



**OMARAMA
SCHOOL**

Newsletter Week 1 Term 1 - 2024

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back to 2024. I hope that you have all had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed some quality family time. We are excited about the new school year and looking forward to teaching your children and watching them grow over another school year.

This initial newsletter is to outline the year and inform you about important dates.

Term 1 Dates - 2024 29/1/23 - 12/4/23

Mon 29th & 30th Jan	Teacher only days
Wed 31st Jan	Students start school
Mon 5th Feb	School is on as usual (not a long weekend)
Tues 6th Feb	Waitangi Day - no school
Wed 14th Feb	Parent Evening 5-6pm
Tues 20th - Thur 22nd Feb	Leadership Camp at Peel Forest - Wk 4
Wed 21st Feb	Incredible Years Parent Programme 12pm (see Alison)
Wed 28th Feb	Swimming Sports at school - see note below
Fri 1st March	Upper Waitaki Swimming sports for some students
Wed 6th March	Water safety day - Twizel pool 11-12:40pm
Wed 13th March	Science Van show at community hall
Fri 15th March	Bike Safety day + fancy dress
Wed 20th March	North Otago Swim - for some students
Fri 29th March - Tues 2nd April	Easter (no school on the Tues, 3 days off)
Fri 12th April	Last day of term
	EPR08 Challenge - date TBC

Setting up for 2024 and Curriculum

This year Ahuriri begins with 13 students, but 2 more join the class by week 3. In Term 2 another 2 students will join Ahuriri and that will then total 17. That is why we have started the class small to accommodate new students that may arrive throughout the year.

We are looking to start a programme on a Wednesday afternoon "Headstart" where 4 year olds can come and visit Ahuriri classroom for a special tailored afternoon of fun and learning.

Claycliffs begins with 24 students, ranging from Year 5 to Year 7, with 1 Year 8 student. Kay Mason, our teacher aide will be supporting both Ahuriri and Claycliffs students.

Claycliffs have physically moved rooms this year and this has created a nice collaborative working space for meetings, group activities and a quiet break out space.

In week 3 we are planning on holding a parent evening where I will chat with you first about the school year and address any questions you may have. Following that you will have an opportunity to meet with Bailey and then Clair in their classrooms, where they will share their class programme and explain how they will be catering to differentiated ages and stages.

I will send out more information, nearer the time.

At the end of term 1, we will be sending home a brief progress report that informs you as to how your child has settled into class, against the LIGHT values and a brief comment about reading, writing and maths.

In the first half of term one we will be focusing on respect, relationships, friendships and touching on the Treaty of Waitangi. We will be concentrating on our swimming lessons in preparation for the swimming sports and will follow our swimming progression framework.

In the second half of the term we will be focusing on Science experiments and writing up a scientific report, using a scientific method. We will display our experiment and findings on a 3D display board and invite parents in to view in week 10.

In term 2 we have been given the opportunity to attend some outdoor experiences and presentations through DOC at Aoraki. This supports our term 2 plan to focus on Aotearoa NZ history through a Social Studies and Science lens. This programme is funded through the Ministry of Education and is called Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC).

Police Programmes

Jay Morris, our Police contact who delivers programmes into school is keen to come to school and run a Bike Safety lesson, a Cyber safety lesson and Keeping Ourselves Safe programme. I am meeting with Jay next week to make arrangements.

PB4L

We have now been accepted onto the PB4L (Positive behaviour for learning) programme and facilitators will be providing support for staff to reflect on our management and reward practices. Our LIGHT awards will stay, but with input from our students we intend to refresh some aspects.

Peer Mediation

This year we are implementing a Peer Mediation programme, where students learn to manage their emotions, learn about conflict and resolution and self management strategies. I will inform you further at the parent evening.

Leadership Camp

Our leadership team (Year 7 & 8) students are away to Peel Forest for their leadership camp in week 4. Please look out for any notices relating to camp.

Music

We are hoping to implement some music lessons into our programme. The music bus lady who sent a flier out last year, is too expensive so we are pursuing another avenue.

Whanau Groups

We are revamping house groups into Whanau groups this year and this will allow leadership opportunities and liaison with our community. We will offer to help and visit people in the community, invite expertise into school and look to visit local businesses.

Incredible Years Programme (IYT)

This is a parent programme for whanau of children aged 3-8 years and is designed to develop positive family relationships, empower parents to make change and to manage challenging behaviour. Let us know if you would like a referral form or contact information for the course.

General

With the weather quite humid at the moment please encourage your child to dress appropriately, wear their sun hat and bring a drink bottle. Swimming togs are required every day, for lessons.

Please contact us if your child is going to be absent, do not rely on siblings or friends to pass on messages. We are obligated to complete our daily roll by 9:15, so if we haven't heard from you we will need to ring you.

Job Vacancy - School Cleaner

We have a cleaning position available at school, commencing in approximately 2 weeks. The hours are 2 hours daily Monday to Friday, after school.

Please email me or make contact if you are interested and would like more information. We are very keen to employ someone from our school community.

Nga Mihi Nui
Alison Holden
Principal

Omarama School Swimming Sports - Wednesday 28th February

The Omarama School Swimming sports will be held on Wednesday 28th February at 11.00am at the Omarama School Pool. A sausage sizzle will be available for students after the swimming finishes for a gold coin donation.

The swimming sports programme will be as follows:

11.15am - Junior students will demonstrate their swimming skills and their swimming progress aided by Kay Mason in the Pool

11.30am - Competitive Races - Age is that of March 20th

8 Years Girls	25m - 2 Lengths
8 Years Boys	25m - 2 Lengths
9 Year Girls	25m - 2 lengths
9 Year Boys	25m - 2 lengths
10 Years Girls	50m - 4 lengths
10 Year Boys	50m - 4 lengths
11 Year Girls	50m - 4 lengths
11 Year Boys	50m - 4 lengths
12 Year Girls	50m - 4 lengths
12 Year Boys	50m - 4 lengths

Races will be swum in the following stroke order; Breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, freestyle, medley.

There will also be house relay and student vs Teacher/Parent relay races and some other fun relays for all students to be involved in.