






Welcome Whānau!

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 their year.

Our Team

TUI 	KAKAPO 	TAKAHE 
Miss Neena Hari	Mrs Sonja King	Mrs Julia Brachi
Year 3 & 4	Year 4 & 5	Year 3 & 4

The staff and students are very excited to have the lovely Mrs Brachi on our team in Takahe this year!
A very warm welcome to Julia.

School Values

**** Respect - *Kia u* ** Responsibility - *Kia Mau* ** Resilience - *Kia Manawanui* ****

We will be focussing on teaching these values throughout the year and unpacking what each of these values mean and looks like both in and out of the classroom this term. This will include learning the new school Karakia which incorporates our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Topic Study

The focus for our first few weeks is 'All about Me'. We will be encouraging the children to share a bit about themselves, their family and what makes them unique. Please feel free to send in or share with us any special photos, stories or items of cultural significance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill in our Family Questionnaire that has been sent home along with this letter.

Spelling

This year we will be continuing with the spelling programme "Switch onto Spelling" by Joy Allcock. This programme includes introducing the children to the most common relationships between sounds and letters. It has been shown that 'many of the problems associated with learning to read and write English occur because there is a great variety of how sounds can be written (ie. "or" sound in paw, poor, pour, pore) and about how the letters and letter patterns can be sounded (CH pattern in chip, Chris, machine). This programme is based around IN CLASS activities. Each week children will be exposed to a range of sound patterns and will be taught about these and how they may look in different words.

In addition to running the Joy Allcock programme, we will be including weekly spelling words that will be taken from the essential lists and other areas of your child's literacy learning. To further support your child's literacy learning we will be using StepsWeb both in the classroom and as part of their daily homework.

Headphones

From Year 3 up, the children use an increasing amount of ICT in the classroom to support their learning, including Chrome Books. If you have a spare set of headphones or earbuds at home it would be beneficial to send these to school for your child to use when doing their work. This will help limit distractions and optimise their use of sound when on a device such as listening to a story, identifying sounds in words etc. Please name any earbuds/headphones sent to school and they 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 earbuds or headphones.

Homework

We will start 'Homework' in Week One. This will consist of;

- A library or Browse Box book (Readers will start in Week 2)
- Mathletics: Mathletics is made up of 10 mins of Course Work and 5 mins of 'Live' (Concept and Basic Facts skill building)
- Spelling Words (Spelling Notebooks will start in Week 3).

Please support your child to complete their Homework each night and thank you for signing their Reading Log so we know it has been completed.

Bookbags

All students will require a bookbag in order to take home library books and readers. This is to keep books safe between home and school. We appreciate your support with ensuring these are returned to school each day.

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 our valuable life skills and reinforce the skills needed to participate in the school Swimming Sports events in Week 5. Please make sure your child comes to school with their named togs, rash shirt, towel and bag everyday.

Health & Wellbeing

We practise good hygiene through regular hand washing and use of hand sanitiser when needed in order to keep ourselves healthy. Our rooms are well ventilated so children may need warm clothing options even during the Summer months. We also request that children who are visibly unwell are kept at home.

Keeping your child hydrated is essential, especially in these Summer months. We ask that your child brings a named water bottle to school each day. We also have drinking fountains available when children are outside in the playground.

Each of our classrooms has its own supply of sunblock and children are encouraged to put sunblock on prior to break times. If your child has allergies to our sunblock we would appreciate it if you could send your child with their own supply.

To help your child manage their belongings it is really helpful if **all** their clothing including swimming gear and towels are clearly named. We also encourage parents to clearly label footwear to avoid mix ups of similar footwear. 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 – Lakewood Lodge

We will be returning to Lakewood Lodge again this year with our Year 3 and 4 students. This is an action packed full two day camp that provides an amazing range of learning opportunities. We will be sending further information home about camp later in the term.

Year 5 Camp

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

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

Kind Regards,

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

Should you need to contact us we can be reached via email:

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