

# **Starting School**

## **Ways you can help your child**

### **Pre-Enrolment**

We welcome you to look around the school and to see our teachers and children in action. Visit the school in the weekends so that your child can get used to the school playground.

You and your child are welcome to visit the classroom during school hours. The principal is also happy to meet you and answer your questions. Please call the office to organise a time to meet with him.

### **The First Day**

Your child will need:

- A school bag, a lunch box, a drink bottle for water and sunhat.
- To be able to dress themselves.
- To be able to go to the toilet and wash their hands independently.
- A small playlunch as well as lunch.

Come to the school office to ensure all paperwork has been completed for your child. Take your child to the classroom. (Our school day starts at 8.55am). Come at 2.55pm to collect your child.

### **Checklist - Have you:**

- Completed an enrolment form for your child?
- Filled out the school information form?
- Shown the office manager your child's birth certificate & your child's immunisation certificate?

### **School Curriculum**

Your child will learn much more at school if you create a supportive environment at home.

#### **Language**

Your child will experience reading, writing, listening, and speaking. You can help by reading to your child, joining a library, talking with your child about many different experiences, playing taped stories, modelling that you enjoy reading yourself, helping your child learn to write their own name and helping your child become aware of the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet.

#### **Science**

Your child will learn about how the world around them works.

You can help by sharing experiences, developing curiosity in your child, talking about things in the environment.

#### **Maths**

Your child will be encouraged to think logically, solve problems and feel confident when discussion algebra (patterns around us), statistics (collecting, sorting, analysing), numbers (counting), measurement (height, weight, length) and geometry (shapes and directions).

You can help by taking your child shopping and discussing what you see and do, sharing experiences where number is involved, setting the table, looking at patterns, guessing the size of things. Card and board games are fun and educational.

### **Social Sciences**

Your child will learn about how other people live. They will learn Te Reo Maori and multiculturalism. You can help by listening appreciatively to other people's views and beliefs.

### **The Arts**

Your child will be encouraged to express themselves through music, drama and art.

You can help by providing paper, pens and pencils to experiment with and music tapes to listen to. Involve yourself in children's dramatic play from time-to-time and look for examples of art in the world around them.

### **Health and Physical Well-being**

Your child will develop PE skills and knowledge about how to lead a healthy life.

You can help by encouraging healthy sleeping, cleanliness, exercise and eating routines. When you're out walking reinforce safe practice, e.g. crossing the road, and sun awareness.

### **Technology**

Your child will learn how to use the tools of the modern world.

You can help by encouraging your child to use the technology in their home that will help them get information. Check that they know why they are getting it.

### **Helpful Suggestions**

Pack lots of little containers of food. Children survive best on lots of little snacks during the day e.g. raisins and carrots. Children need water regularly throughout the day. Please provide a drink bottle.

You are very welcome to stay with your child as they settle. However, if you feel your child will settle better if you are not there, the teacher will ensure your child will feel secure.

If you feel your child is getting tired, please feel free to collect him/her from school earlier than the finish time. Encourage your child to be confident and have a go at all activities.

You can help your child's progress at school by ensuring regular attendance. (Please telephone the school office if your child is going to be absent).

We feel strongly that a parent's interest and involvement is essential to a child's success in school life. Listen to them, talk to them, read to them, and make sure you get and read the school notices from their schoolbags.

We welcome you to the school and look forward to working in partnership.

**Clifford Wicks, Principal**