

Term One 2020 -Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Korimako and an exciting new year with a really great bunch of kids. Hopefully you all had a happy, relaxing, enjoyable vacation. I sure did.

Korimako is situated at the back of the school and we have the pleasure of a great view of Putauaki and the surrounding countryside. It was the original school library and was moved when the new library was built. No doubt it will be fondly remembered by ex pupils at our 100th Centenary Labour Weekend 2020.



Korimako is a Year 3/4 class. We start the year with 16 boys and 9 girls, a total of 25 children. They are a happy, positive bunch of kids and we have had a good start to the term. Our class bird, the Korimako (Bellbird), is supposedly the bird with the most beautiful voice and judging from our class singing, Korimako children take after their namesake. Kākapo is our 'Buddy Class' and we will be doing a weekly activity with them.

We are so lucky to have Whaea Katie as our Learning Assistant this year. I am really looking forward to working alongside her to support Korimako students.

Otakiri School continues to implement P.B.4.L. (Positive Behaviour for Learning) throughout the school and Mana Potential. Each class continues their rewards system whereby the children can earn tokens which go towards a special award when their token card is filled up.

L.E.A.D stands for - **Learn with Purpose; Engage with Kindness; Act with Respect; Dare to Dream**

Our focus for the first four weeks is 'Getting to Know You' and revisiting our **LEAD** Expectations. This focus will be integrated into all curriculum areas. We are learning about ourselves, each other, our school and community, developing a strong 'Team Korimako' and how to be good Otakiri Citizens. It is so important to know who we are and where we come from. Please check your child's back for activities that require information from you about their heritage etc. Your child has taken home a paper bag with a note attached explaining an activity we are doing in class. I have a group of children that are so organised that their 'All About Me Bag' is already ready to share on Monday.

We shall also be learning about our bird, the Korimako. I shall be learning along with them and finding out about its many attributes and interesting facts. We will use this information to write a simple report about our class bird.

Term One is 'Hat Term'. Please ensure that your child has a *named* Otakiri blue slouch hat. Clothing also needs to be named please. Also, please apply sunblock to your child before school and ensure that they are covered up as the sun is particularly fierce this year. No tank tops or strappy dresses. Tops must have T-shirt style sleeves. We are a Sunsmart School. We are all very thankful to have air conditioning in this heat.

Children will bring home a reading book daily and spelling words weekly. Library Day is Friday. Athletics and Reading Eggs passwords will also go home, glued into Homework books, so that your child may access these programmes at home. There will also be a Reading Log for you or your child can fill in each night.

The children will have daily Guided Reading with a book at their reading level. Writing also occurs daily and is integrated across the Curriculum.

Home readers and library books must go home in Book Bags so that the books are protected. If home readers are not returned the next morning, your child will be unable to take new books home. If your child does not regularly return library books they will not be allowed to take library books home, although they will still be able to issue books but will have to keep them in their desk.

We have started Maths with a 'Maths About Me' activity sheet and some problem solving activities. Our Maths focus for Term One is Statistics, Number, Geometry and Fractions.

P.E. will consist of a variety of fitness activities and summer ball games for P.E. Swimming begins in week 8. You will have read in the school newsletter that we will be utilising the bike track too. Also, there will be opportunities for Yr 3/4 children to participate at interschool Rippa, Touch, Soccer, Hockey during the year. More information will be available closer to the time of these events.

Student Council Elections will occur this term. A group of children have expressed interest in trying out for the Korimako Class Representative on the Student Council. A note with all the information you and your child need to know will come home later this term.

All children need to bring their lunch in a named lunch box in order to keep food fresh. Uneaten food is sent home to show parents and caregivers exactly what your child has eaten during the day. You may also wish to provide a named water bottle for your child to have access to in the classroom.

We have a Discovery Table in our classroom so if you or your child have anything interesting that you would like to share with the class it would be much appreciated. Sharing 'treasures' with the class is a great way to promote self-confidence in speaking in front of the class and helps to develop Oral Language which is so important in all aspects of school life.

We have a busy term ahead of us filled with "Rich and Real" activities. Please feel free to contact me any time at jacqui@otakiri.school.nz if you have any questions or just pop in for a visit.

A final thought....



When you enter this classroom

You are explorers

You are historians

You are scientists

You are mathematicians

You are authors

You are sportsmen

You are artists

Your thoughts matter

You are important

You are part of this family

You are cared for

You are safe

You are loved

I'm very much looking forward to working with your children and you.

Regards-Jacqui Graham Teacher, A.K.A. Head Korimako, A.K.A. Miss G.