

Term One 2025-Korimako Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Team Korimako. I hope you all had a happy, fun-filled holiday. We sure were spoiled with such glorious weather.

A special welcome to Noah. We know you will enjoy our class and being at Otakiri.

Our classroom is lucky to have verandahs to use for eating, reading and other classroom activities and 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 25 Year 3/4 students, 2 Year 3 girls, 5 Year 3 boys, 11 Year 4 girls and 7 Year 4 boys. They are a happy, positive bunch of kids and we have had a good start to the year.

Our Buddy Class is Pouākai, our Year 7/8 class. Matua Niwha and Whaea Catherine are their teachers and we are sure to have a lot of fun and learning with their class. We will be doing a variety of activities with Pouākai, during the term.

Otakiri School continues to implement The Otakiri Way (PB4L-Positive Behaviour for Learning) and Mana Potential throughout the school. Each class uses the 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 is '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.

An Inquiry about the history of New Zealand and all the cultures that make us who we are, will be ongoing.

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 have sunblock in our classroom if needed. 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. 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. If you have any books from last year please return them.

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 PR1ME Maths focus for Term One is Numbers to 1000, Addition & Subtraction to 1000 and Multiplication Tables.

Korimako Kids will experience a variety of arts and crafts using a variety of media. I can already see that we have some very good artists in the class.

Kapa Haka continues for Blue Team on Tuesdays, even weeks and then the whole school will have waiata on odd weeks.

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. The bike track is open for use. Just a reminder that children need covered in shoes to protect their feet when riding. On Friday morning Blue Team do Jump Jam and sing waiata.

Year 3/4 children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of interschool team sports. It is very much dependent on parent support with transport, coaching and managing teams. 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 Year 3/4 Korimako Class Representative position on the Student Council. A note with all the information you and your child need to know came home on Monday 3rd, February.

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. Please no juice or soft drink.

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.

Just a reminder that if your child is a bus student and is not going home on the bus, please sign them off the bus list at the office or message Michelle.

Korimako and Kōkako will continue to find opportunities to work together. We are planning a school camp for Term 4. More about this closer to the time. If you wish to start saving and banking money towards it please see Michelle at the office.

Just a reminder that we have new start and finish times for school. The school day begins at 8.45a.m. It is really important that your child is here on time and ideally arriving at school no later than 8.30a.m. so that they can prepare for their learning and have time to catch up with friends. School now finishes at 2.45p.m. for the whole school, no separate bell times for the buses. Class teachers will bring any

children, travelling home by car, to the front of the school where parents will come to the front gate to pick up their child. No children are allowed to cross the road or enter the car park without an adult.

I am going to be setting up a closed Korimako Class Facebook page on which I can send messages and share pictures of what we are doing at school. I will send home more information when it is ready to go. If you do not use Facebook then you can email me or visit me at school.

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 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 in 2025.

Regards-Jacqui Graham Teacher, A.K.A. Miss G.