

O.V.S Newsletter

“
‘Ka Tupu Kotahi Ai Tātou
...Together we Grow
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ŌTAIKA VALLEY SCHOOL TERM 1: WEEK 5, 2026 Issue #02

Kia ora OVSwhānau

Kia ora OVS whanau and caregivers,
As Term 1 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your great support and contributions throughout what has been a very busy and rewarding term here at Otaika Valley School. A special thank you to our amazing parents and caregivers who supported our school camps – your involvement makes all the difference, and we’re so grateful to have such a committed and caring community behind us. To our staff, thank you for your all your efforts and the passion you bring to your mahi every day. Your hard work continues to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our tamariki to grow and thrive.

We couldn’t have asked for a better way to wrap up the term than with our vibrant Book Week! A huge thank you to Darcie for all her hard work behind the scenes to make it such a success. And to all our students and staff – you looked incredible on Character Day! Thank you for embracing the fun and bringing so much joy and creativity to the occasion! We still have one week to go and our PTA triathlon will be a showcase on Tuesday. Please see more information below. Wishing you all a restful and safe Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready to go on Monday 20th April for the start of Term 2.

The Kindness cup for Term 1 goes to...

At our school, we believe that being a good friend is just as important as being a good student. This term, the Kindness Cup has been awarded to three of our wonderful girls who have consistently gone above and beyond to care for those around them. From offering a helping hand to ensuring no one is left out at lunchtime, these students embody the spirit of our kura. Congratulations to our Term 1 recipients for making our kura a brighter place!

R.U.R.U AWARDS

Every fortnight at assembly we celebrate our super OVS students, and this week’s ‘shout out’ is to say a huge congratulations to our R.U.R.U award winners over the last 2 weeks .

Senior: Ruby and Matteo



Junior: Kaea & A.





Ruru RockStar!

Class Attendance Award

Each fortnight at assembly we are acknowledging the class with the best attendance for the week...and they win the 'Ruru Rockstar' Award.

The last 2 weeks' winner is (drum roll please...)



PTA = OVS Triathalon

Swim, bike, run—**have fun!** On Your Marks, Get Set... GO!

Dust off those sneakers and oil those bike chains! Next Tuesday, March 31st, we are hosting the very first OVS School Triathlon!

The PTA have been working hard behind the scenes to provide a day that is all about having a go, trying something different, and having heaps of fun. Whether your child is a future Olympian or just wants to give the course a "tri," there is a spot for everyone. We have both competitive and non-competitive options for all races—it's all about crossing that finish line with a smile!

The Gear

Students are highly encouraged to bring their own bikes and helmets to school on Tuesday morning. Don't have a bike? No worries! We have school bikes available so that nobody misses out on the action. If your child can't ride yet - that's ok too...Just bring a scooter.

The Game Plan

Parents, we would love to have you there on the sidelines! Bring your loudest cheering voice and join us for the excitement:

- 9:00am: Regular class time (The calm before the storm!)
- 10:00am: Rooms 6 & 7 hit the course!
- 11:00am: MORNING TEA (Time to refuel).
- 11:40am: Rooms 4 & 5 take their turn!
- 1:00pm: LUNCH
- 1:40pm: Rooms 3, 2 & 1 bring it home for the final races!

Let's make it a day of grit, giggles, and great OVS sportsmanship. We can't wait to see you all there at the finish line...and remember, everything you need is already inside!



Student Spot

Blocks, Brainpower, and Brilliant Patterns! There's been a lot of "click-clack" and critical thinking in Room 1 lately. We've been using colorful blocks to visualize complex patterns, turning abstract maths concepts into tangible masterpieces. Check out the photos below to see how we're building our math skills—one block at a time!



Room 3&4 Camp

Last week was R3 and 4's time for camp! They had 2 days of fun and adventures - including learning how to surf!

A massive thank you to all the parents who helped out.

Well done to Miss Alchin and Mrs Jensen for organising such an amazing experience!



School Closure

A huge thank you to our school whānau for your incredibly prompt responses to yesterday's emergency school closure. Deciding to close the school due to heavy rain is never a decision we take lightly, and we truly appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring all our students got home safely. This event serves as a timely reminder: please ensure your contact details and emergency contacts are **up to date** at the school office. Having the right phone numbers on file makes all the difference in these situations!

School Property Update

Over the April holidays the school will start some much needed property improvements.

We will be under-going a long overdue **complete school repaint**. This involves a new colour scheme (It will certainly be brighter so we hope you like it!)

We will also be having LED lighting and acoustics upgrades to several rooms. Both of these programmes will extend into Term 2

Announcements



The school grounds will be closed over the holidays due to painting.



The OVS pool closes next week. Thankyou to everyone who has used it!



School Comms - DO YOU HAVE HERO?

Hero is our main communication tool and is critical for keeping up to date with school and for our student reporting. If you are not using the App please download it or contact the office for support



Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:30pm
Fridays 9:00am - 2:45pm

Book Week 2026

We've had a spectacular week filled with book-related wonder, all thanks to the incredible hard work of Darcie!

The fun kicked off on Monday with a special visit from Officer Lisa and her friends, who shared some fantastic stories with us. On Tuesday, the school was transformed as everyone went all-out for Book Character Day. A massive well done to every student (and teacher!) who participated—our costume parade was easily our best one yet! Congratulations to our "Best Dressed" prize winners for their amazing creativity.



Whats on this term?

