



Welcome

I would like to welcome the following children and their families to our wonderful school: Ellie Liao, Emily Kuo, Storm Grobler, Raphael and Anah Yamaji, Aaron Ma, Euphie Ma, Luisa Perin, Josh Zheng, Leo Vesly, Shanaya Awadh, Ruah Mo, Robin Bryce, Ryan Liu, Ethan Hubbard

Upcoming events

9-11 May Class and individual photos

16 May BOT Meeting 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Upcoming events are also on our calendar on our website: www.oteha.school.nz

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and ANZAC weekend with your family, whānau and friends. We are hoping to be able to get through all the exciting things we have planned for this term.

Thank you to Mrs Faulkner and our amazing student leaders who helped us welcome everyone back on the first day.



Staff News

I would like to welcome two new teachers to our school. Carrie Withers, who is taking over Rm 29 from Sara Ingram, and Jeewan Cheema, who is replacing Kirstin Craggs, who is now on maternity leave. We are fortunate to have two enthusiastic, passionate, and experienced teachers.

Farewell to Mrs Monique Holding one of our Learning Assistants who is going on maternity leave. We wish them all the best with the new addition to their family.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

We were very pleased with the response to our Zoom Parent/Teacher Conferences at the end of last term. Teachers felt they were positive and enjoyed meeting some of you for the first time. We have scheduled another round of Parent/Teacher Conferences for the end of this term.

Please remember that you don't have to wait for these formal opportunities to meet or talk with your child's teacher. You can contact them via email to organise a time to talk or meet if you have questions or concerns.

Hero

From now on we are going to be sending all communication to you via Hero. This means you will only have to look in one place. Teachers may share some things on Seesaw but most of our communication will be via Hero.

Teacher Only Days

Teachers all attended a professional development webinar via zoom on the last day of Term 1. The focus was on establishing effective reading programmes. This was a very useful session for all teachers, and very relevant as, along with other schools, many of our children have not made a lot of progress in their reading, due to the ongoing effect of the Lockdowns.

We have two further Teacher Only Days scheduled for Term 2. I appreciate that these are not always convenient for parents who are working. The Primary Teachers Union, the NZEI, negotiated additional Teacher Only Days in 2020, and they have to be used by schools before the end of June 2022. Due to the Lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, we have been unable to use them before now. These will be the last Teacher Only Days for 2022. We have 'attached' the upcoming Teacher Only Days to public holiday weekends, in the hope that you can use the additional day for a family holiday or some family time together. The Term 2 Teacher Only Days are:

- **Friday 3 June**
- **Monday 27 June**

Pick-Up/Drop Off Zones/Kea Crossing

To ensure the safety of children and adults coming to and leaving our school we have some very important rules about parking, dropping off and picking up your child.

Our school driveway is closed for all vehicles, except staff and business vehicles, such as couriers, throughout the day.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child you need to find a carpark on one of the adjoining roads around the school and walk down to the school gate.

If you are dropping off/picking up your child from SKIDs before or after school you need to do the same- **please do not drive down the Fields Parade school entrance either before or after school.** This is the exit for staff and business vehicles only.

We have a Kea Crossing outside the Fields Parade gates and Year 6 children are trained to be Kea Crossing monitors by the local Police Education Officer. They are in action every morning before school from 8.30—8.50 a.m. and after school from 2.45—3.05 p.m.

Please make sure you cross on the crossing and follow the instructions of the Crossing monitors. Our children are very good at using the crossing correctly,

Unfortunately, many of our parents/caregivers/family members are not good role models and cross anywhere on the road or do not follow the crossing rules. Please be a good role model at all times.

We need parents to monitor and supervise our Kea Crossing before school each morning, as teachers are busy getting organised for the day. Ms Bex Wills is our teacher in charge of the Kea Crossing and she would love to hear from you if you can help out, even if it is only one morning a week or fortnight. You can contact her on rebeccaw@oteha.school.nz

Growing Independent and Self-Managing Learners

We are happy to welcome you back on our schools grounds but ask that you do not go into your child's classroom before or after school.



We are more than happy for you to walk them down to the classroom but ask that you say goodbye outside the classroom and allow them to go into class and set themselves up for the day. One of the Key Competencies we work hard to develop with all children is Self-Management, and carrying their own bag, coming into class, and getting out their belongings and getting ready for the day is an important part of this.

If your child is just starting school you are welcome in the classroom for the first few days to help settle them in, but we ask you leave at 8.45 a.m. so the teacher can get the class ready for the day.

Last year we started up what we called 'Whānau Friday' where we invited you into the classroom until 9.30 a.m.

Many parents were able to take advantage of this and enjoyed spending time in the classroom and seeing how the morning starts. We are going to start this up again in a few weeks' time and look forward to seeing some of you in classes on a Friday morning. Teachers will let you know when this is starting up again and what they will be doing for 'Whānau Friday'. We hope you can join us.

Break Times and Lunches

You will have read in the Term 2 Information that was sent out to you all last week, that we are still having split morning tea and lunch breaks for classes on Mondays-Thursdays.

The reason for this is a logistical one, as our school continues to grow it is very hard when all children have the same break times and are sharing our very small hard court space.

On Fridays we are trialling all children having the same morning tea and lunch times, so that they get to see and play with children or siblings from other year levels. This means that parents will be able to order lunches on a Friday through Ezi-Lunch. This is starting in week 2.

New Classrooms

Work on our 3 storey classroom block resumed over the holidays and I am sure you will have all noticed the very large crane that is now being used. There will be some noise, vibrations, and disruption to the classes closest to the building site- Rms 13-20, and Rms 21-24, but this will be kept to a minimum.

We are all looking forward to the work being finished sometime in 2023, so we can move in and start using the new classroom spaces.

Scholastic Book Club

After a very successful and popular campaign last term we will be sending out Issue 3 of the Scholastic Book Club shortly. The flyer will arrive home with your child in the next couple of days. Each book you purchase earns our school 20% in rewards dollars to purchase more books and resources for our school.

Our School is participating with online orders using LOOP.

To place an order follow this link <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/Register.aspx>, register your details, find our school by typing Otehe (don't worry about the post code), add your child and then find their teacher. Once this is complete, you are set up to place your order. If you have already registered, you will not be required to set up an account. Instead put in your username and password. You can also download the App onto your phone and order directly from there. <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/About.aspx>

Place your order by Thursday 19th May. All books will be delivered to school during the following week and distributed to the classrooms.

For assistance at any stage, please either call 0800 266 525 and chat to the customer care team at Scholastic, click on the help button on the Book Club platform, or email bookclub@scholastic.co.nz

Rose Neal, Principal



Community Notices

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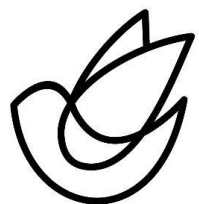


Little Doves will be at Oteha Valley School

May 9, 10 & 11



www.littledoves.co.nz



OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



ERICA STANFORD

Member of Parliament for **East Coast Bays**

*Proudly representing
our amazing community*

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07/21



Newsletter No.1
9 February 2021

Breathing life into learning
Hahatia te ora ki nga akoranga