

02-05-2023

EXCITING & IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Please note: these dates can be subject to change.

Tues 9th May: PhotoLife Class & Individual Photos
BoT Meeting, 5.30pm Staffroom
Mon 18th May: PTA Meeting, 7pm Staffroom
Tues 16th May: Weka/Kea Cross Country (pp 17th May)
Tues 23rd May: East Cluster Cross Country
29th May-2nd Jun: St Johns Keeping Safe - All Classes
Mon 5th Jun: Kings Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 6th Jun: PTA Meeting, 7pm Staffroom
Wed 7th Jun: Ruru/Tui Cross Country @ 2.15pm
Fri 9th Jun: Yr 3 & 4 ARGOS Gym Competition
Mon 12th Jun: Whakarewarewa Trip Rms 1, 2, 3
Tues 13th Jun: Whakarewarewa Trip Rms 4 & 5
Wed 14th Jun: Whakarewarewa Trip Rms 23& 24
Rm 2 Parent/Teacher Interviews—details to come
Fri 16th Jun: Yr 5 & 6 ARGOS Gym Competition
Ruru Team Funky Fun Day @ Trustpower Arena
Wed 21st Jun: Parent/Teacher Interviews - School will close @ 12.30pm, booking details to come
Thurs 29th Jun: Yr 5 & 6 Miniball World Cup

Current School Roll - 548

Text Number for Absentees

027 584 2592

If your child is going to be away from school please text 027 584 2592 before 8.55am to let us know

PhotoLife School Photos

Tuesday 9th May (next Tuesday)



If you would like to order class or individual photos, do NOTHING yet. You order online and pay AFTER photos are taken.

If you would like to order a sibling photo, please complete the order form that has gone home with this newsletter or pop in to the office to pick one up. Sibling photos can be ordered online AFTER photos are taken, however you MUST complete & RETURN the order form PRIOR to photo day.

The sibling photo order form needs to be completed, signed and returned before photo day - the morning of is fine.

If you do NOT wish your child to be photographed, please let us know in the office before photo day.



PoolKeys

Our school pool is now closed for winter. Please return your pool key in an envelope with your name, child's name and room number to the PTA box in the library by Wednesday 10th May to ensure you get your \$20 bond returned. Thanks everyone!

Principal's Pānui

Kia ora koutou and a warm welcome to Term Two!

It's great to see so many happy & friendly faces back at school! We enjoyed welcoming our new students, staff and whānau by way of Mihi Whakatau on Wednesday.

Our new staff are as follow: Grace Bollen (part-time teacher in Tui Team), Anna Robinson (Dance/Drama Specialist), Jodie Whale (Teacher Aide), Kylie Henley (Special Programmes Teacher) & Nathan Va'atausili (Behaviour Support Worker).

Our staff are fully committed to their own learning and are undertaking Professional Learning in a variety of areas this year. Many of our Junior teachers have, or are, training in BSL (Better Start Literacy). Our Senior teachers are learning about The Code - a systematic approach to teaching spelling across the school and to support the teaching of Structured Literacy. At our recent Teacher Only Day we revisited aspects of our PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Programme and looked at the new Curriculum Refresh and Common Practice Model.

This term sees a number of exciting events on the calendar including our school Cross Country, St John's Keeping Safe Modules for all classes, Weka Team trip to Whakarewarewa, Ruru Team Funky Fun Day, Gymnastics Competitions and a number of other sporting opportunities. We are also lucky enough to have the fabulous Miss Anna Robinson running auditions and rehearsals for the Term 3 Kea & Weka Production - The Pirates of the Curry Bean. Anna has many years of experience teaching Dance & Drama in NZ and overseas and we are delighted to have her sharing her skill and expertise at our kura.

As always, we appreciate parent and whānau feedback at anytime. Thank you to all of you who submitted responses to our recent Homework Survey.

If you have any questions or comments at any time please feel free to email your child's teacher in the first instance.

Don't forget to 'Like' and follow our school Facebook Page - Ōtūmoetai Primary - for regular updates and photos of the wonderful things happening at our school.

Ngā mihi nui
Zara McIndoe

Parent Homework Survey

Thank you to all of you who responded to our recent Parent Homework Survey. We had an overwhelming 211 responses to the Parent/Whānau Homework Survey that we sent out.

79% would like their child to be provided with weekly homework from their classroom teacher.

79% would like their child to have an appropriately levelled school reader/journal every night.

86% would like their child's teacher to provide appropriately levelled number learning/basic facts/times tables and/or other Maths homework.

85% would like homework to be printed and provided as sheets and/or glued and/or recorded into a homework book.

51% are happy to be or for their child to be directed to learning websites and/or apps for homework activities. (Many parents are trying to reduce screen time at home)

64% do not wish for their child's teacher to direct them to homework activities for their child and print these off at home as needed. (Many families do not have printers.)

92% would be happy for their child's teacher to provide homework tasks related to in-class learning from time to time.

56% do not wish for at-home learning experiences to take the place of homework. (Many parents are happy to do this **as well as** but not **instead of.**)

60% do not wish for out of school and extracurricular activities to take the place of homework. (Many parents are happy to do this **as well as** but not **instead of.**)

59% would not be interested in attending parent workshops to learn about ways in which they could support their child/ren at home.

Our Home Learning Policy

Learning at home is important for children to help develop organisational and self-management skills, and to support the learning that happens at school.

The purpose of home learning is to:

- encourage purposeful communication at home
- participate in a range of activities outside of school
- reinforce learning in class
- provide a positive link between home and school that enhances a child's learning
- assist children in developing an independent attitude to their own learning
- develop personal interests, skills, attributes, responsibility, self-management, time management, and a lifelong love of learning.

Homework is an educational hot-topic and can be a very contentious issue. Some parents believe their children must have it, some believe that there is too much, some say there is too little, and others do not wish to have any at all.

It is Ōtūmoetai Primary School's policy to have a small amount of homework each day. We expect all students to:

- read for at least 10 minutes at home every day

It would be great if children could also be read to and have the opportunity to answer questions and discuss the text they have read.

- spend at least 10 minutes on maths at home per day – number learning, basic facts, and/or tables.

Other home learning tasks may be given at the teacher's discretion. Parents will be encouraged to help their child to succeed by providing learning experiences at home. Learning activity ideas and websites will be provided to all parents and will be available on the school website.

You can expect that your classroom teacher will send communication regarding the homework plan for the year. If you do NOT wish for your child to have homework please make sure you communicate this to your child's classroom teacher.