Dear Parents/Guardians and families,
Welcome to all our families involved in the Year 2 area this year, whether you have students who have moved up from Year 1 at Torquay College or our new families who have come to our school from elsewhere. I hope your first few weeks of school went as well at home as they did in the classroom. We have a wonderful group of enthusiastic grade twos this year and we are excited about all of the fun things we have been doing and plan to do this year!

Glen Wise Team Leader & the Year 2 Team

Welcome from our Assistant Principal - Mr Smith
Welcome to Year 2. My name is Christian Smith and I love working at Torquay College as a teacher and now as Assistant Principal. This year I have enjoyed getting around to each classroom to see all students settling into their new learning environments and routines. The Year 2 teachers strive to provide a stimulating program for all students and we look forward to an exciting and rewarding year working alongside you.

Christian Smith

CLASSROOM TIMES
Children are not expected at school before 8.15 unless they are at Out of School Hour Care. Doors will open at 8.15 and classes begin at 8.30am.

When dropping your child off in the morning and collecting your child after school, we ask that you continue to access the outside doors to the classroom and empower your child to be in control of their own belongings and changing their readers on arrival. Parents are also welcome to join us at assembly on Fridays starting at 2.30pm.

Readers
Readers will be issued on Wednesday, Feb 3rd and need to be brought to school each day, whether they are completed or not. Testing and comments, as indicated in the record book, will determine the collection of books your child is reading. Sometimes children may be given easier books to improve their fluency and confidence, which are two key factors in reading success! Home reading should be a fun and enjoyable time to spend with your child, who should be able to read at least 90% of the words excluding names and places. It is important to ask your child questions as they read and after they have read!

*Please encourage students to keep readers in their green reader satchels.

Our Year 2 Team philosophy –– We aim to develop life long learners.
Mathletics/Spellodrome and Reading Eggs
All children will be allocated a username and password to use with these programs, found at www.mathletics.com.au and www.readingeggs.com.au. They will form part of our learning program and can be used as home activities.

Absences.
It is a requirement for parents to forward a note explaining a child’s absence or send an email to the school as soon as possible, I ask that parents endeavour to comply with this policy.

English
Reading and Spelling
Write to Read program
As part of the Year 2 English program, we will be continuing to implement the ‘Write to Read’ program across all Year 2 classrooms.

The Write to Read program is a structured, phonics based program where all aspects of the English language are taught in order for students to acquire the skills required to be successful readers and writers.

The Write to Read program covers the essential skills and learning in reading, writing, spelling and comprehension.

Students are instructed to say and write the phonograms for speech sounds. This is called segmenting, e.g. ch/i/p. Students then blend these phonograms into the whole word. This is called blending, e.g. chip. Language rules and an understanding of the structure of the English language are also an integral and important component of Write To Read such as the ‘a’ in cave makes its second of three sounds (c a v, n a v, f a s) because of the final silent ‘e’ (c a v e).

Spelling Homework
Spelling homework will be sent home for students to investigate and reinforce the weekly codes and rules. We ask that students do their best and they can use dictionaries, the internet, books etc. in their investigations. It will be handed out Monday and due Friday.

Writing
The genre of writing we are focussing on this term is ‘recount writing’ where students recall/retell events followed by ‘procedural writing’. We will be focusing on the structure of these as well as the effective use of punctuation and spelling. An overview of writing genres for the rest of the year is:

Term 2 - Persuasive & Narrative  Term 3– Narrative cont. & poetry
Term 4– Explanation & Report
This term we are studying ‘Our Community’ as our inquiry unit, focussing on what a community is and what is special about ours. We will be touching on the local history and the services it provides including the fire brigade, ambulance, police and SES. We are currently finalising dates for incursions and local visits.

The units for the rest of the year are:
Term 2 - Dinosaurs
Term 3 - Asia
Term 4 - Space

MATHS
The main focus areas in numeracy for term 1 will be:
- Place Value & Number Recognition - recognising, reading, ordering and modelling numbers.
- Graphing - reading data and representing it on simple graphs.
- Addition/Subtraction - solving addition problems using mental and written strategies such as counting on and understanding the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Maths is all around us and plays an important part in our lives. Encourage your child to work hard at it and use the skills they learn at school in the outside world. Ask them to tell you the time, how far you have to travel on your trip, margins in footy scores, coins you will need to buy something etc. Enjoy the world of maths.
Parent Helpers
Throughout the year we will require the support of Parent Helpers within the classroom and on excursions.

In the classroom, Parent Helpers may be involved with general support in the classroom, monitoring small groups or individual reading with students.

Regular attendance is appreciated and these sessions are sibling free.

On excursions, Parent Helpers will be involved in monitoring small groups of children and assisting with activities.

Requirements:

All Parent Helpers must have a current ‘Working with Children’ check.

Attended the Parent Helper session at Torquay College on:

- Tuesday, 1st March 8.30am – 9.30pm
- Wednesday, 2nd March 8.30am – 9.30am
- Thursday, 3rd March 2.00pm – 3.00pm

More information to come!

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**HATS**

It’s great to see so many hats on heads! Hats at Torquay College are compulsory during terms 1 and 4 and students are to wear hats at all times when outside and when attending sport and excursions. We have a NO HAT—NO PLAY policy at school. Please ensure your child's hat is labelled with their name and grade to ensure swift return when misplaced. Please ensure that all items brought to school and worn to school are labelled clearly.

**FOOD**

Due to food allergies, students are encouraged not to share food. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated. We have some students in Year 2 this year with food allergies, so please consider this when packing your child’s lunch. We also try to minimise wrappers at school by encouraging "nude food."

A canteen list went home in Quaynotes and is on the School App. Each classroom has a lunch order basket for any lunch food orders, whether the order is made online or by written on the paper bag. Snacks can be bought at canteen, and we recommend all coins for canteen to be put in a named zip lock bag.