

February 2020



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome to another school year and in particular to Kōkako Room. This year Kōkako Room is a Year 1& 2 class.

This Year I will be taking Reading Discovery students from 9am-10.30am.

Mrs Richmond will be teaching in the class at that time. She will teach the Handwriting and Writing components of the Literacy curriculum. Whaea Sharon will teach in the class when I have release for my SENCo (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator) role on a Friday. Margaret Hamilton and Whaea Liga will be our Learning Assistants supporting the children with their learning daily.

A bit about me: I have been living in Otakiri for about 20 years and have been at Otakiri School for the same length of time. I live on a lifestyle block and have lots of birds, chooks, 2 cats and some calves. I am involved with the Kawerau St John Youth programme and am also President of the local Whakatane Bird Club and hold several other Executive positions on other National Bird Clubs. I enjoy gardening.

School Stationery: Thank you to those who already have their child's stationery – fantastic start. Homework books will be set up over the next week. (This does take some considerable time so please be patient.)

Homework: Reading: Your child will have a book to read every night (Mon - Thurs) – this may well be a familiar book that they have read before. Please talk to your child about the story, ask them questions, ask them to retell the story, discuss the characters, see if they can sequence the events in the story, all very important skills that are part of the reading process. Reading is not just about reading the words but making sense of what we read. Sometimes they may have a poem to read instead of a book.

Spelling: If your child is a Y2 they will have 5 words to learn each week. See their Homework book for their testing day. Spelling will begin in Week 3/4. Please don't just learn the current words but go over previous words. Part of assessing whether a child is ready for the next level is if they are able to use the words correctly in their written work and can read them in text. Spelling lists are in the back of the Homework Book. Y1 students will begin spelling in Term 2.

Mathletics & Reading Eggs: All children will have their Reading Eggs passwords and Y2 students their Mathletics passwords. If you are having trouble please let me know so we can sort it out. Both of these will be glued into the back of the Homework book. Children should spend some time each night completing tasks on either Mathletics or Reading Eggs (alternate nights maybe).

Please make sure that all Homework books and readers are returned to school every day in a journal bag.

Library: Library books must be taken home in a library bag. Our Library days will be Monday and Friday. Children may also change books during their lunch hour if they wish.

Term 1 Overview:

- Our themes for the term are 'The Otakiri Way' and we will look at this in relation to our class and our school, Waitangi Day celebrations, House Heroes and class names and 'What makes me... ME'
- Visual Arts focus will be sketching self-portraits
- In Writing we will focus on recount and report writing and look at using full stops and capital letters correctly, using correct spelling for Essential Spelling List words and making our writing interesting for an audience
- PE will include small ball skills with a focus on summer sports. In Week 7/8 we will begin our swimming programme
- Maths will include Addition, Subtraction, Statistics and Geometry
- Reading Eggs will be a part of our learning as an activity in class

General Reminders:

Please refer to the Otakiri School Parent Handbook (copy available from the office or online) regarding the school dress code i.e. no jewellery or make up (including nail polish), t-shirts with sleeves etc. Personal toys at school are not encouraged and will be the child's responsibility. It is suggested that if they do bring toys to show then they sit on the teachers table till hometime for safe keeping.

Please put sunblock on children before they come to school. During this hot weather it is also very important for all children to have a named water bottle at school.

If you have any questions/problems please contact either of us as soon as possible as it is much easier to sort when fresh in mind. Do talk to your child about the importance of alerting staff to issues as they happen so they can be dealt with quickly.

Vera Pawson and Heather Richmond Kōkako Class Teachers



Learn with Purpose
Engage with Kindness
Act with Respect
Dare to Dream