



## Term 2 2017

A warm Owhiro Bay Learning Community welcome to all our families, especially if you are new to our school this year. This *Learning Link* contains home learning suggestions to help you support your child's learning at home.

**Reading:** We are learning to decode printed text and to understand what we read. Your child will bring a school reading book, a poem or song home every night. To support this they have a ring of sight word flashcards to practise for the week. They will also bring home a school library book once a week and they can keep this for the full week. Some of the readers are 'shared' texts which means your child can join in with parts of it while you read to them.

**Learning Link:** *Make time to sit comfortably with your child and read with them. It's important that they read successfully and enjoyably at home. Thank you for writing comments in your child's reading diary. and returning the book bag to school each day.*

We would really appreciate help with **putting reading books away**. This is a great way of supporting class teachers. Please let us know if you are able to help for 20-30 minutes every 2 or 3 weeks.

**Oral Language:** We are developing confidence in both speaking and listening skills. We have News most days where those who want to share some important event can speak to the whole group.

**Learning Link:** *Please talk to your child about what they are learning at school and support them to develop relevant vocabulary.*

**Writing:** We are learning to record our ideas in a way that other people can read.

Initially, we plan our work with a picture, record words or letters we know, put a full stop, write our name and always re-read what we have written. As we progress, we write more detail about things we have done or things we are learning. We use full stops and capital letters more consistently; develop sentence structure and record all the sounds we can hear in a word. This term will continue to write about what we have been doing as well as persuasive writing.

**Learning Link:** *Talk about things that interest you and your child and encourage them to record it in any way they like whether it's a drawing that they can explain or sound in words they can hear. Talk about activities you do together and what was the most exciting part of the day.*

**Spelling:** Initially, we are learning or revising the sounds and letters of the alphabet. After that we will be learning blends and digraphs. We also learn to spell commonly used words.

**Learning Link:** *Support your child to increase their knowledge of letters, sounds and words. Ask them about the sounds and words written on the windows in our learning space.*

**Mathematics:** We are learning about shapes in Geometry, We have been experimenting with making different shapes as well as describing shapes. We will also be learning about probability, as well as developing our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies.

**Learning Links:** *At home play lots of board games together, make it harder by using 2 dice. Practice adding two numbers together and see how quick you can answer them.*

**Key Competencies:** We are learning to manage ourselves, to relate to others and to understand the process of thinking.

**Learning Link:** *Encourage your child to pack and unpack their own school bag to promote self management.*

**Inquiry:** Our focus for the term is Science. We are exploring the concepts of kaitiakitanga/guardianship, whanaungatanga/relationships and connectedness manaakitanga/welcoming others with kindness and Ukaipotanga/the place you are nurtured. Through science we are learning to take care of animals by finding out what they need to survive.

**Learning Link:** *Talk about things in your life that you look after like pets or the environment. Discuss the many different relationships they have with different people. Ask them why they think we do these things.*

**PE:** We are developing large ball skills through kicking in soccer, and catching and passing in touch rugby, basketball and netball.

**Learning Link:** Get your child to practice kicking a soccer ball or passing and catching a rugby ball or a basketball, at the park or the school grounds to develop their hand eye coordination.

**Te Reo Maori and Kapa haka:** We are gaining confidence in using a variety of Te Reo vocabulary, including greetings, numbers and simple questions.

Harakeke class are joined by children from the kindergarten with Whaea Rachel to sing songs, do haka, give our mihi and hear a story together. Matua Henare also joins us this term, teaching us new songs and haka.

**Learning Link:** Regularly practice greeting your family and friends in Te Reo Maori. Ask your child how to introduce themselves.

**The Arts:** We are exploring pastel as well as observational drawing and pencil sketching. Later in the term we will also be doing calendar art.

**Learning Link:** Watch out for inspiration as you are out and about this term - e.g. look at murals and art at festivals and fairs.

**Some important dates for your diary:**

Wheels Day	Every Wednesday
Coffee group in staffroom 2.15 pm	Friday 26 May (Last Friday of each month)
Queen's Birthday	Monday 5 June
Walk 'n' Wheels Day	Wednesday 7 June
School Disco	Friday 23 June
Staff Training Day (Inquiry Learning)	Thursday 6 July
Last day of term 2, 3.00 pm	Friday 7 July
First day of term 3, 08.55 am	Monday 24 July

We are going to have a great term! Please ask if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact us if you have any information to share about your child. You can e-mail us at: [chloe@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:chloe@owhiro.school.nz); [julia@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:julia@owhiro.school.nz); [karen@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:karen@owhiro.school.nz)

Noho ora mai ra - stay well and healthy  
Chloe Fretwell, Julia Nissen, Karen Johnston.