



Forest Lakes

Year 7/8 Camp 2024

F.A.Q's

Kia ora koutou parents/caregivers,

With camp fast approaching (Week 10, Term 3) it would be useful to provide you with an overview of questions and answers you may be pondering now we have started communicating around this event!

The first set of questions relates to payments and confirmations regarding our camp. We would like to apologise for the reduced notice regarding the cost of camp this year.

Unfortunately with some recent changes to our camp programme, it has meant getting a final cost together has taken a bit longer.

The second set of questions relates to whilst we are away at camp.

Payment / Confirmation FAQ's:

1. Why have camp payments changed?

Due to a parent complaint we can no longer run camps as we previously have, by asking for payments, and putting in timelines for the payments. Camps will be funded by voluntary donations only.

2. Do I need to confirm whether my child will still be attending camp?

Yes, we will be sending out a notice to parents in the form of a Permission Slip via the parent app asking for a YES or NO answer. It is important that you respond as quickly as possible.

3. Will camp go ahead?

Yes, if we raise enough to take all students who wish to attend, therefore we do need to know how many students intend on going.

4. When will you have to decide whether camp is going ahead ?

The deadline for deciding whether or not this camp will go ahead will be: **Friday 30 August, Week 6**. That is the latest we can cancel the accommodation and transport, although the school will lose the deposit we have already paid to secure the accommodation.

5. Does my child have to go on camp?

No, camp is 'optional' , if your child does not want to attend then they should be at school as normal. Work will be set and a class allocated for them.

6. What activities are you offering at camp?

Day 1: Travel to Forest Lakes Camp, Recreational Activities, Evening Activities

Day 2: Camp Rotations (Horse riding, archery, kayaking, laser tag, flying fox, cycling) + Porirua Pools & Adrenalin Forest

Day 3: Camp Rotations (Horse riding, archery, kayaking, laser tag, flying fox, cycling) + Porirua Pools & Adrenalin Forest

Day 4: Wellington Day - Te Papa, Wellington Zoo, Wellington Museum, Fergs Rock Climbing, Dinner at North City Mall

Day 5: Tidy up, travel back home

7. What is the cost of the camp as a whole?

The cost for each student is \$480.00.

Your child will also need to bring and hand in \$10 - 20 to pay for their dinner on Thursday night.

8. What do I pay, and when?

We are asking for 'voluntary donations' from parents, we need to raise \$57,600 which equates to \$480.00 per student. We would be grateful if we received this ASAP, for planning purposes.

9. What if I cannot afford it?

You can donate whatever you can afford, as it is a donation there is no set amount. Any families that are struggling for whatever reason can contact our office team confidentially.

10. Is my Donation tax-deductable?

Yes, we will provide you with a donation receipt, which will enable you to get a tax rebate from the IRD. For every dollar you donate you get 33.33 cents back as a tax credit. Please note that fundraising is not a donation so is not tax deductible.

11. Will there be more fundraising opportunities for my child?

No, not individually, although you can still fundraise for your child to attend camp yourself. The school will continue to fundraise for the general camp expenses as we have done for previous camps when the opportunities arise. Keep an eye out in our newsletter for advertising of upcoming fundraisers that you may like to support.

12. What happens to my chocolate fundraising?

The money you have raised will be used towards your child's camp, this will be deducted from the camp cost.

13. Will I get a refund if the camp is cancelled?

Yes, any money donated will be refunded to parents.

14. Can I donate extra to help another student to attend camp?

Yes please, all donations will be gratefully received! We would like all intermediate students to attend.

15. Do you still need parent helpers?

At this stage we have received offers of help and have contacted those selected from the responses. We have a list of all parents who offered and have kept their details in case we need to contact them closer to the time, if someone can no longer make it. The cost for a parent helper to attend our 2024 camp is \$280.00.

During our stay at camp FAQ'S:

1. Will my child be warm?

Yes - your child will have packed the required gear as listed on the Gear List (this will be sent home closer to the time). The camp facility also has heating.

2. My child's sleeping bag isn't very warm, can they bring another blanket for night time?

Yes of course they can. We want your child's stay to be as comfortable as possible.

3. Can I come to visit my child at camp during the day?

No - this is often unsettling for students.

4. Does my child have to swim?

All activities at camp are 'challenge by choice' which means they will not be forced to do any of the activities if they do not feel comfortable doing these. We will encourage participation as the students do surprise themselves when they give it a go - these are often the moments of triumph.

5. What happens if I don't own something that is on the gear list?

Because this is only a 5 day camp we don't want you having to purchase brand new items and recommend you look to borrow things from other family members or friends. Another option is visiting an Op Shop for any items you need.

6. Can I stay until all the vehicles and buses have left school on Monday morning?

Please use your own discretion here. Due to the large numbers in our team it would reduce congestion if the drop offs were quick. We understand there

will be some natural nervousness from children (and some parents), however once we get underway with our trip they will be fine

7. Can I phone my child's teacher to see how camp is going for my child?

No - this would be incredibly hard to manage with such a big number of students. If you need to get hold of your child or their teacher, please phone the school office and they can pass on a message.

8. Is my child able to have their cellphone or technology with them at camp?

No. If a student is found to have a device the teachers will look after this until we arrive back to school on Friday where it will be returned to the parent.

9. My child has dietary needs, will they be catered for?

Yes, the camp has provided a separate menu to ensure all of our students are well fed and nourished during our stay, there however will may be an additional daily cost for any dietary requirements.

FINALLY:

PERMISSION FOR CAMP - please complete the permission slip available on eTap to let us know whether or not your child will be coming to our 2024 camp at Forest Lakes in Otaki, Wellington.

We hope this answers some of the questions you may have been wondering about. If there is anything further you would like to know please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's classroom teacher and we will be happy to help you out.

Kind regards,

Janine van den Berg, Hannah Purser, Lynda Lamb, Kade Forsyth
Intermediate Team Teachers