



Welcome back.

Here we are back at school again and ready for a great year in 2017.

It was lovely to see all those friendly and familiar faces again this morning, and start hearing about those holiday happenings!

Here are some photos from our end of year concert...such great memories!



A special welcome to...

- **Mrs Carolyn Watson**, our new teacher in Room 4. It's wonderful to have you as part of our team;
- **Mrs Jocelyn Murray**, filling in for Mrs Aylward who is on leave this term to look after her mother;
- **5 new enrolments**: Xavier and Cameron Grey in Rooms 5 & 4 respectively; and Jai Johnson, Sebastian Schwass and Peyton Chamberlain in Room 1. (We have three more 5 year olds starting before the middle of the year.)
- Our two awesome **Year 8 school leaders**...Ethan and Zoe. You are both embody our Ouruhia School values so well, and will enjoy the respect and support of the whole school. Welcome to the leadership ranks!



“Meet & Greet” picnic

On Friday, 10th February, we invite you to a school picnic, starting at 5.30 p.m. and finishing around 7.00 p.m. Come along and meet our new families and staff, chat informally, and swap stories about the holidays. Bring a picnic or takeaway dinner. The pool will be open, and some sports gear available.

Room 5 parents will have a camp meeting at 6.30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you all.



Swimming



Swimming lessons have begun in our school pool and children will be having a swim **every day** this month, weather permitting. With the solar heating, the water temperature is in the mid to high twenties, which makes it easier to get children to put their faces in the water and develop relaxed breathing styles. Each class has a 45 minute lesson with the class teacher each day, and a small target group will also get a second swimming lesson to try and accelerate their progress before they get to high school. Our aim is for **all children** to be able to swim **200m** by the time they get to high school.

We are fortunate at Ouruhia in having our own pool and daily swims, and in addition to lessons at school, all children will again be having sponsored lessons at Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre at the end of the year. **Private lessons**, available for individuals or small groups, are available at most public pools (including Kaiapoi) after school. We feel that these are very good value for money, and urge parents to consider these if your child lacks confidence in the water.

Ouruhia's **swimming sports** and skill demonstrations (for all classes) will be on Friday **24th February** from 1.00 – 3.00pm at the Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre.

Skoolbo - Learning With Digital Technologies

As with last year, we are using a free app for literacy and numeracy, called Skoolbo. This can be used at home or at school...I noticed that some Room 2 children were using it over the holidays – learning anytime, any place! Have a sneak preview at <http://www.skoolbo.co.nz/>



Your child has been provided with an account that grants full free use of the program both at home and school. As a parent you will also be able to view your child's results via the Parent Dashboard. There is no advertising on Skoolbo and there are no in-app purchases. Children are not able to communicate on Skoolbo and there is no possibility of unsafe interactions.

How to get going at home:

1. Visit www.skoolbo.co.nz/downloads and download the software.
2. Skoolbo is available for tablets (iPads and Androids), computers (PCs and Macs) and through your Internet browser.
3. Open the software and select PARENTS. In the box that says Username or email, please insert your child's username (available from your class teacher, or email mark.a.s@ouruhia.school.nz). Then click on the password tab. The password by default is the colour BLACK and the animal BEE, although your child might have changed this at school.
4. You can link your email to your child's account, once your child is logged on go to the Parent tab on the play screen and enter your email address. You can now log on through the website www.skoolbo.co.nz and see your child's results, passwords etc.

Bell times



A reminder that classes at Ouruhia start at 8.55 a.m. (not 9.00 a.m.), and so we expect children to **be at school between 8.30 and 8.45** in order to be unpacked and ready to go. Please talk with your child:

- *What time do we need to leave home to be at school by 8.45?*
- *And to be ready to leave home at that time, when do you need...*
 - *to get up? ...*
 - *to get breakfast? ...*
 - *to do your jobs (make bed, tidy up, feed animals, pack your bag etc)?*

Communication, School information and the Wiki

Many of you will already know that messages and information about our school can be found on our school wiki <http://ouruhia.wikispaces.com/> and Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ouruhiaschool>.

Any messages we post on our Facebook page can be automatically be texted to your cell phone.

To receive up-to-date information via your cell phone, text a new message to **8987** and type: **follow oursch** (*We are not sure if this works with 2Degrees cell numbers...please let us know how you get on*)



We also try to communicate with you in a number of ways...newsletters, phone calls, texts and emails, so please ensure that we have your up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses. We would prefer that you did not use teachers' individual phone numbers to contact them (unless it is an emergency, or in cases where they have asked you to ring), so please use emails, or school phone numbers. (Teachers' email addresses are usually firstname.lastname@ouruhia.school.nz - but check with them as there are a few exceptions – and you can use the school landline 323 8855 to leave messages, or my cell phone 027 303 9670 if urgent, or email office@ouruhia.school.nz or principal@ouruhia.school.nz)

NB School Newsletters are usually on blue paper (to distinguish them from other class notices) and notices requiring something to be sent back to school are on yellow paper.

Other notices:

- **Waitangi Day** next Monday, 6th February – school closed.
- **Sunhats:** Remember to bring (named) sunhats, and leave them at school for the first term. No hat, no play.
- **Road patrol – parent helpers.** Parents, please let us know if you can help supervise the pedestrian crossing one morning a week (8.25 - 8.55, then a free coffee in the staffroom!) Tell Raewyn, or email office@ouruhia.school.nz

Ka kite ano,

Mark and the team at Ouruhia

Next year: 2017 Term Dates:

Term 1: Wed 1st Feb – Wed 12th April

Term 2: Mon 1st May – Fri 7th July

Term 3: Mon 24th July – Fri 29th Sept

Term 4: Mon 16th Oct – Wed 20th Dec

Important Dates:

- ❖ Mon 6 Feb: Waitangi Day
- ❖ Fri 10 Feb: Parent community picnic (5:30pm)
- ❖ Fri 24 Feb: Ouruhia Swimming Sports
- ❖ Thur 13th Apr: Teacher Only Day
- ❖ 14-17 Apr: Easter break (start of term break)
- ❖ Fri 2 June: Teacher Only Day TBC (Queen's Birthday Mon 5 June)