Taylor Newsletter

Term 1 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to a new year at Tinwald School. We trust you had an enjoyable holiday and your children have returned to school rested and ready for an exciting term of learning. A special welcome to those families new to our school, and Taylor Syndicate.

**Taylor Teaching Team**

There are 3 classes of Year 3 and 4 students in Taylor Syndicate, with each class consisting of 25 children.

Teacher Aides:

* Carolyn Hollings
* Donna Bremner
* Lorayne Oakley
* Rowena Graham
* Jocelyn Johnston

Teachers:

* Room 6 (Nikau) - Miss Claire Tomkinson
* Room 8  (Pohutukawa) - Mrs Catherine Mackenzie
* Room 9 (Kowhai) – Mrs Wendy Hopwood
* Mrs Cherie Livingstone- Release Teacher *(Room 8 Thursday)*

**Daily Timetable**

We encourage students to be at school by 8.45 am in order to be prepared for the day ahead. The bell goes at 8.55 am for school to start.  We have four learning blocks during each day, with breaks at:

Morning Tea- 10.25

Eating Lunch- 11.45

Activity Break- 1.15

**Independence**

In the Taylor syndicate we encourage independence; we encourage children to take responsibility for their own belongings; put their book bags away; carry their school bags and get themselves ready for their day.

**Water**

It is very important for children to drink water regularly throughout the day. We would like all children to have a named water bottle at school each day so they can drink small amounts often in the classroom. This reduces disruptions to lessons, as children don’t have to leave the classroom to use the fountain.

**Weeblys:**

Each class is in the process of creating a classroom Weebly. Class Weeblys are a great way to encourage your children to inform you about some of the things they have been doing at school. Please keep an eye out for it in the not so distant future, which will have information on your child’s classroom blog.

 **Home Learning**

 Home Learning is a time for children to practice the skills that they are learning at school. This has started and will gradually increase to include:

* **Reading**- for about **15 minutes per night**. Your child will bring home a reading book most nights. Please listen to your child read this book each night. This should be an enjoyable time and if your child is too tired to read get them to read every second page or you read the story to them. Do ask your child questions about the books and encourage fluency (reading like a story teller rather than a robot). There will be a variety of books sent home- easy/ challenging/ fiction/ non-fiction and often children may have the book for more than one night. Please help to remind your child to bring their book and book bag back to school the following day.
* **Spelling**- your child will be tested at the beginning of the term using the Essential List words. Teachers will send these lists home with your child, showing words that the have spelt incorrectly. Please help your child learn these words, as they are the words they are using in their daily writing.
* **Maths**- Basic facts to learn and counting to practice. It is important that children have instant recall of their basic facts. They need to be **practiced weekly** to ensure they are not forgotten. **Unknown facts should be practiced daily** until known. Practice can include games with other family member to avoid boredom.

For more support on ways to help your child with their spelling, reading and maths homework, please look on your child’s class Weebly, or ask your child’s teacher.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning. We value the home-school partnership, so please feel free to contact us should you have any concerns or comments about your child’s learning.

Kind regards

Catherine, Wendy and Claire.