- 11-13 March - Year 7 Survivor Camp
- 19-20 March - Middle school Camp
- 23-27 March - Book Week
- Tues 31st March - PTA Triathlon
- Thurs 2 April - End of term
- Sun 5 April - Daylight saving ends

Term Dates

Terms	Start	Finish
Term 1:	Wed, 4 Feb	Thurs, 2 April
Term 2:	Mon, 20 April	Fri, 3 July
Term 3:	Mon, 20 July	Fri, 25 Sept
term 4:	Mon, 12 Oct	Thurs, 17 Dec

If you need any help feel free to contact us.



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Celebrating Neurodiversity Week

Last week, our school recognized Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a time to shift the narrative from "challenges" to the incredible strengths that come with thinking differently. To help our students understand and support one another, our lovely LSC, Kat, put together a fantastic series of slideshows for our classes exploring various neurodiversities.

Spotlight on **Dyslexia**

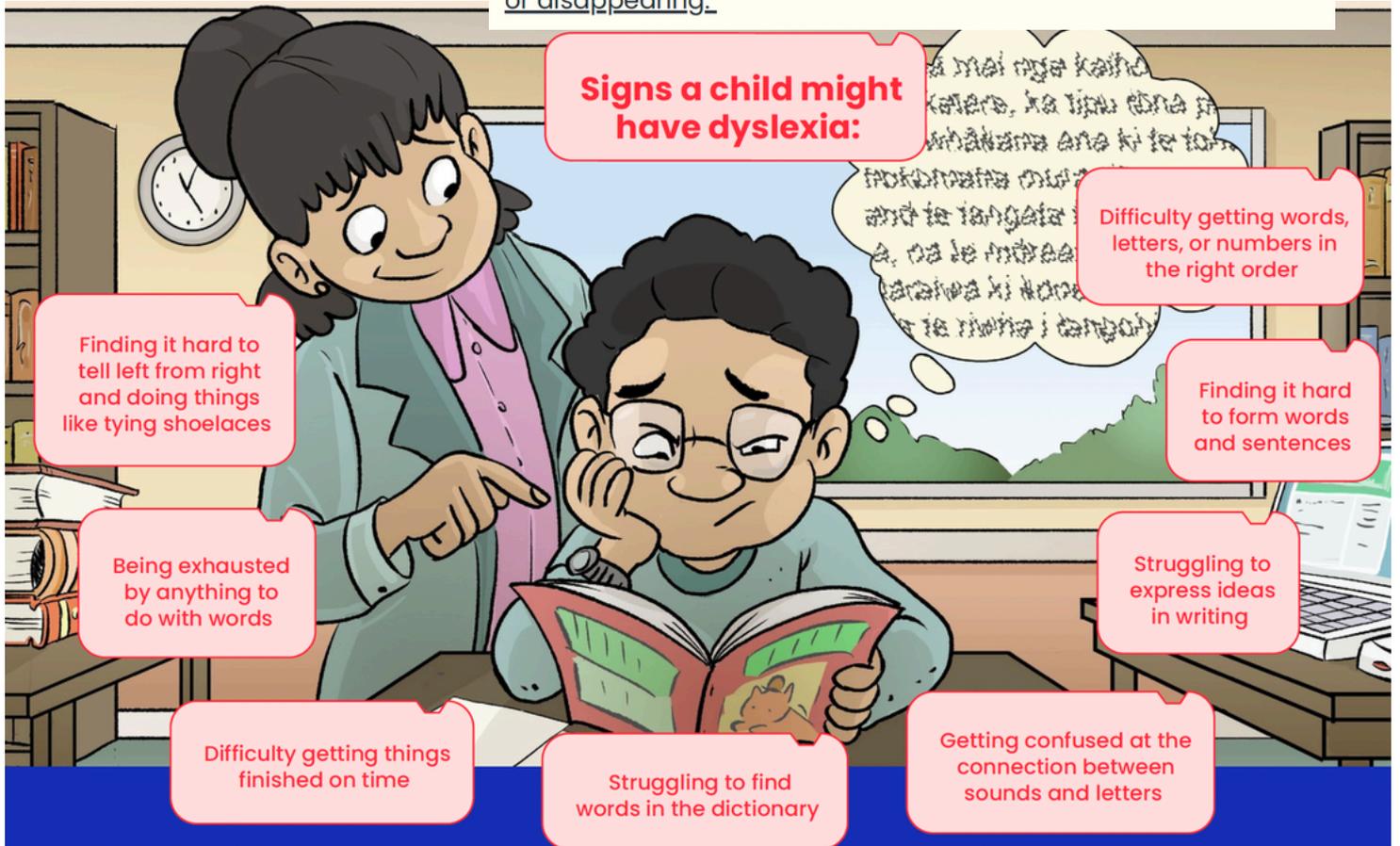
One of the key areas we explored was **dyslexia**. Far from just a "reading difficulty," dyslexia is a different way of processing information. While it can make decoding words or spelling a bit like a puzzle, it often comes with a "superpower" set of skills, including:

- Big-Picture Thinking: The ability to see connections others might miss.
- Creativity: Exceptional problem-solving and out-of-the-box ideas.
- 3D Spatial Awareness: A natural talent for design, engineering, and visualization.

By learning about these differences, our students are building a more empathetic and inclusive classroom environment where every kind of brain can thrive.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that affects a person's ability to read, write, or spell. Children with dyslexia say that words on a page can look like they're shaking, separating, swirling around, or disappearing.



Support in the classroom

Children with dyslexia can learn to read and write and process information. It's a matter of finding the right approach.

Use audio, visuals, and kinesthetics, which will work for the whole class.

Use digital tools to help them organise their thoughts, plan their work, and locate resources.