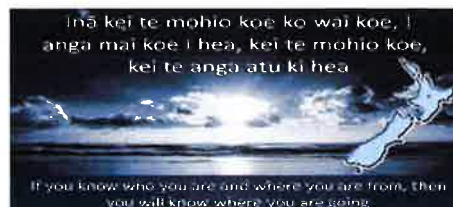


*Ruru 2020*

## NEWSLETTER **Term 1, 2020**



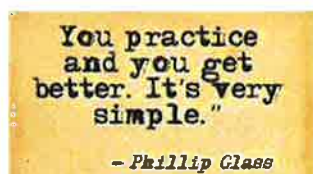
### **A big welcome to you all in Ruru for 2020!**

Kia ora e te whānau and a very warm welcome back for 2020!

It is exciting to see so many returning students, even a couple for their third year with me! As well as a big welcome to the new students and whānau joining our Year 7/8 class in 2020. The students have been working hard on getting familiar with each other once again after a long break and I have been very impressed with the attitude and feeling within the group already, that let's me know it is going to be another fantastic year!

A big focus so far has been around familiarising ourselves with LEAD and Mana Potential, but also looking at who we are and who we have behind us, cheering, supporting and expecting great things from us! The students are all working hard on creating their own visual korowai, that is going to be used to highlight and celebrate the strengths, passions, skills and achievements of every student in Ruru. These will be on display in the classroom from Week 3 so please feel free to come and check them out and celebrate all of the great things that make the tamariki who they are!

One of the other themes for Term 1 is that we are going to be 'Sharpening our tools'. By this I mean there will be many opportunities for students to showcase the skills and knowledge they already have, while refining and building upon these skills or 'Sharpening up' to ensure they are ready to tackle all challenges and new learning that comes their way for the rest of the year! This does not mean we will be repeating things from previous years, rather getting ourselves the most prepared we can be for a full on year at Otakiri School!



### **Learning in Ruru, Term 1, 2020**

As stated earlier, we will be looking to 'Sharpen our tools' throughout Term 1. This will include a look back at our spelling and basic facts/place value knowledge as well as the students having many opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they have to sharpen up and ensure they have a solid foundation moving forward in 2020.

Many of the learning contexts will also be based around our developing Localised Curriculum, this means that lots of the Writing, Inquiry, Mathematics, Science and Arts contexts we explore throughout 2020 will be based around our beautiful regions- Otakiri, Whakatanē and the wider Rangitaiki Plains. I am calling our Term 1 focus- Our Place, Our Home, Our story. This will not substitute our New Zealand

Curriculum, rather, provide the students with learning opportunities that are rich, real and meaningful to them!

The Otakiri School and Region Centenary also provides a great opportunity for developing local history knowledge, interview and research skills, understanding of timelines and important dates as well as thinking about an important question, “How does something last for 100 years?” This will provide many great learning opportunities about resilience, overcoming challenges and working together!

## **Banqer and Seesaw**

I am very excited to see the developments that have been made through the Banqer and Seesaw programs this year! Banqer is a financial literacy program (similar to MoneyTime, which we used last year) however the difference is that Banqer modules and learning are controlled a lot more by the teacher rather than the program itself. It also allows some great life skills to be taught and students will receive a weekly Banqer allowance, however just like in life, there will be costs, fines, reimbursements and rewards based around different aspects of our classroom program.

Banqer will not be used as a reward system to support LEAD, tokens and the students click cards are still our main form of behaviour support and acknowledgement, Banqer will only be used to support the learning around Money and Financial Literacy eg. Students will not receive Banqer money for getting tokens etc.

Seesaw is also going to be used again in 2020 however we are going to be further developing how the students use this and interact with you at home. Students will have the ability this year to create e-Portfolios using Seesaw and this will mean you will have greater access to all stages of learning, rather than weekly snapshots. Students will be required to post all aspects of their learning and work (Projects, Inquiries, Writing, Mathematics etc.) This process will take some time to learn and set up however this fits in nicely with our theme of ‘Sharpening our Tools’ throughout Term 1!

I am very excited to see all of the students show a growth mindset (L), Support and look out for each other (E), Respecting each other and their school (A) and taking lots of risks and opportunities that come their way (B).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns, queries or just want to catch up about anything, either through email [matt@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:matt@otakiri.school.nz), calling the school, Seesaw message or coming to see me face to face!

Ngā mihi kia a koutou!

Mr Brown