



# The Learning Link

Mahuri (Rms 1,2,3)  
Term 1 2018

Our Home-School Newsletter  
with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.

Welcome back to school for 2018! It is wonderful to see everyone back bright eyed and ready for learning. We are a new look team this year and we are all excited to see what 2018 will bring. The Learning Links are designed to help you support your child's learning at home.

**Reading:** The children are encouraged to read independently for at least 20 minutes a day. During this time we are observing reading attitudes and behaviours as well as encouraging the children to choose books they enjoy reading. We are also working on understanding what we read, using a number of different types of comprehension strategies such as asking questions before during and after reading as well as making connections to experiences and other things we have read.

**Learning Link:** Encourage the children to discuss what they are reading with you. Get them to tell you about the part they have just read. Ask "What do you see, hear, smell, taste, feel from reading this?" and "What words or sentences made you feel (taste etc.) this" Ask that they find the evidence in the story to support what they say.

**Writing:** This term we are encouraging the generation and detailing of ideas. There are a number of deep and surface elements that interplay when we write. These are ideas, structure, organisation, vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling. It is challenging for a learner writer to bring all these elements together but ideas are the reason writer's write. Students have been learning to find seed ideas - the small moments that with care and attention can grow into strong beautiful writing. Students are learning to notice the important small moments in their lives then talk the story like a writer. This helps to focus on the ideas without restriction.

**Learning Link:** Raise the profile of writing in your family. Write notes and messages for each other, talk about interesting ideas you have and words you come across. Make a list of the seed ideas in your family - the game of cricket in the yard, the time the cat went missing for a day, the whole the dog dug in the garden... Bring in some photos/artefacts/memories to stick in their seed books.

**Spelling:** We will be concentrating on learning and using the essential spelling lists 1-7. We are working towards these words being spelt correctly every time they are written. There are also spelling programmes running in classes throughout literacy time focused on sounds and spelling patterns.

**Learning Link:** The essential spelling lists are available on Owhiro Bay Learners website. Try some of the spelling games that are also on the website.

**Mathematics:** As we're getting to know each other as a new team we will be collecting and display information about Māhuri as part of our learning of Statistical Literacy and Investigation. This term we will also be increasing our number knowledge and addition and subtraction strategies. We will be having Measurement Wednesday every week where we will explore the concepts of Length, Perimeter and Area.

**Learning Link:** Discuss the maths that you use in everyday life. Model how you would tackle problems such as working out change at the shops, how long something is or telling the time. Keep learning the basic facts. There are many websites that help students become fast and accurate. Use Owhiro Bay Learners – <https://sites.google.com/a/owhiro.school.nz/owhiro-bay-learners/> and [www.teachertools.co.nz](http://www.teachertools.co.nz).

**Enterprise through Health:** Our overall focus for the year is Citizenship through Enterprise and this term we're looking at this through a health lens. Māhuri will be unpacking what Enterprise means, exploring identifying opportunities, risks and making a plan to solve a problem. With mental health being an important issue for young people, our students will be looking at what makes us healthy (both mind and body), and identifying a way to contribute to this.

**Learning Link:** Discuss with your child what is available in the community to aid with mental health. Also discuss what might be missing and is sorely needed.

**Physical Education:** This term we are focussing on small ball skills and implementing these skills in games such as cricket, softball, tennis and handball. If you have skills or a passion for these sports and have time, get in touch! We'd love to have some parent help.

*Learning Link:* Encourage your child to have some sort of physical activity each night.

**Te Reo Māori:** Mātua Henare is back teaching Kapa Haka on Tuesday afternoons. We are focussing on 'Ko au', what represents us and our whānau. There will also be opportunities for our students to be Kaikaranga and Kaikorero as part of our pōwhiri.

*Learning Link:* Talk about your whānau at home, both relatives and wider whānau. Often family can include people that are not related but are important and close to the family. Talk about your local area and places of significance.

**The Arts:** Our underlining theme is connected to our literacy topic of 'Ko au'. We will create portraits using a range of media. We will be learning the different techniques and skills needed to create different textures, shades and lines. Our aim is to develop our skills using paint, dye and crayon.

*Learning Link:* Let your child practice their newfound skills on blank paper at home. Share artwork with your child to provide inspiration.

**Important Class dates:**

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

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. To contact us please see us before school or make an appointment, alternatively by Email: [vikki@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:vikki@owhiro.school.nz); [niky@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:niky@owhiro.school.nz); [hireke@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:hireke@owhiro.school.nz)

Vikki Martin  
Hireke Zygadlo  
Niky Clegg