

Library Day

Rooms 1,2,3,4,5 is Friday. Children can only be issued with 2 books at a time.
Rooms 11,12 during the week. To be confirmed by the teacher

School Bags.

Please check that your child is able to get all their gear into their bags. Bags that are too small means that clothing, books and notices for example end up on the floor. Learning how to pack a school bag successfully is quite a skill so please parents spend some time teaching your child how to pack and unpack their bag.

High 'Vis' Jackets

The children are all issued with one of these so please encourage your child/ren to wear these to and from school.

Shoe Laces

Please parents can you spend time teaching your child to tie up their laces. Many children will play during lunchtime and interval with their laces hanging and this is not a safe practice.

Parent Helpers.

Once the children have settled into their new rooms your child's teacher will send a note home for assistance. There are many ways in which you can help and some do require a regular commitment but there are many one off tasks that you can assist with. Helping with mathematics, reading and writing are especially valuable for teachers.

Homework.

Every night Monday to Thursday your child will bring home a book to read in their book bag. On Friday they will bring home their poetry book with the weekly poem or prose in as their reading. For children reading below purple on the colour wheel there are lists of high frequency words that need to be gone over so that that are maintained and quickly read. By recognising these words instantly a child can then concentrate on decoding interest words, gaining fluency and meaning.

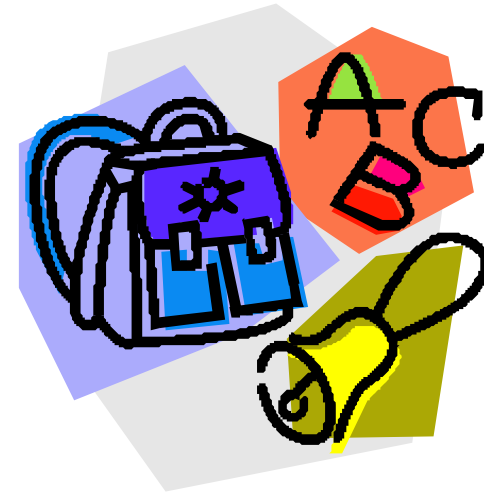
Do remember that your child's Home Reading Diary contains some **excellent tips and information on how to assist your child with reading at home**. Please sign this reading log daily. This diary will be checked by teachers regularly and your comments are always helpful too.

Brain Break Food.

The food should be unprocessed and in small pieces so the children can eat it quickly. About 3 to 4 minutes is given to eating so apples for example are much more easily handled if they are cut up. Please tell your child which is their brain food, morning tea and lunch. Some children can end up with little to eat at lunchtime. Please can treats such as lollies and chocolates be saved till after school.

Thank you,
Junior Team Teachers

JUNIOR SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER



Otatara School

Term 1, 2012

Junior Newsletter Term 1 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Kia ora and welcome to Term 1. We hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday basking in our warm dry weather and that you are all now well rested and ready for a new year. The team look forward to a positive association with parents and guardians during the year. We welcome all new children and families to our junior team.

Welcome also to Mrs Emma Scott and Ms Sarah Lovell who are new teachers to our team and will be teaching in Room 2 until the new room is completed.

The teachers in the Junior Team are:

Room 1 Mrs Sandra Dolman -- sandrad@otatara.school.nz

Room 2 Mrs Emma Scott (mornings) --emma@otatara.school.nz
Ms Sarah Lovell (afternoons)--sarahl@otatara.school.nz

Room 3 Mrs Christine Webby-- christine@otatara.school.nz

Room 4 Miss Amy Hutchison-- amy@otatara.school.nz

Room 5 Mrs Avis Healey-- avis@otatara.school.nz

Room 11 Ms Ashlee Nieborg-- ashlee@otatara.school.nz

Room 12 Mrs Kay Hood-- kay@otatara.school.nz

Teachers' Aide Mrs Juliette Clark.

Librarian and ICT specialist Mrs Lyn Kelliher

Junior team leader and Reading Recovery Mrs Alison Rodway.
--arodway@otatara.school.nz

It is very helpful for teachers to have a contact email address so class or individual information can be exchanged quickly. Please can you email to your child/ren's teacher one thing about your child that you think the teacher may not know.

Dates for this term.

February

Week 1 Friday 3rd February Hoe Roa Assembly - All parents welcome.
Swimming starting for Junior Team. A note and timetable will come home with details.

Week 3 Meet The Teacher Evening. 16th February(An opportunity to hear about the expectations and organisation within your child's classroom.)
Rooms 1,2,3,4,5, 6.00 -6.25pm
Rooms 11,12, 8 6.30 - 6.55pm
Rooms 6, 7, 9,10, 7.00- 7.25pm

March

Week 6 Swimming ends for juniors

April

Week 10 Teacher Only Day Thursday 5th April. School closed.
Easter Friday(April 6th) Term holiday begins.

Rotation Weeks 7 - 10

Physical Education Run, Jump and Throw.
Sports day to conclude the unit, weather permitting.

Inquiry

Weeks 1- 5 Social Studies and Health focus—Classroom organisation, positive relationships and becoming an independent learner.

Weeks 6 - 10 Science focus --(Living World) habitats and living communities.

Jump Jam

Friday 9.00 to 9.15am We are an "Active School" and leading by example is a powerful learning technique so please parents do join in. If your child joins their class at the hall then a parent or the child will need to inform the office they are present at school. The class roll will have been taken before leaving for the hall

Singing in the Meeting Room

Fridays 9.15 to 9.40am

School Bell Times:

8.45 am. This is for the children to get their gear ready to start their learning day.
8.50 am. Classes commence. (Children late will need to go to the office before going to their classroom)
10.00 to 10.20am. Interval
11.20 to 11.30am Brain break
12.30 to 1.15pm Lunch
2.50pm. School ends

The children need to be at school at least 5 minutes before class starts so they can get their lunch box away, homework and/ or reading book away, pencils sharpened and have their books **ready** to start the day. The skill of '**being independently ready**' is an important life skill and one actively encouraged throughout your child's schooling at Otatara.

We do encourage you to spend time in the classroom with your child looking at their classroom activities and reading with them before and after school. However, we would encourage parents to leave the classroom as soon as possible before the learning day begins as this prevents disruption. We would also like parents to refrain from entering the classroom before the final bell for the same reason.

Before school is often a time that new children to the school can develop friendships. The teacher is usually nearby and this can be comforting as they develop their relationships with other children in the room.