



# OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

## Newsletter 18 February 2021

*"Learners Forever, Leading the Future"*

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Welcome to all families, new and returning, from all of the staff here at Otakiri School. It is wonderful to see all of our pupils returning to school having had a safe and hopefully enjoyable holiday. It has been a lovely start to the year so far, with many smiley faces. Everyone seems to have had a great holiday, thanks in some part to the great weather. The transition from the holiday break into our busy school year is certainly helped by the first two short weeks! Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to welcome the new families and students and Mr Ballantyne (Tui Class) into our school community.

It's wonderful for me to finally be home and working with the staff to build our learning journey for 2021. Thank you to everyone who has popped in to say 'welcome home,' I have really enjoyed reconnecting with you as well as meeting our new students and families.

Teachers have been working hard on developing Term 1 learning programs for students and you will have received a class newsletter outlining events and expectations for the start of the year. Over the last few weeks' students and teachers have worked together to develop classrooms expectations based on the school's LEAD values. These are the values that guide our learning and behaviour throughout the year. I have been impressed by staff commitment in getting to know students in their new classes, their commitment to improving student learning and going above and beyond in this very busy time of setting up and preparing for the year ahead.

I would like to thank our 2020 leadership team, particularly Whaea Sharon, and the Board of Trustees for their work last year in what were very challenging times. 2020 certainly wasn't the year we were all expecting. My family made it to the USA briefly before the Covid pandemic began to become more of a reality, at which time we jetted off quickly to the beautiful Cook Islands, where we spent the next 8 ½ months. As so many people have told us, 'There are worse places in the world to be stuck!'

I look forward to catching up with you over the coming weeks.

Nga mihi nui

Mike Mokai

### **Coronavirus**

Our school is closely monitoring information being provided by the Ministry of Health, in regard to Coronavirus. At present we are back at Level 1, should the situation change, we will follow Ministry guidelines to keep our school community safe.

For those of you concerned about further outbreaks, the Ministry of Health has provided practical information on their website which we encourage you to read - [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#)

### **Stationery and Camp 2021**

The Otakiri School Board of Trustees has opted to continue with the Government's School Donation Scheme. What this means is that the Ministry of Education provides additional funding to our school to support learning programmes. Therefore, the only cost to parents, caregivers and whanau this year are stationery and camp fees. Thanks to all those families who have already purchased stationery to support children's learning from their first day at school. It's important that students are well prepared for their learning and books are already being used in classes. Stationery packs are still available from the school office.

### School Day

A reminder that the school day starts with the 8:55am bell. It is essential that children are at school before this time to connect with friends and their teacher so they can settle into class ready to learn.

For safety reasons it is expected that students will not arrive at school before 8am and that the school grounds are vacated by 3:30pm unless children are supervised by a responsible adult. The school accepts no liability for children playing here outside of these hours.

Please sign out children at the office if they are leaving school at any stage during the day.

### SunSmart

It has been a particularly hot start to the term and we are reminding students to hydrate and cover up when out and about during break times. Please ensure they come to school with an Otakiri sunhat, sunscreen and a drink bottle daily. Blue school hats MUST be worn from the beginning of next week. Students without hats are withdrawn from the playground to a shady area. Students wear shirts no briefer than a standard crew neck t-shirt that meets the waist band of their pants. NO singlets or open back tops to be worn. Hats are available for purchase from the school office for \$10.00.



### Term Dates for 2021



**Term One:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April

**Term Two:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

**Term Three:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October

**Term Four:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

### Classes and Teachers for 2021

Kiwi Class – Eraina Attwood  
Kokako – Vera Pawson  
Takahe – Maria van Beek  
Korimako – Jacqui Graham  
Karearea – Anthea Shattock  
Tui – Simon Ballantyne  
Kakapo – Sharon Theobald  
Ruru – Matt Brown

### Support Staff

Margaret Hamilton  
Jenni Gibbons  
Liga Ruffell  
Melissa Jensen  
Katie Bow

### **We are so proud of...**

Ella Fenwick, who has been selected to be a prefect at Whakatane High School for 2021. Congratulations Ella, what a wonderful achievement. We are certain you will be a fantastic leader and role model in your final year at Whakatane High School.

### School Sweatshirts

We have a number of second hand school sweatshirts we would like to give away. If you would like one for your child, please see Michelle in the office. First in first served.



### Dates and Reminders

19<sup>th</sup> February – School Assembly 9am; 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Karearea Class Trip to Manawahe; 23<sup>rd</sup> February – EBOP Triathlon; 25<sup>th</sup> February – EBOP Touch Rugby; 5<sup>th</sup> March – School Assembly 9am; 19<sup>th</sup> March – Assembly 9am; 25<sup>th</sup> March – Top School; 6<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Tuesday, **NO SCHOOL**; 16<sup>th</sup> April – School Assembly 9am; 16<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term 1; 3<sup>rd</sup> May – First Day of Term 2

Newsletter by e-mail contact [office@otakiri.school.nz](mailto:office@otakiri.school.nz). Website: [www.otakiri.school.nz](http://www.otakiri.school.nz)  
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