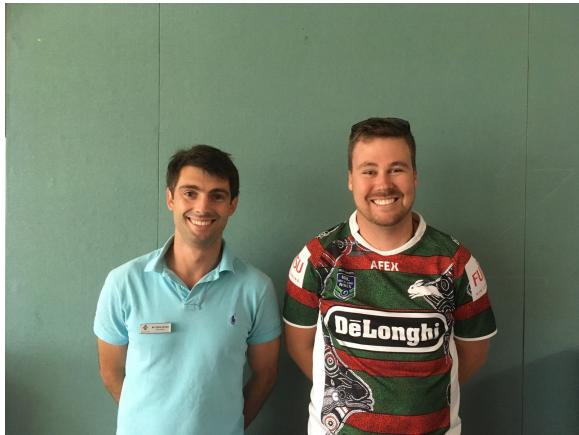


Takahe Team Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

Meet our team



Chris Groen and Liam Henry

Chris Groen: Team Leader (Room 11)
chrisg@whenuapai.school.nz

Liam Henry: Teacher (Room 12)
liamh@whenuapai.school.nz

Welcome

Welcome back to all our Year 4 students, parents and teachers. A very special welcome to those who are new to Whenuapai School. Being new to the year 4 team this year, both Liam and I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children. Please do not hesitate to touch base with us in person or via correspondence, our team values your support. This year you can expect to receive our newsletter each term informing

you of the terms learning and events ahead, as well as a weekly round up email each Friday highlighting our achievements and reminders of up and coming dates. We will aim to focus first and foremost on the wonderful things your children are doing at school.

Reminders

Brain Food - Usually around 10:00am. Please ensure a small healthy snack is included in your child's lunch box or a separate container. This is an addition to a morning tea snack. Some examples are fresh fruit or vegetables (pre cut and peeled). No nuts please. We are a nut free school.

Hats - Compulsory for Term 1 and Term 4. No hat...no play out in the open (shaded areas only). Please check your child's hat and all uniform items are named, including shoes.

Assemblies - This year we are altering the way we do assemblies. We will be holding a combined year 4-8 assembly

Curriculum Learning

Numeracy

- **Number** - Throughout Term 1 we will learn strategies in maths for adding, subtracting and place value. Your child will have access to the maths site 'Mathletics' which will mirror the curriculum areas we are focusing on in class.
- **Statistics** - This is our strand focus. We will be learning how to collect

and present information (data). We will also learn how to interpret data.

Literacy

Reading and writing will be closely linked in our programs for a more holistic approach. We believe that enjoyment is central to the development of good independent reading habits. Writing is about targeting specific aspects from learning goals that can be quantified. When these small focuses accumulate, long term progress is extremely rewarding.

Our Key Learning focuses

Learning to Work Together

The first major focus at the start of this year has been creating a safe and inviting environment in the classroom. This is achieved when students understand the classroom routines and what is expected of them. The second is to make positive connections with classmates. Through team building and guided discussions we are learning about one another. The next step is to extend these positive connections across the entire team.

Where we are in Place and Time

This is our whole school context. We will be studying the creation and evolution of different games and inquiring into how they reflect their times. We will also be considering the purpose of games. Are they always recreational? Or are the big picture lessons we can learn from them... Aspects of autobiography may also enter our writing program in order to reflect this context.

Key Competencies

- Capabilities for living and life long learning.
- People use these competencies to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of their

communities. They are the key to learning in every learning area. The New Zealand Curriculum identifies five key competencies.

1. Thinking
2. Using language, symbols and texts
3. Managing self
4. Relating to others
5. Participating and contributing

Takahe Home Learning Expectations

Our new web-based home learning sites, *Mathletics*, *Reading Eggs* and *Spellodrome* are the core of our home learning programme. These websites can be accessed through mathletics.co.nz, readingeggs.co.nz and nz.spellodrome.com. Students' username and password are the same for each of these websites. As these activities are all internet based, it is up to each family to find the best way to fit in time on the websites. This option allows parents to tailor home learning to their individual schedules. Teachers will be monitoring activities that students undertake, and can set tasks for students to work on within *mathletics*. More information regarding your child's log in details will be sent home soon. In addition to this, other homework activities may be set to compliment the learning happening in class. In these instances your children will be had aware of the expectation and due date, and you will also be emailed.

School Trip

On the 20th of March we will be travelling to the Auckland Art Museum to study 'portrait and identity'. Here is a [link](#) to the class we will be taking part in. We feel that this course reflects the context 'Where we are in place and time'. Our student feedback also indicates that art is an area of interest and enthusiasm. The cost of this trip is currently quoted at \$17, soon to be finalised. We would absolutely love for you to express your interest early if you are keen to support this trip as a parent helper. Please be advised that all helpers need to complete a confidentiality form which can be claimed at the front office. This will validate you for all trips throughout the year.

PLD information evening

We invite you to join us on the 20th of February in the staffroom to discuss personal learning devices.

Important Dates

Important dates to mark in your calendar:

- **20th February** - PLD information evening
- **22nd February** - Family fun evening (A PTA organised event. More information coming home soon)
- **8th March** - Junior and Senior Disco
- 12th - 23rd March - Easter hamper sales
- **20th March:** School trip to the Art Museum
- **30th March** - Good Friday NO SCHOOL
- **2nd April** - Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
- **3rd April** - Easter Tuesday NO SCHOOL
- **13th April** - PTA Lunch and Ice Block. Term 1 ends
- **30th April** - Term 2 begins