



# OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

## Newsletter 5 February 2020

*"Learners Forever, Leading the Future"*

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Our first newsletter for 2020 and there's already so much that has happened over the holiday break and is already happening in classrooms. Great to see learning at the forefront already.

Welcome to all our new students and whanau. We begin with eight classes in operation and our school roll is sitting at just under 200 presently. Special welcome to Whaea Verbena McCauley-Walker and Whaea Lesa Lafaelle who join the staff this year.

Our condolences to Mike Mokai, Marama and their family over the loss of Marama's father earlier this week. Our thoughts are with them at this sad time.

We welcome the addition of our amazing bike track which was completed over the holiday break and are looking forward to the bikes arriving later this month. There has been a delay in their arrival at school due to them being shipped from China and the current restrictions with the Coronavirus outbreak.

It's great to see so many community members taking advantage of the track over the summer break, after school, and on weekends. What a community asset we have.

Nga mihi koutou

Sharon Theobald

### Bike Track

As soon as the bikes arrive we'll start a roster for class use during the mornings while it is cooler. To make the most of this wonderful resource, a duty teacher will also oversee bike use in the lunch break. In the meantime, any students who wish to, may bring their bikes to school. Bikes must be parked in the bike racks next to the shed and are for personal use only. Students must wear a helmet. If riding to school, students need to disembark at the front of the school and walk their bikes on to the concrete area next to the bike shed. Any children intending on using the bike track must have suitable footwear – not jandals.

### Coronavirus

Our school is closely monitoring information being provided by the Ministry of Health, in regard to Coronavirus. At present, the risk of an outbreak in New Zealand is low and current advice is that there is no specific action to be taken at this time.

Should the situation change, as we do with other infectious diseases such as measles, mumps and influenza, we will follow our pandemic plan for managing the illness. For those of you concerned about possible infection, the Ministry of Health has provided practical information on their website which we encourage you to read - [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#)

### Stationery and Camp 2020

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 to support learning programmes. Therefore, there will be no Pukeko Scheme in 2020. The only cost to parents, caregivers and whanau this year are stationery and camp fees

Thanks to all those families who have already purchased stationery to support children's learning from their first day at school. It's important that students are well prepared for their learning and books are already being used in classes. Stationery packs are still available from the school office until the end of next week.

### SunSmart

It has been a particularly hot start to the term and we are reminding students to hydrate and cover up when out and about during break times. Please ensure they come to school with an Otakiri sunhat, sunscreen and a drink bottle daily. Blue school hats MUST be worn from the beginning of next week. Students without hats are withdrawn from the playground to a shady area. Students wear shirts no briefer than a standard crew neck t-shirt that meets the waist band of their pants. NO singlets or open back tops to be worn. Hats are available for purchase from the school office for \$10.00.



### 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

### Kawerau St John Penguin and Youth Division

Commences Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Kawerau St John Hall River Rd Kawerau.

Penguins for those age 6 -8 years old meet 5.45pm – 6.45pm

Youth from 8-18 years old meet 6.30pm - 8pm

Our programme teaches a range of life skills – including First Aid, Accident Prevention, Safety Awareness, Drill, Community Awareness, Communication and more.

### Japanese Host Families needed

Tarawera College have the privilege of hosting 15 Japanese students from Tamadal Hijirigaoka Junior High School. They are for 11 nights arriving on **Saturday 22 February to Wednesday 4 March 2020** and the college are looking for host families. This comes with financial support during their stay.

Please email - Louise Pryde at [guidance@tarawera.school.co.nz](mailto:guidance@tarawera.school.co.nz) for further information.

### Otakiri School Swim Team

On Tuesday 4th of February we had 23 students "Dare to Dream" and trial for the Otakiri School Swim Team to compete at the Rangitaiki Inter-school Swimming Champs. The team will be selected next week and these children will train every Tuesday for the next four weeks. The Rangitaiki Inter-school Swimming Champs will be held at the Edgecumbe College Pool on Tuesday 17th of March. Children from 8-12+ year olds are able to trial for selection. We have some beautiful swimmers who will be great representatives of our school!

### Dates and Reminders

6<sup>th</sup> February – Waitangi Day – NO school; 14<sup>th</sup> February – HPV talk with Year 8 students; 19<sup>th</sup> February – Centenary meeting; 16<sup>th</sup> March – School swimming starts; 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Top School; 31<sup>st</sup> March Learning Partnership Conversations and 1<sup>st</sup> April - Learning Partnership Conversations, school finishes at 12pm; 8<sup>th</sup> April – Interschool touch rugby; 8<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of school for term 1; 9<sup>th</sup> April – Teacher only day; 28<sup>th</sup> April – First day of term 2.

Newsletter by e-mail contact [office@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:office@otakiri.school.nz). Website: [www.otakiri.school.nz](http://www.otakiri.school.nz)  
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