



Newsletter #1

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

# Calf Club Day 2020

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents /Caregivers,

Yes Calf Club is happening this year and yes there will be calves.

You have plenty of time yet but take this time to consider what animals your child would like to rear this winter. For many of our families this will not be your first Calf Club and you are fairly comfortable with the drill, however we have quite a few new families who will no doubt be wondering what it is all about and what is expected, so please find below some important information about Calf Club Day at Otaua. Other information regarding rearing animals is available on the 'Calf Club Newsletters page' on the school website above so feel free to take a look.

Calf Club is a long standing tradition in New Zealand rural schools and one which we at Otaua are fully involved in, we have been doing it since 1937 and are very proud to be one of the largest around. The children can rear a Calf, Lamb or Goat, or for those children who live in town and are not in a position to rear a large animal they can rear a Chicken. For those children not wishing to raise an animal we will be providing a non-animal option again this year, and the details of this Project will be confirmed shortly. If you have any questions at all about calf club or what is involved please don't hesitate to contact the school or Calf Club President Willy Muir.

Due to Mycoplasma Bovis we are needing to be very cautious about where our calves are coming from so it has been advised that we should only be welcoming calves that have been purchased from our local farmers and NOT from the Tuakau/Pukekohe Sale.

When you start to think about your animal please be aware of these following dates.

### **Calves**

Early – born between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> July

Late – born between 16<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### **Lambs**

Early – born between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August

Late – born between 13<sup>st</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September

### **Goats**

Early – born between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August

Late – born between 13<sup>st</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Chickens**

An alternative to rearing a calf, lamb or goat is for your child to raise a day old brown shaver chick. The orders for chickens need to be made to school by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.

The hatching date will be **Tuesday 21st July**, and chickens will need to be collected from school on this date. If you would like to have a chicken for Calf Club please complete the form attached and return to school by **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** at the very latest.

The price of chickens is \$10 each.

This will need to be paid for with the order.

Information sheets are available regarding housing and care of chickens and these will be sent home once we have orders in, (info sheets are also on the school website). Please note that it is a good idea to get more than one chicken as the chickens are newly hatched when they arrive and are quite fragile. You can order as many as you like but you can only enter ONE chicken on Calf Club Day. Only chickens purchased through the school are eligible to be entered as they must all be hatched on the same day. Absolutely no orders can be accepted after Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Non Animal Project**

For Children not doing an animal there is a project for them to work on. Please note that children who have an animal or chicken are not eligible to also do a project.

There is a separate newsletter coming at a later date regarding what the project will be.

### **Indoor Exhibits**

Each class will be participating in different displays which will be judged and classrooms will be open on Calf Club Day for parents and visitors to view. Class teachers will send information home about what their class is doing closer to Calf Club. Most of the art work is done at school during the term.

### **Calf Club Committee**

We are so lucky to have Willy Muir back this year, he does a wonderful job but it is a big job so we are looking for many more members. Our next Calf Club committee meeting is on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm** at school, so if you are keen to help and be involved with the planning of this great annual event please come along – all new members and ideas are most welcome.

***Don't forget to keep an eye out for newsletters regarding Calf Club Day and if you have any questions or queries please ask.***