



Otakiri School February 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

This letter is to serve as an introduction of the teacher in Tui class, my aspirations for the year and also to find out more about your child.

I was born in South Africa in 1983 and immigrated with my parents and three brothers to Whakatāne in 1995. I come from Afrikaans ancestry which means I have an interesting full name, Philippus Jakobus Meyer but I prefer to be called Philip or Mr Meyer, which is pronounced 'May-er' and NOT "My-er" My wife Natalie (a NZer) and I have been married for almost 14 years. We have 3 sons. Daniel who is almost 10, Lukas is 8 and Erik is 5.



I love spending time with my family and going on adventures. We like to ride bikes, go on bush walks, play on the beach, finish puzzles, board games or chess, make LEGO creations, explore playgrounds etc. We also enjoy quiet times or just playing at home.

Personally I try to play as much tennis as my current life situation allows which means I regularly play competition events on the weekends in Summer. I also like to play Twilight Cricket or Golf, if I can somehow manage to squeeze that into the schedule.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary with Distinction from Bethlehem Tertiary Institute (in Tauranga) at the end of 2012. In the previous 12 years I was a professional tennis coach in the Western Bay of Plenty working with various schools and clubs delivering tennis teaching programmes for children and adults. Besides teaching I have also studied Computer Engineering, New Zealand Tourism and Science Teaching.

I enjoy working with people to help them achieve their goals. I believe my strengths are commitment, dedication and the ability to connect and build positive learning relationships within the school community. I think school and learning should be fun and therefore I try to maximise enjoyment whilst maintaining a strong focus on Excellence, Perseverance and positive participation.

I am passionate about making a positive impact on the world by being a great role model for our younger generation. I try to improve students' tenacity and perseverance in all aspects of life, to help them build self-confidence and self-motivation to become lifelong learners who will have a positive effect on their communities. And ultimately that they are happy and healthy.

I want to work alongside parents/caregivers to facilitate the best possible learning for your child. I am happy to meet with you at any time outside school hours to discuss how we can best work together to help your child achieve success.

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If there are any questions, feedback or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me ASAP. Solving problems with quick clear communication is important to me.

The best way to contact me is via email at **philip@otakiri.school.nz** (one L in Philip) Otherwise you can call the office to make an appointment for a meeting after school.

In order to get a "jump start" in developing a learning relationship with your child, you can help me by answering the following questions and either emailing the answers or sending the form below to school ASAP. Knowing what activities and interests your child has helps me to develop meaningful lessons that are exciting and motivating. Knowing areas that you perceive are more difficult for your child helps me to stretch and encourage your child in new areas or places she/he might be tempted to avoid. Thanks for your help.

Parents are the most important people in a child's life, and we need to work together for the benefit of your child. With home and school working together I know that each and every student can have the most successful year yet.

Your support with this survey would be appreciated as it will be a great aid to having a fantastic year. I value your efforts greatly. I am looking forward to working alongside you and your child this year.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Philip Meyer

Term 1 Overview

Our baseline focus for the first few weeks is building connections, making friends and setting expectations for the year's learning. We have one hour per day set aside for the core subjects of Mathematics, Reading and Writing. Te Reo, Science, Physical Education, the Arts, NZ Histories and other extracurricular activities are woven and integrated into the rest of the day where suitable. Handwriting will also be a big focus this year.

Homework is not required but is **highly encouraged**. Spending regular time with your child reading and talking about their book is very beneficial. Maths basic facts are also very important. If you are able to role model a passion for learning and engaging with your child at home about school they are more likely to succeed and be happy. Children crave our attention and connection, doing some learning at home with them will make a huge difference. Research is showing that parents who engage with their children alongside their education journey are helping them to achieve better results and faster.

Giving children limited device time and more gross or fine motor skill activities at home is also very beneficial. Free unstructured play is also proven to be one of the best ways to encourage them to learn at home.

Getting To Know Tui Class 2025



Name of your child: _____

1. Areas I see as strengths for my child (academic, physical or social):

2. Areas I see as more difficult for my child (academic, physical or social):

3. What I hope my child will learn this year:

4. My child's interests are: (include favourite magazines, toys, activities, outings, play acting, Maths, art, computer time, sports, hobbies, etc.)

5. Things my child perceives as especially rewarding: (eg. special privileges, leadership roles, special food, stickers, sports cards, movies, etc.)

6. Things about my child that are special or unique: (include pets, siblings, clubs, grandparents or other people closely involved with your child)

7. Your family's thoughts/feelings on homework:

8. Does your child have access to the internet and a device at home? (for learning purposes)