

# Epsom Normal Primary School



## Totara Team

Rooms 25-26-27-28

11 February 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Totara Team, especially to new families who have moved to our school. We hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break. The year has begun well and we are all looking forward to the exciting learning that will take place and the challenges of 2011. The establishment of routines across our team are a consistent focus, and most of the children are aware of the structure of a day at school beginning promptly at **8:55 am**. To encourage independence we want the children to hang up their own bags, bring in their book bags, brain snack and water bottle, plus their news items for the day, help put the chairs down and put out their writing folders. This means it would be helpful if your child could arrive between 8.30 am and 8.45 am.

### Curriculum Topics for this term:

The overall theme for 2011 is "Together we are strong."

**Social Studies:** "I am a Philosopher" – (This will include looking at their own identity, 'I am a treasure', and how our personal philosophies are influenced by our values, society, other people and the environment.

**Health:** Mental Health - Cool Me, Cool Class (Positive Classrooms/Working Together/Learning Community)

Where possible we integrate Language, The Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Art), Technology, Maori and ICT with each theme, as appropriate. Naturally, Reading, Mathematics and Language programmes will continue daily.

### Important Notices:

1. **Swimming days** are: Monday and Wednesday for Rooms 25 and 26. Tuesday and Thursday for Rooms 27 and 28. **This is a compulsory part of our Physical Education programme** while the weather is suitable during Term 1. We go swimming between 12:10 and 1 pm so the water is usually warmer at this time. However, your child may wear a wet suit if you wish. If your child is occasionally unable to swim due to medical reasons, please excuse him/her with a note to the classroom teacher on that day.
2. **Lost property** is already accumulating! Thanks to those who have already **named** every item of clothing, footwear, underwear, sunhats, swimming gear, towels etc. to ensure an immediate return of property to a grateful child and parent/s.
3. **School Uniform:** We especially ask for your help in having all our Year 2 children wearing their correct uniform with pride, and representing our school properly. Black or brown sandals or shoes (no stripes or logos) form part of our uniform standards.
4. **Sunhats:** It is compulsory and important for all children to wear an ENPS full broad brimmed sunhat when outside during Term 1 and Term 4. Please ensure your child has a named school sunhat to protect them. Sunscreen is available at school.
5. **Jewellery:** To keep children safe during school while playing, exercising and moving around the school we ask that jewellery is worn at home and not school. (Apart from cultural jewellery).
6. **Absences:** If your child cannot attend school for any reason, please ring the school office before 8:30 am on 6305144 and follow the telephone instructions to leave a message so their classroom teacher can be informed. This is a safety precaution for your child.
7. **Allergy:** Due to the prevalence of nut allergies (including peanut) within the school, it would be preferable if your child does not bring food with peanuts in it. However, if they do have these food items could they please inform their class teacher so seating arrangements can be monitored at eating times to protect those with severe allergies.
8. **Brain Snack:** As our morning learning time at school has been extended to maximize the quality learning periods for children it would be beneficial if your child can bring in a fruit brain snack first thing in the morning (cut and wrapped, if necessary) and put into their tote tray to be eaten around 10am. This will enable them to have enough energy to focus on their work until the morning break at 10:55am.

Communication between home and school is important. Please read newsletters carefully – and keep them for future reference. You can also access newsletter on the school website. If you wish to inform us about your child we are happy to listen. Should an extended time be required, an appointment may be made.

We look forward to a successful, productive and fun year.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Kilgour, (R27), Kate Cope, (R26), Kathy Ngan, (R28), Carly Pothan, (R25).

Totara Team Teachers.