

TeKaho 2 Newsletter – Term 1 2016

Dear Parents and caregivers,

Welcome to TeKaho 2 and what promises to be an exciting 2016. I am looking forward to continuing on the learning journey with you and your children. I hope you have all had a relaxing and fun filled holiday together.

Many of you know me already, but here are a few 'Mrs Benn facts'. I have been living and teaching in the Whatawhata community for 18 years, I am married (My husband Scott has a Panel and Paint business), I have 2 awesome children who both attended Whatawhata Austin is almost 18 and Chloe is 14, I also have 2 adult step children, a 5 year old grandson and 2 granddaughters aged 2 years and 1 year. I love literacy and art, I am very approachable and enjoy being able to help people – so don't be afraid to talk to me if you are in need of any help or advice for your child and their learning. I am very much looking forward to working with you and your children (again for some of you). In my role as Deputy Principal I have a release day each week to complete my extra responsibilities. So that the children in TeKaho 2 have continuity and consistency in their learning Mrs Nicola Inder will be working with the children each Monday and she has some exciting learning experiences planned for the children.

Our discovery focus for this term is a science focus about the living world, We will develop our understanding of the living world using the context of mini beasts (bugs and insects) and life cycles. We will also be looking at being bike wise – this will involve learning about bike safety, bike maintenance and preparing for our school triathlon.

Our first couple of weeks at school will be spent establishing routines and getting to know each other. Attached is our classroom rules that we have discussed and decided on together please take the time to read and talk about these with your child – to insure we have a happy and safe learning environment it is important that the children have a good understanding of our rules and what they mean. We have also developed as a class what we believe are the attributes of a successful TeKaho 2 learner and these will be sent home next week.

Our maths focus this term will be to continue developing our number knowledge and strategies and also statistics and fractions. Homework will begin more formally in week 3. The main emphasis of homework this term will be applying the skills and knowledge we have to mini assignments, the kids will have 2 weeks to complete each one. Children are expected to read daily this can be a book of their choice or it may be something that I have sent home. The reading material sent home will be varied and may not necessarily be at the same level as the instructional reader used at school. Reading should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for both you and your child.

I would also appreciate any donations of ice cream containers, jars, magazines and newspaper. I am also interested in gathering a list of parents who have a talent or skill that they may be willing to share with our class.

We will also be swimming every day at 9.45 am so the children need to bring their togs every day.

Could you please also remind them about wearing their hats and drinking plenty of water in this hot weather.

As a way of being able to keep in communication with you about your child's Progress and learning I would like to be able to have an email address that I can contact you on. If you have one and you are happy for me to contact you please email me your details (see below).

Again, I look forward to a great term and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about school or your child's learning and progress.

Thanking you

Laurel Benn (laurelb@whatawhata.school.nz)

TeKaho 2's code of conduct.

1. We will take care of our belongings and classroom equipment.
2. We will use quiet inside voices.
3. We will walk inside
4. We will do as we are told the first time we are asked.
5. We will 'show 5' when we are on the mat. (ears on, mouth closed, arms and legs folded, looking at teacher).
6. We will speak nicely to each other.
7. We will keep our hands, feet and other objects to ourselves