

**NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF
Otaika Valley School**

October 2018
Term 4
Week 1 of 9



Dear Parents & Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome back

Hopefully everyone has chased away the winter bugs that plagued children and staff during the third term and we are all ready to take on the 4th term of 2018. We have 44 days to engage children in learning, enjoy the coming warmth of summer and longer daylight hours. The school grounds will be alive with the sounds of laughter, fun and a fair bit of students learning how to negotiate school life.

To all those children who have looked after their pet lambs during the holidays, I hope you have used this time bonding with your animal and taught it how to lead and call. You will always remember your pet lamb experiences as you get older. My favourite lamb was Gonzo (named after Gonzo on the Muppet Show, which was on TV a lot when I was at school) and was a Romney breed with a curved nose. My daughters still have two adult pet lambs in our paddock called Ivy and Lucy who are quite nutty and love to eat meal nuts. We also have Coco from last year (who Samara from school raised and took to Ag Day). Coco is doing fine and is still very friendly and eats out of our hands. She really likes a good scratch on the head. All in all, Ag Day animals bring lots of joy to families. We have a record number of lamb entries this year at 34 known entries. Please let me know if you have any pre-schoolers bringing a lamb to school for Ag Day.

PLEASE NOTE: After School Care will be unavailable on Ag and Flower Show Day due to staff involvement with the day.

2019 Staffing

During the holidays an appointments committee selected Anna Keogh to the newly classified permanent position for Room 2. Due to the size of the school roll and staffing calculation our seventh classroom position was required to be advertised nationally. This attracted a range of experienced teachers for the highly sought-after permanent teaching position. We look forward to welcoming Anna onto our staff in 2019 and the experience and knowledge she will bring to our team.

We also appointed Gemma Thompson to the three-term maternity position in Room 4. Gemma is a Beginning Teacher and the school is committed to playing our role in teacher training to set her up for her career. This will take her nearly up to the two years of experience to gain full registration as a teacher. This is a fixed term position with Frances Gouldstone returning to work at the beginning of Term 4 2019. Sandy King started with us in the same way as a Beginning Teacher and gained full registration at the end of last year. Unfortunately, we do not have a teaching position to keep her on, but feel she is very well prepared and experienced to gain employment in the highly sought-after permanent teacher job market.

Courtney de Boer will be returning from Maternity Leave to teach in Room 5 at the beginning of next year, and Renee Downey is returning from a year of Study Leave to return to teaching in Room 7. Renee is full of wonderful ideas and experiences from her Masters focus on Mantle of the Expert.

All decisions have been considered carefully to meet the needs of our school at this time. Later on in the term I will ask parents/caregivers to let us know if they are moving away from our school, so that we have accurate information to start formulating classes for 2019.

Regards,

Terry Brock