



# OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

## Newsletter 11th December 2019

*"Learners Forever, Leading the Future"*

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Our final newsletter of the year although there's so much still happening in classrooms with children learning many of the New Zealand and Otakiri Christmas customs (such as Santa Mail which Miss G and the elves do such a great job of each year).

I'm certainly looking forward to our family 'gap' year in 2020. My wife Marama and daughter, Michaela are setting up a travel blog and I'll let Michelle know when it goes live, if anyone wants to see what we're up too.

I wish you all a wonderful family time over the holidays with beaches and trips and lots of whanau time. Please make every effort to have your children start school on the first day of term, which is Monday 3rd February, so teachers can begin setting class systems and children make a great start with their new classmates.

See you all in 2021!!!

Nga mihi koutou

Mike Mokai



### **Staff Farewells**

At the end of this school year we farewell three staff members:

Jaz Wratt – Jaz has worked with us as a Learning Assistant for the second half of 2019. We wish her and her family all the best as they are able to welcome a new addition to their family.

Whaea Poihaere Knight – Whaea has worked at Otakiri for the last five years in a variety of roles. We will definitely miss your great team attitude, your humour and positiveness and of course your wonderful expertise in Te Reo and Kapa Haka. Waiata just won't be the same without you!!! We look forward to Whaea continuing to be a reliever here at Otakiri in 2020. Whaea Poihaere has worked tirelessly weaving our school korowai during the last few years. The aroha she has woven into this korowai is a special legacy she leaves with us.

Lucy Pavitt – Miss Lucy leaves us to move closer to family and take up a role at Mercury Bay Area School. For those of you who have children in Lucy's class you will know just how much effort she puts in to making learning exciting and real. She is a creative and passionate teacher. You will be much missed Miss Lucy!

### **Classes Open on Friday 31st January**

As we did at the beginning of 2019, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all families to pop in and meet with teachers before the first official day of school. Classes will be open for students and parents to visit and have an informal chat with teachers, between 9am and 12pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Teachers are not preparing any presentations etc and there is no set time to come in. There is no expectation for families/whanau to come, but if you would like to take up this opportunity we would love to see you on the day.

### **Office Hours at the beginning of 2020**

The office will be open from 28th January from 9-3:00pm if you have any queries.

### **Congratulations to ...**

Ashmita Sharma, an ex-student who has been selected as a Deputy Head Girl at Trident High School. We are all very proud of you Ashmita.

### **Term Dates for 2020**

**Term One:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Term Two:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

**Term Three:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

**Term Four:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### **Waitangi Day**

Waitangi Day is in the first week back at school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Last Day of Term**

School finishes at 12pm tomorrow Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please make arrangements to collect your child/ren promptly. Awaiti bus will leave at 12.15pm and Braemar Bus at 12.30pm.

### **Pukeko Scheme**

The Otakiri School Board of Trustees has opted into the Government's new School Donation Scheme. What this means is that the Ministry of Education provides additional funding to our school, if we don't request donations from parents, therefore there will be no Pukeko Scheme in 2020. What this means for families is that we will not be requesting any school donation or asking for any parent contribution towards school trips, visiting performers, swimming buses or sports trips. The only costs we will be requesting from parents are costs associated with school camps, stationery and an \$80 cost for Year 7/8s to cover the cost of take home components from the Technology Programme at Edgecumbe College.

Stationery lists will be available from the school office in the new year, although our strong preference (so that students get the correct stationery) is that all required books etc are purchased through the school. We don't make any profit from these items and charge parents what we purchase the items for.

Stationery packs will be available for purchase from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Senior Prize Giving**

Senior Prize Giving will be held tomorrow from 10.30am to 12pm. This is for children from Tui class, Ruru class, Korimako class and Karearea class.

From all of us here at Otakiri School

Wishing you a fun  
And festive holiday!

