



# Welcome to Te Kaho 1

## Term 1, 2016

Dear parents, caregivers and students in Te Kaho 1.

The naming of Te Kaho 1 is a metaphor relating to the link between raising strong, healthy, resilient trees and healthy, well developed tamariki (children). This week we have all been busy discussing what we need in order to develop at our optimum. As a community of learners we have come up with expectations we have of each other both as learners and teachers. As we are all working together to enable our learners to grow, achieve and care we believe it is extremely important that you are involved in what we do here at school, in order for our tamariki to develop to their fullest potential. That is why you will notice we have attached a learners context newsletter, so you can tell us more about your child. It's the one with the fancy border. Please fill that out and return it to us.

The kids are also bringing home a personalised page which has the expectations that they developed together at school. We'd love it if you could discuss this with your child and see if there are any similarities between school and home (these can be recorded in their home learning book).

The early part of our discovery learning this term is centred around our journey to Te Kaho 1. Each child will be making their own kete (basket) filled with their own taonga (treasures) and experiences which have brought them to Te Kaho 1. This supports developing a safe class culture where each individuals experiences, culture and emotions are respected, as well as enabling students and teachers to understand each other more fully. Some aspects of this kete will need input from family, so we will send home aspects to discuss, or complete with your child in their home learning book.

### Camp

Raglan Camp, on the 17th and 18th of February, continues with the idea of us all getting to know each other, and acts as a foundation for the year ahead. We will also look at keeping ourselves safe, as well as introducing the students to the 'living world' science topic, which we will focus on for the remainder of the term.

We are really looking forward to spending time with the children, outside the classroom. If you have any concerns, or need support with payment, PLEASE come and see us. Both of us have run camps in the past and are used to working with children and parents in this way. No question is a silly question!

**REMINDER: So far we only have 12 out of 26 sets of camp forms back. Please send your completed forms back as soon as possible! Tomorrow would be great! We cannot take children to camp without these, and need to let providers know our numbers.**

Keeping ourselves safe in the water has started, with swimming happening everyday at school. Please ensure your child comes everyday with togs, a towel, and goggles if they have them.

### What's coming up in Feb:

Thursday 11th

Newsletters go home to parents (weekly)

Friday 12th

Senior lunchtime swim—camp fundraiser (11.50-12.30pm)

Junior swim afternoon— camp fundraiser (2:45-4pm)

Tuesday 16th	Meet the teachers evening at school.
Wednesday 17th to Thursday 18th	Te Kaho 1 camp.
Friday 19th	Te Kaho 1 parents and children afternoon tea 2:45pm. (A chance to meet other parents, teachers and students of Te Kaho 1).
Thursday 25th	Powhiri—to welcome new students and their families.
Monday 29th-Fri 4th	Whaea Amy teaching all week (Whaea Kate is away)

As you will probably have already gathered both Amy and Kate have been teaching together in Te Kaho 1. This is so we can get to know your child and establish the norms for learning together. As of March 7th things will change slightly and Kate will be teaching Monday to Wednesday, and Amy Thursday and Friday. We plan on making the weeks as seamless as possible for the learners in our class. We see team teaching as benefiting our students due to the fact two heads are better than one, as well as both of us having more energy to give to the daily running of the classroom. We have very open lines of communication, so you can be assured that what you speak with one teacher, will be passed onto the other.

**General house keeping.**

Hats: Your child is expected to wear a hat every day in terms 1 & 4.

Assemblies: School assemblies are held on the court or in the Learning Centre at 2pm each Friday. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.

Homework: Each week your child will be expected to complete some spelling homework, and have themselves tested at home. These spelling words will come directly from the NZCER essential word lists. In addition children have the option to complete additional homework of their choice which we will look at upon completion. This will be student lead and relate directly to their own learning.

Parent visits: We have an open door policy so feel free to come and join us whenever you would like.

We look forward to meeting you all at some stage over the next few weeks. If you can't join us for the meet the teacher evening, Friday's after camp afternoon tea, please feel free email or call us if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Kind regards,

Whaea Amy and Whaea Kate

amyh@whatawhata.school.nz

kated@whatawhata.school.nz

Amy Hanna 021 867890

Kate Dermer 021 511030