



### **Term One 2021-Korimako Class Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Korimako and hopefully a 'normal' school year. I hope you all had a happy, relaxing holiday break. I sure did.

Our classroom is lucky to have verandahs to use for eating, reading and other classroom activities, with a great view of the surrounding countryside. Korimako classroom was actually the original school library and it was moved when the new library was built so it is a building with history to Otakiri School.

We start the year with a delightful group of 22 Year 3/4 students, 7 boys and 15 girls. They are a happy, positive bunch of kids and we have had a good start to the year. We especially welcome Jimmaine and her whanau to our school.

Our Buddy Class is Ruru, a Year 7/8 class. Mr Brown is their teacher and we are sure to have a lot of fun with his class. We will be doing a weekly activity with Ruru.

Margaret Hamilton is our Learning Assistant for 2021. She worked with Takahe last year and will continue to support some of the children she worked with last year as well as the rest of Korimako kids.

Otakiri School continues to implement P.B.4.L. (Positive Behaviour for Learning) and Mana Potential throughout the school. Each class uses their rewards system, which is linked to L.E.A.D., 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 in 'Getting to Know You', revisiting our L.E.A.D. Expectations and Mana Potential. We are learning about ourselves, each other, our school and community, developing a strong 'Korimako Kids Team' and how to be good Otakiri Citizens. This is also known as our 'Otakiriness'. It is so important to know who we are and where we come from. Please check your child's bag daily for activities that require information from you about their heritage etc. In the near future your child will be taking home a paper bag with a note attached to it explaining an activity that we are doing in class.

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

Term One is 'Hat Term'. Please ensure that your child has a **named** Otakiri blue 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. You may wish to supply your child with their own sunblock to reapply during the day. We are a Sunsmart school so please, no tank tops, singlets or strappy dresses. We are so thankful to have air conditioning in this heat.

Children will bring home a reading book daily and spelling words weekly. Mathletics and Reading Eggs passwords will be glued into the cover of your child's Homework book so that they may access these programmes at home. They will also have a code to scan for Seesaw. Please let me know if you do not have the internet at home. You will find a Reading Log in their Homework book. I would be pleased if you or your child could fill it in daily, after they have read to you at home. Our Library day is Friday. Please ensure that your child has a journal bag to bring their home readers and library books home in to ensure that the books do not get damaged. If they do not have a bag they will be unable to take library books home, but instead will leave them in their desks. Please return home readers the next day. If books are not returned, your child will be unable to take a new book home.

We have daily Guided Reading with a book at their reading level. Writing also occurs daily and is integrated across the curriculum.

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

For P.E. we will start the year with summer ball games. The class will rotate to different teachers to learn different skills and games. Swimming starts in Week 8. We will travel by bus to the Kawerau Pools. You will receive more information closer to the time. As it is so hot at present, we will not be using the Bike Track until the weather cools down a bit. Just a reminder that children need covered in shoes to protect their feet when riding.

Year 3/4 children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of inter school team sports. At present, Mr Brown is organising Touch Teams and has handed out information about a Triathlon. Later in the year there will also be an inter school soccer/hockey fun day. Please encourage your child to **'Dare to Dream'** and join in if they show an interest.

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](mailto: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.