



Kiwi Class Term One



Dear Parents and Whanau,

Welcome to the start of the 2025 school year.

This newsletter is to let you know what Kiwi Class students will be learning and experiencing during Term One. Firstly I'd like to welcome Taero, Leo, Abigail, Mila, Rehia, Matiu, Kayleen, Nikau, Roman, and Braxton, and over the coming weeks we will also welcome Noah, Hiva, Toni and James to Kiwi Class and to Otakiri School.

I hope that over the Christmas and New Year holiday break, that you all enjoyed family time creating memorable moments to look back on. For myself, my family came home to celebrate Christmas with us. We spent many happy days together. I also headed to the deep south, Rakiura, and spent 5 days hiking its amazing bush and at times challenging terrain.



The Otakiri Way

Learners Forever, LEADing the Future

Kiwi Class Children are becoming familiar with our school wide LEAD Expectations. These are:

Learn with Purpose - Be a self-manager; Set goals and plan steps for success; Collaborate and learn with others

Engage with Kindness - Use kind words and actions; Be empathetic; Support others

Act with Respect - Respect myself; Respect others; Respect our environment

Dare to Dream - Believe in yourself; Have a growth mindset; Take risks

Each week we will focus on a different aspect to help us become independent Learners.

Units of Work

We start this term with a school-wide focus on 'Pause, Breathe and Smile'. This Mindfulness programme helps us to stay calm and present in the moment by helping us to breathe and to be mindful of how we feel and what we are experiencing. We are also looking at our class bird 'The Kiwi' and learning about its characteristics, its habitat and its predators in the New Zealand bush.



Literacy focuses on Phonics and recognition of the Early Words. We are using the Better Start Literacy programme for phonics. The emphasis is on letter sounds and how we can stretch (by saying) and hear (by listening) the different sounds and then blend together to read and/or write each word.



Maths this term, focuses on numbers up to 10 and 20 and on instant recognition of different number patterns up to 5 and 10 as well as creating and completing repeating patterns which use colour and shapes. We will also use Statistics to support getting to know each other.

For Visual Arts our focus is using paints, crayons and collage. We will create a bush scene to display collage and painted kiwi as well as work on creating a summer flower garden.

In P.E. the focus is on small ball skills. The classes will rotate around Tee-ball, cricket, handball and padder tennis to practise hitting, catching, fielding and bowling.



For Fitness we will be dancing to music and doing a number of Brain Gym activities.

Home Time Pick-up

School finishes at 2:45pm. Children who travel home by bus will move to the bus shelter while those

travelling with parents will be walked to the front of the school where they can be picked up from there.

Homework

Your child will bring home a reader most nights and their Homework book every night. At the front of the Homework book you will find the phonics song, the Early Words, correct letter formation sheet and poems. At the back, there is a hundreds board and Essential Spelling Lists 1 to 3. Please practise any of these as often as possible.

For those of you who have the internet, your child's Reading Eggs and Mathletics login password and QR code are at the back of their Homework book.

Please encourage your child to be responsible for their reading books and reading bag and to return them to school every day.

Library

Our Library day will be Friday. Library books must be carried in children's book bags so that they are protected from any spills that may happen in school bags.



Clothing

Please ensure that your child's clothing is named, including socks and shoes. This saves a lot of time when we find clothing left lying around.

Otakiri Blue Bucket Hats

Term 1 is 'Hat' term. Please check that your child's hat is named and comes to school daily.



Lunch

At lunch times the children are encouraged to eat their sandwiches, buns, wraps and/or pita bread first, followed by fruit and lastly their treat food. Treat

foods tend to come in packets.

If your child frequently has this type of food please teach them to open their packets independently. If they have yoghurt or dairy food, please supply either a spoon or a plastic spoon in their lunch box.



Kiwi Class Teachers

As Kiwi Class numbers are growing so quickly, Mrs Vera Pawson will also be teaching alongside me for the morning blocks from Monday to Thursday starting from Week 4.

Mrs Heather Richmond is my Release Teacher and she will be teaching in Kiwi Class on Thursdays.



Toys

Please, no toys are to be brought to school.

These tend to cause problems and lost bits can waste valuable time. Instead encourage your child to bring along a news item which they can share with the class. This could be a special book, photo or family object to show. Once they have shared their news then the item either goes on my shelf or back into their bag.



If you have any queries, please feel free to come and see me. I am tied up in a meeting before school some Friday mornings but apart from that either 20 minutes before school or directly after school I am available. Wishing you a wonderful term ahead!

Kind Regards

Eraina Attwood (AP)

