



Kia Ora and welcome back to another new and exciting school year!
We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and your child is ready to begin the year.

Who Are We? Our Team consists of three classes...

	KAKAPO		KERERU		TAKAHE
Mrs Sonja King			Mrs Christina Reddish		Mrs Julia Brachi
Year 4 & 5			Year 3 & 4		Year 3 & 4

School Values

Our school values are a very important part of our school culture. We focus on these throughout the year, beginning this term with unpacking what they mean and what they look like both in and out of our classrooms. We appreciate your help by reinforcing these school values at home and encouraging your child to practise these values in all aspects of their life.



Term 1 Learning

We will be starting the year with a focus on **whakawhanaungatanga** which is the process of making and maintaining relationships. As we get to know each other and our new classes, we'll create expectations for our classroom to ensure it is a fun, safe, and happy environment for all.

Later in the term, we will be learning about Natural Disasters in response to requests from our child-survey in 2025 asking what the kids would like to learn about in 2026.

Takahe and Kereru will incorporate the science behind natural disasters and then delve more into disasters specific to the Pukekohe area and keeping ourselves safe. Kakapo will look further into natural disasters around New Zealand and how these link to experiences globally.

To further help us learn about your child and what makes them unique we appreciate you taking the time to fill in our [Family Questionnaire](#) that has been sent home and thank you in advance for getting it back to your child's teacher promptly.

Digital Technologies

From Year 3 up, we use chromebooks as part of our daily learning for programmes such as Google Classroom, Mathletics and Reading Eggs. Children are allowed to bring their own chromebooks to school for use if they have one. This is optional as each class does have a set of shared class chromebooks. Personal chromebooks go home each day and it is the child's responsibility to charge them overnight ready for use. Chromebook set up for new BYOD users will be on Monday 9th February, with chromebooks returned to children on Tuesday 10th. Teachers will send home a BYOD user agreement for families to sign for those who need one.



A number of the programmes we use on the Chromebooks require the children to be able to listen carefully, so a headset is required to use most effectively. We ask that all children please provide a set of headphones from home. Please name your child's headphones and send them to school in a named bag. These headphones will remain at school until the end of the year for use in your child's day to day learning.

Bookbags

All students must have a bookbag that is brought to school daily in order to take home library books and readers. Bookbags ensure books are kept safe between home and school as damaged books cost the school a lot to replace. We appreciate your support with ensuring all readers are returned to school each day and Library books returned weekly.

Homework

Homework is an important part of supporting a child's learning and is a great opportunity for children to share what they are learning with their whanau at home.

Starting from Week 3, homework requirements this year are;

- Daily reading (this could be a classroom reader, Library book, or book from home)
- Mathletics - 10 mins of Course Work and 5 mins of 'Live' basic facts practice.



We are developing more responsibility in the children by having them proactively complete their homework each night. We ask that parents please monitor and ensure homework is completed to reinforce our partnership between home and school and thank you in advance for signing their Reading Log so we can keep track of their homework progress.



Swimming

Swimming is every day and is part of the curriculum (Term 1 and end of Term 4).

We are very lucky to have a heated pool at our school and it is an expectation that all students participate during this time. Our daily swimming lessons teach valuable life skills needed for when children are in or around the water.

Please make sure your child comes to school with their named togs, rash shirt, towel and bag everyday. If your child cannot swim on a particular day please send a note to their classroom teacher or message on ClassDojo.

We are looking forward to having the expertise of the Fulton Swim School from Monday 16th February. They will be with us Mon-Wed, Week 3, 4, & 5 to teach the Swim for Life programme.

Please save the date for our Swimming Demonstration in Week 4 where we will showcase what we are learning this term in our swimming lessons - exact day will be confirmed shortly.

ClassDojo

Across the school we use ClassDojo as a platform for sharing and communicating with whanau. If you have not already, please accept the invite that has been sent out by your child's teacher so you can join our class pages.



Teachers can be contacted using the message function on ClassDojo or via the following emails:

Sonja King sking@buckland.school.nz | Christina Reddish creddish@buckland.school.nz | Julia Brachi jbrachi@buckland.school.nz

REMINDER: Please use Skool Loop App or call the office directly for all absences. Thank you!

Health & Wellbeing

Term 1 is our hottest term of the year so it is a good idea for children to sunblock in the morning and wear layers for those unpredictable changes in weather. Each class has its own supply of sunblock and children are encouraged to put sunblock on as needed. If your child has allergies we would appreciate it if you could send them with their own supply.

Keeping your child hydrated is essential, especially in these hot Summer months. We ask that all children bring a named water bottle to school each day. Drinking fountains are also available when children are outside in the playground. A reminder that we are a **water only** school so please save any other types of drinks for home.

To help your child manage their belongings **all** clothing including swimming gear and towels must be clearly named. It is also a good idea to clearly label footwear to avoid mix ups of similar types. A lot of learning time can be spent trying to track down lost clothing, and is even more difficult when it is not named.

Hats are compulsory for Terms 1 and 4 and are essential sun protection during break times and other outdoor activities. We have a '**No Hat, No Play**' policy at our school.

Years 3 and 4 Camp

We will be returning to Lakewood Lodge again this year with our Year 3 and 4 students in Term 2, Week 4, Monday 11th May - Tuesday 12th May. This is an action packed two day camp that provides an amazing range of learning opportunities which the children love. We will be sending further information home about camp later in the term. Exact cost is yet to be confirmed but we encourage families to start putting money aside now.



Year 5 Camp

Year 5 children in Kakapo will receive information about their camp later in the term once it has been finalised.

Team Assemblies

Our Team Assemblies this term will be Friday afternoons at 2.30pm in Weeks 3, 5 and 7. Keep an eye out on Class Dojo for reminders of these events and information on which classes are hosting.

We are looking forward to working with your children and having a productive and fun year ahead!

**FAMILIES ARE
WELCOME TO JOIN US
AT OUR
TEAM ASSEMBLIES**

Kind regards,

Sonja King, Christina Reddish, Julia Brachi
Kakapo, Kereru, Takahe Teachers

Waitangi Day - 6th Feb

Fulton Swim School Lessons Begin - 9th Feb

Parent Meetings - 17th Feb (3.10pm & 3.30pm)

BOT BBQ & Swim - 20th Feb

Y3/4 Swimming Demonstration - Week 4

Y3/4 Wheels Day - 13th March

Y3/4 Rippa Rugby - 25th March

Last Day of Term - 3rd April



**WHAT'S HAPPENING
THIS TERM?**

