



Karo ~ Room 1
Term 2, 2010

The Learning Link

Our Home-School Newsletter

with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.

Haere mai for Term 2. Our School Theme for this year is 'Who Am I?' For this term we are focusing on how we have grown up so far, where our ancestors are from, and migration to New Zealand.

The Learning Links are home learning suggestions for how you can support your child's learning at home.

Reading: The children read every day at school. They are encouraged to read at home for at least 15 minutes each day. If they have no book of their own, there will be appropriate levelled books available.

Learning Link: Remind the children to read every night for 15 (or more) minutes. Showing interest by asking them what happened in the story, and a question like, 'Why do you think they did that?' This will foster their understanding and encourage wider thinking. A good website to practise developing children's vocabulary is www.freerice.com.

Oral Language: The children engage in a variety of co-operative activities that encourage listening and speaking skills. Each term children will be giving speeches to the class related to the school topic. As we ran out of time to give a one minute speech about themselves the children will be working towards this in the first three weeks of school. Later on in the term the children will be required to give a one minute speech about a person in their family.

Learning Link: Have discussions at home, maybe about a local current affair, encouraging them to elaborate their ideas e.g. Why do you think that?...So why would that be a good (or bad) idea?

Writing: This term in our writing we begin with working on narrative recounts. Later on in the term we will look at character descriptions.

Learning Link: Try to provide opportunities for writing letters/emails to family and friends in other parts of the country or overseas.

Spelling: We will focus on different vowel sounds and letter blends used in spelling. We will also be using some spelling computer games in our classroom to improve children's knowledge and application of different spelling patterns.

Learning Link: Every week your child will bring home spelling words to learn. Practise them, then the next night only work on the ones they do not know. Get your child to write the words they get stuck on, five times. Please check they are writing these accurately and not learning incorrect spelling. A website for spelling practise is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/dynamo/den/index.shtml>.

Mathematics: The children will continue to learn addition and subtraction number strategies and number knowledge. The children also undergo regular basic fact testing. Later in the term the focus will be on geometry, including map co-ordinates and direction.

Learning Link: Every week the children get a mathematic sheet (either revision or problem solving). Ask your child what strategy they used to get the answer. Encourage your child to do everyday problem solving (e.g. If you have a tray of (6) muffins how many muffins would you have if you had 5 trays)

Topic: Initially in the first four weeks the children will participate in the Kia Kaha programme. Following that our topic "Who Am I?" looks at how migrant groups pass on and sustain their culture and heritage in New Zealand. We will be discussing why our ancestors came to New Zealand and what impact that has had on our lives. We will also look at our lives so far and how we have grown and changed.

Learning Link: Discuss with your child what they are learning in the Kia Kaha programme and how you can help them. Discuss your ancestry with your child and why your family migrated to New Zealand. Find out together what is unique and special to your family. A very good website with information on New Zealand migration is www.teara.govt.nz.

Physical Education: We will be focusing on winter games skills and large ball skills. They will also be involved with games that improve generic sporting skills. The children have fitness in the form of Owhirobox.

Learning Link: Encourage your child to have some sort of physical activity each day. Skipping or going for a run with them would be ideal.

Te Kete Rourou and Kapa Haka: Whaea Lisa and Kahu will again lead the Te Reo Maori programme. The class continues to do Kapa haka weekly with the rest of the school. The children involved with the Maori enrichment (Te Kete Rourou) sessions focus on their own background.

Learning Link: Ask them to retell what they have learnt about Tikanga and Te Reo at school.

The Arts: Jocelyn Oldcorn will again take the children for a specialised music programme on Friday mornings.

Learning Link: Encourage your child to further explore sounds by asking what they think the sounds represent e.g. slow thumping music – an elephant.

Thinking and Learning: This year we are going to focus on building our learning skills. We will be discussing people who are role models for our learning and how we can transfer what we learnt and how we learnt something from other areas of lives. For example, 'what does the way we learnt a new football skill tell us about how we could learn maths?'

Learning Link: At home encourage your children to further explore the way they learn by asking them questions such as Where else could you use that? What else might that be good for? What learning do you use in outside school that might be helpful at school? Can you imagine yourself using that at school?

Important Class dates:

Wheels day	Every Thursday
Kia Kaha	3 rd May – 21 st May
ERO visit	17 th – 21 st May
Orchestra and Te Papa visit	23 rd May
Queen's Birthday	7 th May
School Planting day	12 th May

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries regarding your child or the programmes I will be running. To contact me please see me before School or make an appointment. Alternatively e-mail me at colin@owhiro.school.nz.

Colin Thompson