

Dear Whānau

Welcome back to school for 2021! It has been a great first week back and I have been enjoying hearing about the exciting things everyone did in the holidays. I am looking forward to getting to know you all better and working together to build a positive and fun learning environment for your child.

### **Term 1 Sunhats**

Owhiro Bay School requires students to wear a hat in the playground and during all outdoor learning activities during Term 1. All students understand that if they do not have their hat at school, they will have to stay under shade at morning tea and lunch-time which greatly restricts their play options. Each classroom has a bottle of sunscreen which children can access, this is their responsibility to self-manage.

### **Book Bags and Reading Books**

Your child is expected to bring home their book bag each night. Inside their book bag is a green reading diary for them to log their books each night. In Room 4 children select their reader of choice from the appropriate book box located in their classroom. Each morning when they return their book bag to the container, they can swap their book for a new one. Please encourage your child to do this independently to develop their sense of learner agency. Enjoy reading together and make it as fun and relaxed as possible.

### **Library**

The library is currently out of action indefinitely so we will not be able to issue books until further notice. We have done an order with the National Library but I encourage you to sign up to your local library and issue books there. Feel free to log library books in their reading diaries too!

### **Before and After School expectations**

Please be mindful that our classes are open from 8.30am each morning. If your child arrives before then please have them wait in the office foyer. The day

ends at 3pm and all Room 4 children are to wait in their classroom until they have been collected by their adult. If children are not picked up by 3.05pm they will wait in the office foyer. Children are not permitted to play in the playground unsupervised after school whilst waiting to be picked up.

### **Fruit / Vege Break**

In Room 4 we share a fruit platter each morning during our snack break. If you find you have any fruit or vegetables to donate to our fruit bowl in the mornings, feel free to send them along with your child. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Drink Bottles**

We have water fountains at school but as children often want to drink during class time it is easier if they have their own **named** bottle.

### **Labels**

Please clearly label all of your child's clothing, their drink bottle, and lunchbox. If they lose any items they may be found in the lost property spot outside the hall. Please do not allow your child to bring toys or precious personal belongings to school.

### **Assembly hosting days**

You are welcome to come along from 2.20pm each Friday but in particular Room 4 will be hosting assembly in Week 6 (Friday 12th March).

### **Learning through play / Mahi tākaro**

Our learning through play this year will take place in the afternoons. If you have any expertise and you would like to come in and share during this time, please let me know.

Should you have any queries or concerns, you can email me or pop in and see me for a chat.

Noho ora mai ra.

Stay well and healthy,

Chloe Meffan

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