



Kārearea Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Greetings and Welcome

Kia Ora parents/whanau/caregivers,

Welcome to Karearea Class for Term 1. It is great to be back in New Zealand and Otakiri School after spending a very relaxing and refreshing holiday in Perth with whanau. I also spent a lot of my time at the beach enjoying the surf and developing my body surfing skills which funnily enough included quite a few somersaults and face plants into the sand!! Hope you were also able to spend some quality time enjoying your whanau, special places and friends.

Kārearea, the winner of the 2019 Bird of the Year, is a very brave, versatile and unique species. We will consider these characteristics as learners in Kārearea this year. By practising the **LEAD** Expectations (**Learning with Purpose, Engaging with kindness, Acting with Respect, Dare to Dream**) and the principles of **Mana Potential**, Kārearea class will be an exciting and respectful learning environment.

New students: We welcome three new students; Genesis, Alexis and Alexi-Rose to our class and look forward to sharing our learning and friendship with them.

Learning Assistant: To support students in their Literacy and Numeracy Programmes we are very fortunate to have Miss Gibbons as our Learning Assistant.

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)**

BUILDING RESILIENCE. Inquiry learning: This term we will begin a unit on "Identity" where children look at developing their Pepeha. Also we will focus on the concept of **Building Resilience**. We will be working on School Kit activities which equip students with the tools they need to help them build resilience in and out of the classroom, self-worth, empathy, diversity, self management and confidence.



Numeracy

- Number knowledge - Basic Facts. Fractions, Place Value
- Addition and subtraction
- Collaborative problem solving
- Measurement & Statistics

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



Literacy

In Writing this term we will be writing and reading for a range of purposes across the Curriculum. The children will be identifying their next steps from their writing and will use their Writing Pathways to set Writing goals. 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. Reading Eggspress is again being funded by the BOT this year. Within this programme there is a wide range of books, Spelling, English and Grammar activities for students to enjoy.

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 **Monday**. The children can also exchange books at lunchtimes. Please make sure your child has a journal bag to carry their library books in.



P.E. Due to very hot weather we will be doing our fitness in the morning, including a Gold Team Sport Rotation every Wednesday. Swimming will begin in Week 8.

Stationery: Could you please have your child's stationery purchased by the end of Week 2. We find that if the books are covered they last longer so if you could cover them that would be great thanks.

Kārearea 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 Monday 21st September - Thursday 24th September. We will need to take 10 parents/caregivers with us as Camp Parents. There will be further information during the year.

Home Learning

Children will have Essential Spelling List/ personal words from their written work that they need to practise and learn. Reading/Reading Eggspress, Mathletics, completing classwork.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions and queries. I welcome your ideas and feedback. You can contact me on anthea@otakiri.school.nz.

Thank you for your support,
Anthea Shattock