry Concept-Measurement & Geometry

During the term we will conference with students to monitor their Mathematics progress. As a guide, students need to have completed 50% of their Mathematics course by the end of Term 2 if they want to complete their Mathematics course by the end of the year.

Literacy

In Writing this term we will focus on factual writing related to our inquiries and personal writing. The children will be identifying their next steps from their writing and will use their Writing Pathways to set Writing goals for themselves.

In Reading the children will *Dare to Dream* by self-directing their personal reading to complete a Term 2 Reading Challenge. It is essential they read every day for a variety of purposes: personal reading, Inquiry related reading and Guided Reading which requires them to respond to what they have read during Literacy Circle discussions or in writing.



Did you know...

15 minutes per day of independent reading can expose students to more than 1 Million words of text in one year!
Anderson, Wilson & Fielding 1988

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 be really helpful for their ongoing progress. Our library day is **Wednesday**. The children can also exchange books at lunchtimes. Please make sure your child has a journal bag to carry their library books in.

In P.E. we will be training daily for our cross country in Week 4. We have some great runners in Ruru! Please come along and support them on Cross Country Day if you are able. We will be focusing on the large ball skills involved in rugby, netball, hockey and soccer.

Languages

Mandarin

This week we began Mandarin lessons with Miss Ting Hou from Edgecumbe College. She will be teaching the children Mandarin every Wednesday from 11:00-12:30pm. The Y6 students began the course last year so they have a separate lesson from the Y4/5 students who are being introduced to Mandarin. The programme will continue for the rest of this term and then again in Term 4.



Reasons why learning Mandarin is so important for our students....

- Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language around the world
- Being able to speak and teach Mandarin are fast becoming important skills for New Zealand students and teachers
- The scale and development of China's economy is breath-taking. New Zealand students are growing up alongside the fastest growing economy in the world, and one which is considered by many to become the biggest global market in the 21st century
- China is already one of New Zealand's most important trading partners. The potential of the relationship is seen in the fact that in the year following the signing of the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement, two-way trade increased by 23% to reach just over \$10 billion

- New Zealand students will grow up in a world where there will be business and trade opportunities for people fluent in Mandarin. And Mandarin speakers will likely find it easier to develop all-important relationships in business
- **A New Zealand student who has a working knowledge of Mandarin is likely to boost their employment prospects, particularly as more companies and organisations develop links and relationships with China. Proficiency in Mandarin is likely to become an increasingly useful asset for any job seeker**
- Proficient speakers of Mandarin will find jobs in a variety of fields, such as business, tourism, government, education and translation
- Already many New Zealand organisations have active links and relationships with China; this is only likely to increase over time, opening many opportunities for Mandarin speakers
- As China becomes an increasingly important player on the global stage, so too will the importance of Mandarin

Te Reo

Whaea Poihaere will continue to teach Te Reo in Ruru on Thursdays while Mrs Richmond is on release. Our units of work this term are “Kai” (Food) and “Nga Hakari” (Festivals) . We will also be integrating Te Reo into other curriculum areas.

The Arts

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



Ruru Camp

Initial planning is under way for our camp at the end of Term 3. We are planning to visit Waitomo in the Waikato. This area is full of rich learning opportunities for our students. Our camp dates, pending BoT approval, are Wednesday 19th September - Friday 21st September. We will need to take 12 parents/caregivers with us as Camp Parents so we thought we'd advise you of the dates as soon as possible. There will be further information during the term.

Home Learning

Ruru students are expected to self-manage the tasks they do at home. You can access information about the Home Learning programme through Google Classroom. There are examples in the Home Learning Classroom of different activities the children may choose from. The children will also have a Spelling notebook to record personal words from their written work that 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,
Heather Richmond/Anthea Shattock/Whaea Dolly