

Welcome to TeKakano for 2016



We are looking forward to a great year of learning with all our wonderful Year 1 and Year 2 kids and we've made a busy start to the term already.

This year we are a teaching team of 4: Mrs Hillary Paalvast will work mostly with the oldest children (TeKakano 3), Mrs Emma Sercombe will work mostly with the 'middle' children (TeKakano 2), Mrs Amy Lake will work with the newest children to school (TeKakano 1) and Mrs Mary Overton will work with us two days each week - on a Monday she will cover Amy's Lead Teacher release and on Tuesdays she will cover Emma's Beginning Teacher release. We will be working together some of the time and in smaller groups at other times and we will each be getting to know all the children in our big class. If you would like to speak to us about anything please feel free to grab any one of us to answer any questions. We are all contactable by email: emmas@whatawhata.school.nz hillaryp@whatawhata.school.nz amyl@whatawhata.school.nz or alternatively you can text Amy Lake 021 213 7629.

Our Library day will be a Monday; children need to return their 2 Library books each Monday in a Library book-bag and they will choose 2 new books to bring home.

We will swim in the afternoons, Monday to Thursday, and the children are expected to participate in this each day as part of their PhysEd learning. Our other PhysEd learning for this term will revolve around developing their first, fundamental movement skills as a base for sports in the future. We have an inter-school sports day in March for all Year 0-2 children with fundamental skills games (run by Project Energize) and our kids will also be involved in our school Triathlon later on this term.

Our Literacy learning will be a daily programme with lots and lots of Reading and Writing activities. We will soon begin our daily home-reading, where children will learn the routines for bringing their book-bag home every day and getting their book signed to say they are reading to an adult each afternoon. There will also be a Homework book in this book-bag and our suggestions for Homework learning will be outlined in this book.

Maths this term has started with learning about Statistics displays and creating graphs that are all about us. We have a very strong focus in the early years at school on developing solid number knowledge (reading numbers, counting forwards and backwards, patterns of numbers eg: $2+3=5$ $4+1=5$ and learning the written symbols for addition and subtraction). These concepts will be an ongoing part of our Maths programme.



For the first few weeks we are developing our drawing and painting skills as we learn all about ourselves and each other and get to know all our TeKakano people really well. After this our Discovery Learning focus will be learning about Mini-Beasts (bugs!) with a Science focus. We will be encouraging children to bring along treasures they find at home to pop in the bug-viewers and share with their friends and we will also be hunting through our school outside environment to find what kinds of bugs live here so we can create some bug hotels and special areas that are suited to helping them survive and be happy.



While we are enjoying all this lovely summer weather the children are having loads of fun outside during their break times. They need to have a bucket style hat at school, which stays in the classroom pegged up on hanging wires, and they wear these every time they are outside. We are also thinking ahead to when the weather turns and children will need to spend more time inside during their free time and we would like to ask that **each TeKakano child has their own colouring book with their name on it** as an extra part of their stationery, for when they need to be inside during wet lunchtimes. These can be brought to school any time over the next few weeks and we will keep them in a special box in the classroom.

In our TeKakano morning routine we are aiming to build our youngest learner's independence and affirm them as 'big school kids'. When they first arrive there are 3 things they need to do: put their own Homework book-bag into the basket in the Reading area, check that their own sunhat is hung up ready for the day and then move their photo on the *Who is here today?* wall. It is really important that children are arriving at school early enough to complete these things and be ready for the day before the 8.30 bell rings so that we can begin our learning straight away. If there are extra specific routines that you and your child like to do to make the transition from home to school easier in the morning we really appreciate that these things are done before the 8.30 bell. It is also a good idea to aim to be here even a little earlier if possible as it's great if the children can have a bit of play and social time with their friends before they start their day. This helps them to build strong friendships and feel comfortable at school.

If you are thinking you'd like to volunteer some time to 'parent help' in the classroom (or in any classroom in the school) please come and see us; we love to have all the help we can get!

We do our best to be in the classroom in the mornings and after school, to be available to speak with whanau so please feel free to approach us with any questions, compliments or concerns. We are also happy to arrange specific times to meet with parents if you need.