

Welcome to



Please read prior to your child's school visit

Information Booklet for Parents of New Entrants



School vision - *Connected, self managing learners, striving for excellence.*

School values - *Ako, Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga and Kaitiakitanga.*

These are central to our learning programmes and woven into everything we do.

It is important to us that your child is happy and confident and that the transition to school is as smooth as possible. Please come and have a chat or send an email if you have any questions or concerns, no matter how small.

If you wish to make an appointment, please be aware that we have meetings after school on various days.

Prior to Starting School

You will be invited to visit the classroom and teacher before starting school. Keep an eye out for your welcome email, after you have returned your enrolment packs to the office.

The First Day of School

Upon arriving at school if enrolment forms have been completed, you may head directly to the classroom. If not, please see Noelene at the office to complete the enrolment paperwork or complete the online enrolment form. You will need your child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of address, ICT Student Digital Technology Use form and any completed forms from the school information pack.

We appreciate seeing early childhood portfolios as they provide useful background knowledge of your child's experiences to date and something for us to talk with your child about to get to know them.

Please don't worry if your child seems a little teary or nervous when you are leaving. From experience most children settle once their parents have left. You can call the school office (213 1009) if you would like to check how they have settled.

Stationery Packs

These are made up and ready for you to purchase at the office. Please drop the pack off to the classroom prior to your child starting school so the teacher can have everything ready for their first day.

Class Programme Outline

Morning tasks before the bell:

The children have before school responsibilities, and once they have become familiar with these we encourage them to carry them out independently.

- Hang up their jacket and bag
- Greet the teacher and other students
- Put their lunch box and drink bottle on the shelves
- Put their bookbag in the bookbag box and their reading book from the previous night in the basket
- If they have library books to return, put them in the library crate

The Classroom Programme

Inquiring through play

The emphasis in our New Entrant and Year 1 classrooms is on being responsive to children's interests and developing social and emotional competence and resilience; self esteem, self confidence and appropriate ways to deal with other people. We focus on building knowledge of the world by close observation and noticing, particularly through the connection to the natural world. The children's wonderings about their world are used to explore and investigate creative play opportunities, linking to science, social studies, the Arts, Mātauranga Māori, health and technology. Story is a large part of the day and children are encouraged to share their own stories orally, as well as connect to local and other stories.

Learning through Movement

Throughout the day children are engaged in a range of movement experiences to build body-brain connections. These are specially designed to help children develop physical, cognitive, social and emotional foundations, exploring balance, rolling, jumping and problem solving, all

elements that support formal learning. This learning also helps increase concentration and focus.

Our wider fitness programme includes a range of activities, including Jump Jam on Friday mornings, exercises to music or dancing, running, relays, games using sports equipment, partner activities and circuits. We try to do something everyday so please ensure that your child wears suitable footwear.

Literacy

Writing/Reading

Children read and write every day. A reading book may come home in the book bag (Monday to Thursday). Please listen to your child read their book and talk about the pictures and ideas with them and then fill out the reading log book as a record of your child's reading experience. Alternatively your child may come home with some High Frequency words or sound cards to practise. If they do, the teacher will provide more instruction on how to do this at home. On Fridays students will come home with either a shared book, a poem or a writing piece. This is an opportunity to foster a love of literacy, and for students to celebrate what they have been working on over the week with whānau.

Supporting Writing

- Show your child how you use writing. Write messages, shopping lists, telephone messages, letters and greeting cards in front of them and talk about what you are doing.
- Provide a special place for your child to write. Equipment such as a desk, an easel, noticeboard, plus a range of writing materials such as scrap paper, (lined, unlined, coloured or plain), used greeting cards, crayons, pencils, forms, envelopes and little notebooks are great.
- Talk about the alphabet. Provide magnetic letters or plastic tiles for your child to play with.
- Respond positively to the message in your child's writing rather than the letter formations or spelling. Celebrate your child's efforts and encourage them to have a go.
- Using play dough, Lego and scissors to help with motor skills needed for handwriting

Ideas to help your child with literacy

- Find a special, quiet space away from the technology when reading with your child
- Watch the text while your child reads
- Take your child to the Invercargill Library and encourage them to take out their own books. Let your child see you enjoying books and reading
- Share picture books whenever you can and relate events in the stories to your child's experiences. Encourage questions and predictions about the stories
- Read and sing rhymes and poems with your child.
- Play games like "I spy". Children love rhyme and repetition
- Talk about print in the environment, e.g. advertisements, stop signs, menus etc.

Library

Once a week we have library time and the children are able to choose two books to bring home. These should be returned by the following week. We hope you enjoy sharing these with them.

Mathematics

Our programme has a strong focus on number sense, problem solving and developing mathematical language at this level. The children may work as a class, in groups or rotate around a variety of activities.

Often mathematics concepts are developed through story and/or play.

Ideas to help your child with mathematics

- Play board games that include numbers and counting e.g. Snakes and Ladders, Snap, Memory
- Say the days of the week (in order)
- Say the months of the year (in order)
- Count objects
- Count up to 5, then 10, then 20
- Count backwards from 10, then from 20
- Name a number before, after and between any given numbers. First numbers to 5, then 10, then on to 20

- Write numerals correctly up to 10
- Count a given number of objects up to 20
- Talk about shapes, sizes (bigger/smaller/taller/shorter), and time

End of the Day

At home time the children are expected to pack their own bags with their lunch box, book bag and water bottle. Please encourage your child to carry their own bag as they leave school as this is part of developing their self management.

Six-Week Reporting Discussion with Parents

This discussion is to talk about your child's progress and how they have settled into school, as well as go over any questions that may have arisen since the beginning of their school journey. Your child attends this meeting so that they can take an active part in celebrating their learning and their beginning school experience.

We look forward to a successful home/school partnership.

Ngā mihi

Otatara Early Learning Team

Contact details

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