



ETTALONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

Term 1 Week 1

29 January 2020

| DATES FOR YOUR DIARY | |
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| 29, 30 & 31 Jan | Kindergarten BestStart assessments |
| Mon 3 Feb | Kindergarten students commence with 2.30pm pick up. |
| Wed 5 Feb | Swimming Carnival for swimmers only Years 2-6 (min 8yo) |
| Tues 11 Feb | Parent/Teacher Info sessions Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 and all Support classes. |
| Wed 12 Feb | P & C meeting 9.15am Araluen |
| Thurs 13 Feb | Parent/Teacher Info sessions K – 2. Volunteers Information morning tea. |

Welcome to the 2020 school year here at Ettalong P.S. A warm welcome to our returning parents and children, and a huge welcome to our new families, joining us for the first time.

Our 2020 Kindergarten children will participate in the NSW BestStart assessment program this week then commence lessons on Monday 3 February. Kindergarten children will finish at 2.30pm for two weeks then they will finish at 2.55pm, along with all other students, from Monday 17 Feb. Please remember our school day starts at 8.55am and punctuality is very much appreciated. Playground supervision starts at 8.30am so no children are to arrive before this time, please.

A number of maintenance and repair jobs were completed here during the holidays but the large shelter for K-2 children to assemble under was not built, as planned. I am quite disappointed but I hope to see it erected in the next few weeks. It is often very warm when we return to school so this is a timely reminder that we have a No hat, No play policy at our school. Hats are available for sale from school or similar blue, broad brimmed hats can be purchased elsewhere.

Rules about mobile phones at school were in the news over the holidays. Here at EPS we allow children to bring a phone to school but it must be kept in the owner's school bag. Students cannot use their phones on school property and no responsibility is taken by the school if a phone is lost or broken.

Mr Cardy received news on the very last school day of last year, advising that he was successful in gaining a position with the Schools Sport Unit for NSW in the role of organising sport for students with a disability. Sport is Mr Cardy's passion so we are all very pleased that he is able to pursue what he excels at. He has 'right of return' to EPS when his contract ends but in the meantime, Mrs Dempsey (Corbett-Jones) will join the Stage Three team and teach Year Six. She is extremely popular with staff and students so we welcome her back with open arms.

I am expecting a delivery of Maths text books this week. In fact, I hope they will have been delivered by the time you receive this Homenote. Payment details will be available as soon as I receive them.

To those of you who have been directly or indirectly affected by the recent dreadful bushfires, my thoughts go out to you. I cannot begin to imagine the devastation felt by those who have lost loved ones, property and/or businesses.

With the very small number of students who compete in the annual swimming carnival, we will trial this year what many other schools do and conduct the carnival with swimmers only in years 2-6. A carnival note will accompany this Homenote.

Reward Days were a huge success last year so will be continued again this year. Principal's Awards are also very popular so make sure your child keeps their 3R's awards and when they have two, bring them in to the office for a Principal's Award to be printed and presented at a whole school assembly.

Lynn Balfour
Principal

Coronavirus

The NSW Government yesterday requested that children who have visited China in the last two weeks not attend school or childcare services until 14 days have lapsed from their date of departure from China. We thank you for adhering to this request in an attempt to minimise the spread of this virus. Please phone our office on 4341 3550 to advise if you have travelled to China in the holidays so we are aware of the reason for your child's absence.

School leaders

We welcome our new school leaders for 2020.

Captains – Austin C and Jaylah O

Vice Captains – Oliver S and Ebony F

Prefects – Lucia B, Cobey D, Lachlan G, Gracie G, Leilani M and Elle W.

Parent/Teacher Information sessions

All parents are encouraged to attend an information session to learn what is planned for your child's class, including excursions and classroom requirements. We look forward to seeing you there.

Support classes and Stage 2 - Tuesday 11 February 3.15pm – 4pm

Stage 3 Tues 11 February 4.15pm – 5.00pm.

A free sausage sizzle will be available between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

Kindergarten Thursday 13 February 3.15pm – 4pm

Stage 1 Thursday 13 February 4.15pm – 5pm.

A free sausage sizzle will be available between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

Ex EPS students

Congratulations to three of our ex-students who are featured in the Peninsula News 20 January edition! It is lovely to hear of our past students' successes and we wish Jade, Bella and Dom all the very best in their endeavours.

Swimming carnival

Please read the enclosed note about our swimming carnival carefully. Due to the low number of students who are able to swim 50 metres, we will trial a new format this year. Many schools already follow this plan.