



Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou
Learning for Life and Making it Count

Welcome Back!

1st February 2022

Here we are...A brand new year, a fresh start, and lots more great things to look forward to at Ouruhia.

I hope you have all had wonderful times with family and friends over the break. Here are some of my holiday snaps...things that bring joy to my life...

*new beginnings
new ideas
new energy
exciting and surprising*



2022 is a year of change at Ouruhia, but it is exciting change. We always strive to make learning at Ouruhia fun, memorable, and relevant. One of our mottos is **"Learning for Life and Making it Count."** We want kids to love learning, be curious, and having lots of "Wow!" moments. Kids with those attitudes and experiences will be motivated and engaged, and keen to make every step count on the road ahead. Let's have a great year together in 2022 planning that exciting journey, and enjoying the trip!

With changes in staff at the end of last year, I am delighted to announce that **Mrs Siobhan Cummings** will begin teaching in Room 5 in Week 8 of this term. Siobhan is currently finishing off her role at Life Education, and can't wait to start at Ouruhia. While she cannot be released from her contract until later this term, she is joining us for a Maths course tomorrow, and is keen to meet the Room 5 children and parents at learning conferences in March. In the meantime, Room 5 will be in the capable hands of **Mrs Jo Dudley**, who has worked extensively at Ouruhia and knows our school and children well. Welcome Jo.

We also welcome **Mrs Lynne Heywood**, teaching in Team Tipu while we recruit a new permanent teacher. Lynne has also worked a lot at Ouruhia and is a great fit for our school. Job applications for the Team Tipu job are flowing in, and the Board will make an appointment by the end of February for a Term 2 start.

Finally, we welcome **Mrs Julie Winton**, who is taking over the Reading Recovery and ORS special needs teaching. Welcome to the team, ...and your new office!



Just a few notes...

Note dates for first two weeks:

- **Week 1** (for children): **Thursday 3rd – Friday 4th Feb.**
- **Week 2** (for children) is **Tuesday 8th Feb – Friday 11th Feb.**
School is closed on Monday 7th February for Waitangi Day observance.
- School starts on Thursday morning (3rd February) with a short assembly outdoors in the courtyard at 8.55 a.m. Please start the year aiming to **be at school between 8.30 and 8.45** so your child has time to meet, greet, unpack and play before school starts at 8.55. Note that under the **red traffic light** system, we are required to take COVID precautions on site, and **parents must wear masks** if coming on to the grounds while children are present, and socially distance. We ask that parents coming on to the school grounds
 - **scan the QR code** at the gate,
 - do not enter classrooms (except parents of New Entrants)
 - where possible, **meet teachers outdoors**
- Children and teachers in **Years 4-8** are required to wear approved **masks** in classes, but can remove them when outdoors. For other children, mask wearing is optional. Teachers will be ensuring classes get plenty of **fresh air breaks** outdoors (weather permitting) and keep fresh air ventilating rooms. We will not be restricting play areas or having different break times for different classes, but children will be asked to use **hand sanitiser** entering the classrooms (new contactless dispensers arriving), use cough etiquette, and generally be aware of the need to be safe and sensible around others.
If we get a case of COVID in the school, or a staff member becomes sick or has to isolate, we may struggle to keep the school open and may have to resort to distance learning, so we want to avoid that as long as possible by taking these precautions. Thank you for supporting us with this.
- Remember to bring **swimming togs** every day. *(Even if it is raining in the morning, pack your togs, because with Christchurch weather the way it is, it could be a different season by the afternoon!)* We will be swimming in the (heated) school pool every day for the first 5 weeks. Our school swimming sports will be on Friday 25th February at Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre, 1.00 - 3.00 p.m., but unfortunately this year spectators are not allowed.
- Remember to bring (named) sunhats, and leave them at school for the first term. No hat, no play.

- **Year 7&8s** will be going to **Tech classes** on Monday fortnights (starting 14th February), leaving school by bus at 9:15 a.m. and returning about 2:45 p.m. Please wear long hair tied back, and shoes which enclose and protect the foot (not open sandals/jandals). This is a Health & Safety requirement.



- Parents, for **morning drop-offs**, please drop your children off on the school side of the road, or see them safely across the crossing, as there are **no traffic wardens on duty before school**. A teacher and traffic wardens will be on duty each day after school for about 15 minutes.

- **Garden helpers...** if any parents can help with a section of garden each week, please let Mark or Raewyn know, or meet briefly after school this **Friday 4th Feb** to arrange a roster. For example, you may like to choose a part of the Team Tipu vege garden to weed and water, or a patch beside the office block, or the BMX track.



Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Mark and the team at Ouruhia

2022 Term Dates:

Term 1: Thur 3rd Feb – Thur 14th April

Public holidays: Waitangi Day: Mon 7 Feb
Good Friday 15 April

In term break: Easter Monday 18 April
ANZAC – Mon 25th April

Term 2: Mon 2nd May – Fri 8th July

Teacher Only Day?: Fri 3rd June TBC
Queen's Birthday Monday 6th June
Matariki Friday 24th June

Term 3: Mon 25th July – Fri 30th Sept

Term 4: Mon 17th Oct – Fri 16th Dec

Labour Day Monday 24th October
Canterbury Show Day Friday 11th November

