



Kia Ora and welcome back to another new and exciting school year!
We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and your child is ready to begin the year.

Who Are We? Our Team consists of three classes...

	Kakapo		KERERU		TAKAHE
	Mrs Sonja King		Miss Neena Hari		Mrs Julia Brachi
	Year 4 & 5		Year 3 & 4		Year 3 & 4

School Values

Our school values are a very important part of our school culture. We focus on these throughout the year, beginning this term with unpacking what they mean and what they look like both in and out of our classrooms. We appreciate your help by reinforcing these school values at home and encouraging your child to practise these values in all aspects of their life.

✨ Respect - Kia u ✨ Responsibility - Kai Mau ✨ Resilience - Kia Manawanui ✨

Term 1 Learning

We will be starting the year with a focus on **whakawhanaungatanga** which is the process of making and maintaining relationships. As we get to know each other and our new classes, we'll create expectations for our classroom to ensure it is a fun, safe, and happy environment for all. A big focus across the school this year will be on **Peer Mediation**. This will not only support the peer mediation that happens during break times, but also instill the children with the necessary skills to deal with conflict whenever it arises.

Later in the term, Takahe and Kereru will be learning focusing on a Science topic - Chemistry and how to 'think like a Scientist'. Kakapo will be learning about our NZ native trees, birds, and insects.



To further help us learn about your child and what makes them unique we appreciate you taking the time to fill in our Family Questionnaire that has been sent home and thank you in advance for getting it back to your child's teacher promptly.

ClassDojo

Across the school we use ClassDojo as a platform for sharing and communicating with whanau. If you have not already, please accept the invite that has been sent out by your child's teacher so you can join our class pages.

Teachers can be contacted using the message function on ClassDojo or via the following emails:

Sonja King sking@buckland.school.nz | Neena Hari nhari@buckland.school.nz | Julia Brachi jbrachi@buckland.school.nz

REMINDER: Please use Skool Loop App or call the office directly for all absences. Thank you!

Digital Technologies



From Year 3 up, we use Chromebooks as part of our daily learning for programmes such as Google Classroom and Mathletics. Children are allowed to bring their own Chromebooks to school for use if they have one. This is optional as each class does also have a set of shared Chromebooks. Personal Chromebooks go home each day and it is the child's responsibility to charge them overnight ready for use. A number of the programmes we use on the Chromebooks require the children to be able to listen carefully, so a headset is required to use these programmes most effectively. We ask that all children **please provide a set of headphones** from home. Please name your child's headphones and send them to school in a named bag. These headphones will remain at school until the end of the year for use in your child's day to day learning. Please note, for hygiene reasons there will be no sharing of headphones.

Bookbags

All students must have a bookbag that is brought to school **daily** in order to take home library books and readers. Bookbags ensure books are kept safe between home and school as damaged books cost the school a lot to replace. We appreciate your support with ensuring all readers are returned to school each day and Library books returned weekly.

Homework

Homework is an important part of supporting a child's learning and is a great opportunity for children to share what they are learning with their whanau at home.

Starting from Week 3, homework requirements this year are;

- Daily reading (this could be a classroom reader, Library book, or book from home)
- Mathletics - 10 mins of Course Work and 5 mins of 'Live' basic facts practise.

Please support your child to complete their Homework each night and thank you for signing their Reading Log so we can keep track of their Homework progress.



Swimming

Swimming is every day and is part of the curriculum (Term 1 and end of Term 4). We are very lucky to have a heated pool at our school and it is an expectation that all students participate during this time. Our daily swimming lessons are valuable life skills and reinforce the skills needed to participate in the school Swimming Demonstration in Week 3.

We are looking forward to having the expertise of the Fulton Swim School from Monday 24th Feb to teach the Swim for Life programme. Please make sure your child comes to school with their named togs, rash shirt, towel and bag everyday. If your child cannot swim on a particular day please send a note to their classroom teacher or message on ClassDojo.

Health & Wellbeing

Term 1 is our hottest term of the year so it is a good idea for children to sunblock in the morning and wear layers for those unpredictable changes in weather. Each class has its own supply of sunblock and children are encouraged to put sunblock on as needed. If your child has allergies we would appreciate it if you could send them with their own supply.

Keeping your child hydrated is essential, especially in these hot Summer months. We ask that all children bring a named water bottle to school each day. Drinking fountains are also available when children are outside in the playground. A reminder that we are a **water only** school so please save any other types of drinks for home.

To help your child manage their belongings **all** clothing including swimming gear and towels must be clearly named. It is also a good idea to clearly label footwear to avoid mix ups of similar types. A lot of learning time can be spent trying to track down lost clothing, and is even more difficult when it is not named.

Hats are compulsory for Terms 1 and 4 and are essential sun protection during break times and other outdoor activities. We have a 'No Hat, No Play' policy at our school.

Years 3 and 4 Camp

We will be returning to Lakewood Lodge again this year with our Year 3 and 4 students in Term 2, Week 3, Monday 12th May - Tuesday 13th May. This is an action packed two day camp that provides an amazing range of learning opportunities which the children love. We will be sending further information home about camp later in the term. Exact cost is yet to be confirmed but we encourage families to start putting money aside now.



Year 5 Camp

Year 5 children will receive information about their camp later in the term once it has been finalised.

Team Assemblies

Our first Team Assembly for the year will be on Friday 21st February at 2.30pm in the school hall to celebrate the children's efforts with the Swimming Demonstration the day before. Please keep an eye on Dojo for updates throughout the term on future Team Assembly dates.

We are looking forward to working with your children and having a productive and fun year ahead!

Kind regards,



Families are welcome to join us at our team assemblies!

Sonja King, Neena Hari, Julia Brachi
Kakapo, Kereru, and Takahe Teachers

WHAT'S HAPPENING?	
Parent Meetings	Tues 11th Feb 3.10pm & 3.30pm
Y3/4 Swimming Demonstration	Thurs 20th Feb
BOT BBQ & Swim	Fri 21st Feb
Fulton Swim School Lessons Begin	Mon 24th Feb
Multicultural Festival - Kapahaka Performing	Sat 29th March
Photolife Photos	Fri 4th April
Last Day of Term	Fri 11th April
Wheels Day	TBC