

BACK TO SCHOOL

Term 2

Nau mai, hoki mai ki te kura, welcome back to school after what we hope was a great holiday. We are excited to welcome Julie Salisbury and Janine Hayman to our teaching team this term. Julie (Monday, Tuesday) and Janine (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) will be teaching in the Gecko Room alongside Ulla Page. Welcome also to all of our new whānau who have joined us this term.

Admin.

As school starts at 9am we encourage whānau to ensure that tamariki arrive at their classrooms between 8:30am and 8:45am. This gives them time to organise themselves for their day and have some time to play inside with their friends. The playground will not be open before 9am. To minimise disruptions during class, it would be beneficial if all tamariki could be at school by 8:50 at the latest – thank you. Remember if your child is late, please sign them in at the office or through the school app.

At the end of the day please remain outside the school gates until the 3pm bell has gone, this will keep distractions to classes to a minimum.

We are so pleased to be at Orange alert level, especially so that we can welcome whānau back into school and start singing in the classroom again! Please can you wear a mask whenever you are indoors on school grounds.

Term Topics

Student inquiry/Pakirehua - "Who were the first people to arrive in Te Ika a Maui?" This will involve studies of how, when and why our ancestors arrived in Aotearoa. We will be looking at how they navigated using the stars leading into our celebration of Puanga in week 7.

Pāngarau/Mathematics - Geometry: 2D and 3D shapes, direction, movement and coding. Algebra: Patterns. Number: Number knowledge, addition and subtraction basic facts.

Health/Hauora – The Life Education mobile classroom will be here in Week 2&3 to support us with the teaching and learning of our Hauora (well being) curriculum. We will be looking at identifying our feelings, developing resilience and solving problems.



Physical Education/Hākinakina – Ball skills (kicking, throwing, striking and catching), hockey skills, fitness and team games.

The Arts/Mahi Toi - Visual art, drama, music and movement linked to our letter of the week, emotions and history inquiry.

Kapa Haka – weekly sessions on a Wednesday after morning tea.

Te Reo Māori - weekly phrase and waiata, fruit names, likes/dislikes sentence structure.

Dates for the diary

Week 2/3 - Life Education bus at school

Thursday 12 May- School Photos

Friday 13th May - Whānau lunch

Week 3/4 - Trip to Puke Ariki (more information to follow)

Wednesday 18 May - Movement Madness at Omata School (postponement day Friday 27 May)

Week 4 - Dog Safety programme.

Friday 3rd June - Teacher only day

Monday 6th June - Queen's birthday public holiday

Week 7 - Puanga celebrations (more information to follow)

Friday 24th June - Matāriki public holiday

Week 9 - Monday 27th - Open afternoon 2-3pm
Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th, learning conferences.

Discovery Time

Discovery time is a student directed, play based learning programme we run throughout the junior school every Friday from 9:15 - 10:40am.

Learning through play is a vital part of every child's development. The focus during play is on the process not the product. Tamariki can test ideas, work through problems, explore social interactions, develop oral language skills and make sense of the world around them.

Each fortnight we plan for a different focus, dependent on needs that have been observed in previous discovery sessions. This focus is based on our learner profile competencies.

In the past, whānau have supported the programme by taking science, art, cooking, craft and PE activities. If you are able to help and share a special interest or talent, or come along and facilitate one of the activities already set up, please see your child's kaiako. We would love to have you join us and share the fun, play and learning that takes place.

Reading Eggs

Reading Eggs is an online site and app that helps children to learn to read. Reading Eggs has animated online lessons where the ākonga learn **essential**

reading and phonics skills. The variety of fun activities within each lesson provides the repetition needed for these skills to become part of the child's long term memory. All ākonga in the junior team have a Reading Eggs account and we have found it to be a successful learning tool. The students use Reading Eggs as a part of our literacy program. Ākonga also have the option to use Reading Eggs at home if you choose to. If you do not know your child's log in details, please talk to your classroom kaiako. To learn more about Reading Eggs, or to log in, go to the following link: <https://readingeggs.co.nz/>



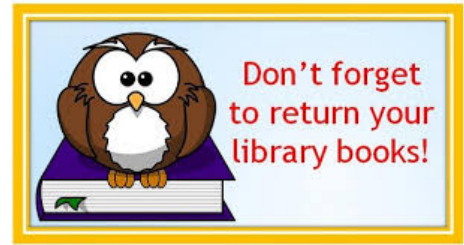
Whare pukapuka (Library)

Children need to bring their pukapuka (books) to school on their allocated library day.

Rooms 2 and 3 – Mondays

Room 1, Gecko and Penguin – Tuesdays

You could support your child in remembering their library day by prompting them the night before so they can organise the return of their pukapuka with independence.



Better Start Literacy approach

Last term we started teaching reading through the Better Start Literacy program. The kaiako are undergoing professional development with the University of Canterbury to help deliver the program. This approach has been developed in New Zealand by a team of experienced researchers from the University of Canterbury, following years of research on the best ways to support children's early reading, writing and oral language success.

In class, we are sharing exciting story books that will help grow the number of new and interesting words that your tamariki can use and understand when talking. We also play games that develop your child's phonological awareness knowledge – or their awareness of the sounds within words. This area is particularly important to help your child learn to read and spell.

We are looking forward to an exciting term!

Ngā mihi,
Ulla Page, Janine Hayman, Julie Salisbury, Helen Des Forges, Mikayla Barrett and Rebecca Wormald.

Kia ākonga te manako me te manaaki

Learning to Think, Learning to Care

