

Final Update – Camp MERC

Friday 14 May

Dear Parents,

This camp newsletter is intended to fill you in on final camp details.

ITINERARY

Wednesday 19 May

7.30 am Campers are to be at school meeting at the school hall. Cars transporting children to camp can drive down the drive and park on the main courts to be packed.

8.00 am Cars depart for Camp MERC

Friday 21 May

1.00 pm Cars depart Camp MERC

2.45 pm Arrive at VAS

Please arrange for your child to be picked up from school at this time.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

All camp activities are taken by M.E.R.C. instructors and aim to provide students with a variety of Outdoor Education experiences. These activities will include abseiling, archery, kayaking, sailing, orienteering and a variety of individual and team challenges. We can assure you that all staff have been through an analysis of the risks involved in each activity to ensure the safety of your children at all times. A safe adult/child ratio is in place throughout the duration of camp.

REMINDERS

Personal Gear List

- Please ensure that you check this carefully before 'D' Day. If the gear is not taken we **do not** supply it.
- Obviously, a good supply of warm clothing is required. Wet suits are provided for water based activities.
- Please ensure that **all** items are clearly named.
Children are asked **not** to bring sweets, money or items of value to camp. Taking photos is allowed but we recommend disposable cameras only.
- Please ensure your child has their out plates, cup and cutlery as well at least two tea towels for drying their dishes. All these items will also need to be clearly named.
- Morning tea, a packed lunch and a drink is required on the first day of camp. We recommend disposable packaging so that lunchboxes do not need to be repacked into suitcases. Children will need a refillable drink bottle to use throughout the camp.

MEDICAL

- Please advise your child's teacher of any changes of contact numbers or medical changes and provide additional information **URGENTLY**.

- We are fortunate to have a number of parents with medical expertise. Anne MacGill, a registered nurse, will be in charge of first aid and the administration of medication during camp.
- Please send your child's medication to the class teacher for safe keeping, on the morning of departure (unless needed on the person). We **strongly recommend** that the class teacher is given a **spare** inhaler for all asthmatics.
- Please check that **all** medication is labelled and that all instructions are clear.
- If your child requires any medication during their time at camp, a pink medication form must be completed to ensure accurate administration of medication.

CONTACTING and VISITING CAMP

- The phone number at the camp is 09-473 0714.
- We ask that the telephone be used for **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.
- Should you need to phone, your call is to be directed to one of the VAS teaching staff. Should you wish to phone your child's teacher directly please contact the VAS office for their mobile details.
- If an emergency arises at camp, one of the VAS staff will personally contact the parents/caregivers of the child concerned.
- Camp MERC is located at 1045 Beach Rd, Long Bay should you choose to visit. Please keep in mind that one of the main objectives of camp is for children to develop independence from home and visits can be disruptive and unsettling to many students.
- We will be unable to cater for any visitors at meal times.

DISCUSSION POINTS

We would be grateful if you could discuss with your child, prior to camp, topics such as:

Tolerance	Respect of privacy
Co-operation	Team spirit
Importance of tidy and clean habits	Table manners
Appreciation of, and adherence to, rules	Personal hygiene

Thank you for endorsing these points, as an understanding of these matters will help to create a successful and happy camp.

Thank you once again for your support of our camp. All we need now is fine weather.

Regards

Brad Cates, Libby Henriksen, Esther McEwan, Clare Whittington
Year 5 Camp Team