



Totara Team

Rooms 25-26-27-28

26 July 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the second semester. We hope you have had a very enjoyable break with your families. We are looking forward to another exciting semester of learning as we move towards springtime. We also look forward to meeting many of you this week during your parent interview time.

Our major theme for this term is “I am a Geographer” where we will be focussing on people and places whilst developing concepts about natural and manmade features and the importance of land. This topic looks at how places are special to people and the importance of our relationship with the environment. As well as continuing to study Picasso art we will also be looking at a New Zealand artist, Russell Hollings.

Language, Science, The Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Art), Technology, Maori and ICT are integrated with this theme. Reading, Mathematics and Language programmes are delivered daily.

Homework tasks continue as for Semester One. These include:

Reading - 10-15 minutes daily. If a child does not bring a book home every day, they can read a book from home or from the Public Library.

Preparation of a News Item:

Monday – Weekend news in buzz groups

Tuesday – Personal News or impromptu talk

Wednesday – Current Events

Thursday – Science/Technology

Friday –Poem to recite/discuss or Book to review

Maths basic facts and some Multiplication tables will be sent home during this term for your child to learn. We will put them in the back of their spelling notebooks.

Reminders:

The School bell rings at 8:55 am. However, it is important the children get to school by 8:45 am to enable them to prepare for the morning. We are developing independence in the children and expect them to be responsible for their tasks in the morning (i.e. hanging up their school bags, bringing in book-bags and help put the chairs down and get their Written Language folders out).

School Uniform:

We are very proud of the way the children look in their new uniform. We especially ask for your help in having all of our children wearing their correct uniform with pride, and representing our school properly. As winter is here and the children need to keep warm could you please ensure that undergarments are not visible at cuff, neckline or hemline. It is also important that all garments are named, especially sweatshirts that are taken on and off several times during the day. Black or brown sandals or shoes (no stripes or logos) form part of our uniform standards.

Safety of the Children - If you are picking your child up from the parking zone outside the school please ensure that they know to wait by the fence in this area. A staff member is on duty there every day after school. If you have not arrived by 3:15pm your child will be taken to the School Office for their safety. The children are not safe playing unsupervised in the playground as teachers do not provide supervision after school.

Lunches - If your child is bringing home uneaten lunches please take time to discuss with them the reason. It may be they find the contents of the lunch challenging. It could be the volume. (Consider that children have 15 minutes to eat their lunch before they are released). Perhaps wrappers could be snipped with scissors. Maybe there is too much for them to eat. Apples, oranges and mandarins could be segmented and bananas have one end cut so they can peel them back. Sandwiches could have their crusts removed. If your child is not a "good eater" a good nutritional option is a drink like "Up & Go", or something similar that provides "brain food". The children are also encouraged to take their rubbish home, as we don't have outside rubbish bins now, due to the pigeon problem.

Please also ensure your child has a small fruit brain snack, which is eaten about 10:00 am during our long morning learning session. They don't have a long time for this so if you could cut the fruit up, e.g., apple quarters, or a small mandarin this would ensure time is not wasted. If they don't eat it all they can finish it during the regular interval time at 10:55am.

From week six we will be commencing our Gymnastics programme until the end of the term.

Room 26 and 28 every Wednesday from 12:10 – 1pm

Room 25 and 27 every Tuesday from 12:10 – 1pm

Children will need to wear suitable clothing - e.g., track pants or footless leggings. To maximise the use of equipment that we have available and to assist with the safety of the children, we require parents who would be able to supervise and support small groups as they work on specific skills. If you are able to assist with small groups for gymnastics, please complete the form below. Sorry, no pre-schoolers.

Communication between home and school is important. There is a lot of information in the newsletters that are sent home. You can also access newsletters on the school website at <http://epsomnormalprimary.school.nz>. We are all very happy to meet with you if you have any concerns and queries. Should an extended time be required, an appointment may be made.

Yours sincerely

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

Syndicate Teachers

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I am able to assist with the supervision of small groups for Gymnastics

Every Tuesday with Room 25 and 27 ()

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Name _____

Telephone _____