



The Learning Link

Term 4 2017

A warm Owhiro Bay Learning Community welcome to all our families, especially if you are new to our school this term. 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. Sometimes they will bring the same book home, this is to practise fluency and expression. 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 1 or 2 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. Also talk about activities that you do together, trying to put them in order to help support sequencing.*

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 we are focusing on the Narrative genre and how we write interesting stories.

Learning Link: *Encourage your child to draw things they are interested in. This could be sports, their family or friends. Support them to write their names or names of their family members or write what they want to say on the bottom of the picture for them.*

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: This term we are developing and revising our number knowledge. Later in the term we will be focusing on measurement by looking at capacity, volume and area. We will also be developing our statistics investigations. **Learning Link:** *At home play lots of board games together, make it harder by using 2 dice. Practise counting backwards from a range of different numbers.*

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/unpack their own school bag to promote self management.*

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, give our mihi and hear a stories. We also have Matua Henare again this term.

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

P. E and Health: We are learning how to run, jump and throw in Athletics this term. We are gearing up for the Athletics day so we will be practising most afternoons on the field. We are also learning how to improve our own wellbeing and we will be trialling different activities on Mindful Mondays.

Learning Link: Ask your child which event they feel really confident in and why? Practise running fast and see how high/far they can jump. **We would love any parent help in the afternoons with Athletics.**

Some important dates for your diary:

Swimming	Every Tuesday
Parentlink Coffee Club (staffroom)	Last Friday of the month 2:15pm
School Athletics Day	Wednesday 1 November
Southern Zone Athletics	Tuesday 7 November
Country Fair	Sunday 19th November
ASB Getwise Programme	Wednesday 30th November
Big Day Out	TBA
Prizegiving	Wednesday 13th December
Last day of year	Friday 15th December 2pm
First Day 2018	Monday 29th January

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; julia@owhiro.school.nz; karen@owhiro.school.nz

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