

**** Welcome to Pouākai 2025 ****

Tēnā koutou
Ko Putauaki te maunga
Ko Tarawera te awa
Nō Kawerau ahau
Ko Dolman tōku whānau
Ko Ray tōku matua
Ko Lynette tōku mama
Ko Bonnie rawa ko Scarlett tōku tuāhine
Ko Whaea Catherine tōku ingoa
Tēnā tātou katoa



Tēnā koutou
Ko Maunga Haumi tōku maunga
Ko Mangatu tōku awa
Ko Horouta tōku waka
Ko Te Aitanga a Mahaki tōku iwi
Ko Ngariiki rāua ko Waahia ōku hapu
Ko Mangatū tōku marae
Ko Richard rāua ko Mandy ōku matua
Ko Niwha Irwin ahau

Welcome to Term 1 for 2025,

We have had a wonderful start to our new year. We have 34 bright and bubbly keen learners in our class. It's exciting to have such a positive energy from our seniors.

This year we will definitely be going on a camp. Our aim is to go on a ski trip, however we are awaiting accommodation confirmation. If this is not a possibility then we will get onto booking an alternative. Our camp will be late in Term 2 or 3. We will update you all with confirmation when we have something locked in!

In our class we have 34 students and 2 teachers. We will team teach until 12.30pm Monday to Thursday. In this time together we will teach small groups, through our structured Reading, Writing and Maths programmes (PR1ME Maths).

After lunch Matua Niwha will be teaching other classes in our school Monday-Thursday to release teachers for Classroom Release Time. During this time, Pouākai will work through spelling, vocabulary, handwriting and independent tasks through our thematic Inquiry units.

Each Friday Whaea Catherine will be released to complete planning, assessment and carry out leadership responsibilities as Gold Team leader. Each Friday Matua Niwha will teach Pouākai and complete other strands of the curriculum, such as physical education, the Arts and Science etc. Fridays also include Golden Time and on alternate weeks, Assembly at 9.05am.

All students have the opportunity to apply for a role in our Student Leadership team. I hope that you can encourage your child to have a go and take on new challenges.

This term we will have a strong focus on our LEAD values and having a growth mindset. We will spend time encouraging students to take on new challenges and step up as a leader of our school. All students have the ability to learn if they are open-minded and ready for new knowledge! We all need to remember the power of 'YET'

Our school values underpin all that we do...

Learn with Purpose
Engage with Kindness
Act with Respect
Dare to Dream

Our seniors first opportunity to step up this year is our Country Fair on February 14th. I am confident that some of our seniors could help run some of the stations for a small timeslot. Please make sure you check the whiteboard outside the office to see what help is still needed. I hope we can see you and your extended whanau there to support this event.

We will have swimming lessons at the end of Term 1. We catch the bus into Kawerau pools from school each day. We will send home more information regarding our lesson times closer to this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, queries, or feedback via email: catherine@otakiri.school.nz or niwha@otakiri.school.nz

Our Pouākai door is always open to whanau. Please come in and see your kid's mahi and share this learning journey with them.

Ngā mihi nui,

Catherine Thomas and Niwha Irwin