



# The Learning Link

Term 1 2018

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 suggestions to help you support your child's learning at home.

The Harakeke Team

We are really excited about working with you this year. In the Harakeke team this year is:

Chloe Fretwell

Nicola McKeivitt

Amie Roberts

You may have already met Chloe who was part of the Harakeke team last year. Nicola is an experienced teacher who has moved down from Auckland to be part of the Harakeke team. She has predominantly worked in the Junior School. Amie Roberts has many years of experience as an Early Childhood teacher. Together we are a great team with many varied skills to offer the children.

**Reading:** We are learning to decode printed text and to understand what we read. Your child will bring a school reading book, or a poem 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. We would also love some parents to **listen to children reading** in class. Let us know if you would be available.

**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.

**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.*

**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 how to display statistical information, as well as developing our number knowledge and addition and subtraction strategies. Later in the term, we will also be measuring the length of objects.

**Learning Links:** Use real objects to build up simple block graphs on the table or floor. For example, sort DVDs into groups, sort Lego bricks into colours, sort the laundry into people piles. Talk about and compare the lengths of objects using “shorter / shortest” “tall / taller / tallest” “kilometres” etc

**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 year is Citizenship through Enterprise. We are exploring the concepts of ako/teaching others and whanaungatanga/relationships.

**Learning Link:** Talk about existing Social Enterprises (e.g. Eat My Lunch, Kids Can etc.) and what it means to you to be a Citizen and help others in the community.

**PE:** We are developing the small ball skills of throwing, catching and hitting with a bat.

**Learning Link:** Get your child to practice throwing and catching different sized balls at the park or on the school field. See how far you can get it by throwing underarm and then overarm.

**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.

**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 ways of using paint and crayon and dye to express our creative ideas.

**Learning Link:** Watch out for inspiration as you are out and about this term - e.g. look at murals, art at festivals and fairs, visit the Bug Lab at Te Papa or other exhibitions.

### **Some important dates for your diary:**

Wheels Day	Every Wednesday
Pōwhiri	Friday 9th February 9am
One Learning Community Picnic	Friday 9th February 6pm
Coffee group in staffroom	Friday 23rd February 2.15pm
Easter Break	Friday 30 March-Tuesday 4th April

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); [nicola@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:nicola@owhiro.school.nz); [amie@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:amie@owhiro.school.nz)

Noho ora mai ra - stay well and healthy  
Chloe Fretwell, Nicola McKevitt, Amie Roberts.