



Totara Team

Rooms 25-26-27-28

27 April 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Totara team for the second term. We hope you have had a very enjoyable break with your families. We enjoyed meeting with you for Parent Interviews at the end of Term 1.

We are already into our exciting learning for this term and our major theme is "I am a Scientist". Our focus is on learning about what a scientist is and how they investigate and explain our physical world. We will be doing many experiments to explore the concepts of friction and forces. Also we will be looking at forces and instruments and plan to make some simple instruments. This will link to our school-wide artist, Picasso, and how he incorporated instruments into his art works. During week 5 Constable Cam will be visiting our classrooms to reinforce the safe walking messages. Language, Reading, Mathematics and Physical Education programmes continue daily. Art, Music, Dance, Drama, Maori and Information Technology are also taken regularly.

Homework tasks continue as for Term 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 and 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 will be sent home during this term for your child to learn. We will put them in the back of their spelling notebooks.

**Cultural Events: Dylan, the Drummer. 29 April.
The Spirit of Polynesia. 20 May**

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).

Uniform:

We are very proud of the way the children look in their new uniform. As winter is approaching and the children need to keep warm could you please ensure that undergarments must not be 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.

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.

We look forward to a productive and enjoyable Term.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Kilgour (R27), Kate Cope (R26), Cathy Ngan (R28), Carly Bishop (R25).
Syndicate Teachers