

WAIMAUKU SCHOOL

STARTING SCHOOL

— 2022 —

*welcome to our newest young
students and their whanau*



WAIMAUKU SCHOOL

We Belong, We Grow, We Contribute

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Dear Parents and Whānau,

We are very excited to welcome our newest children and their families to Waimauku School.

All children come to school with different preschool experiences. Our junior school teachers are all aware of the different levels of 'readiness' for school each child brings, and are committed to providing a balanced, nurturing start to their learning journey.

Gary Pasfield
Principal



School Visits

Your child will come to school for two visits before officially starting school and staying for the whole day.

Visit 1: 8.45 – 11.30am *Please bring a small 5 minute 'brainfood' snack and morning tea.

Visit 2: 8.45 – 1.50pm *Please bring a 'brainfood' snack, morning tea and lunch.

Both visits are designed to gradually show your child what school is like, and are timed to finish after playtimes so they can experience the social aspects of the playground.

First Day at School

Please ensure your child is at school at least 10 minutes before the 8.55 bell. Encourage them to carry and hang up their own bag and take their shoes off by themselves. We love our little ones to be independent and to feel like big school kids!

After School Pick Up

All our Year 1 and 2 children are taken to the top court just before the 3pm bell to be picked up. By doing this we are able to support our youngest students right through until the end of the day with their various after school arrangements.

Terms 1 and 4

Swimming

Each class has an assigned swimming time. Please make sure your child brings their swimming togs and a towel in a named waterproof bag. It is helpful for the children to wear clothes that are easy to change in and out of on swimming days as they need to be able to undress and dress themselves independently.

School Hats

Hats are available at the school office for \$10 each and must be named and worn when outside during terms 1 & 4. Children without hats must sit in a designated shady area for the whole of their morning tea or lunch break if they do not have their hat.

Terms 2 and 3

Children need a change of clothing during the winter terms as children sometimes get wet and muddy.

Please name all clothing. We have a lost property shed which is opened regularly, but it's so much easier to return lost items if they are named.

Library

All classes have one designated library time every week. Year 1 and 2 children can take out 1 library book each week. Library books need to be taken home in their Library book bag. Please encourage your child to take good care of their books.

Class News

Most classes share 'news' as part of their oral language learning. Children are not allowed to bring toys to school as we don't want special things to be lost or damaged, but a nature find, photo or favourite book is fine. Talking about their experiences is great too.

Immunisation Certificates

If your child is fully immunised an immunisation certificate is required for our register at school, therefore we will take a copy of the certificate (check with your health provider if you don't have an immunisation certificate). Lack of an immunisation certificate does not affect enrolment but the fact that the child does not have an immunisation certificate is recorded.

How can I help my child prepare for school?

At Waimauku School we find that entry levels are almost as diverse as the number of children entering. The following list is what we think are realistic expectations for most children to work towards, however we know that all children are unique and develop at different rates.

Read to your child

Research tells us that reading and sharing stories can:

- help your child get to know sounds, words and language, and develop early literacy skills
- learn to value books and stories
- spark your child's imagination and stimulate curiosity
- help develop your child's brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills
- help your child learn the difference between 'real' and 'make-believe'
- help your child understand new or frightening events, and the strong emotions that come with them
- help your child learn about the world, their own culture and other cultures.

Reading stories with children has benefits for grown-ups too. The special time you spend reading together promotes bonding and helps to build your relationship with your child.

raisingchildren.net.au

Here's more about what the research says:

- kids who are read only one book a day will hear about 290,000 more words by age 5 than those who don't regularly read books with a parent or caregiver
- young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to, a new study found. This 'million word gap' could be one key in explaining differences in vocabulary and reading development.
- "They are likely to pick up reading skills more quickly and easily."

Source: Ohio State University, 2019

The following list are useful skills for your child to have in preparation for school:

- sit and listen to a story
- recognise own first name

- recognise numbers (1-10)
- differentiate between numbers and letters
- have an awareness of sounds
- handle scissors safely and effectively
- name basic colours
- follow simple instructions e.g. 'go to the table and bring me the piece of paper'
- stay within boundaries
- take care of own belongings
- manage toileting, washing hands, undressing, dressing and blowing nose independently
- tidy up after themselves
- manage lunchboxes independently
- put on and take off shoes independently

When children start school, teachers work on building a positive, nurturing classroom culture. With your help and guidance we will be helping your child develop social skills such as:

- speaking respectfully to others and use manners
- playing cooperatively and happily with other children
- taking turns and sharing
- following instructions and doing what the teachers says at school
- leaving other people's things alone unless they have permission
- learning how to be a good friend and being considerate of the feelings of others
- being kind and helpful
- understand that non compliance with parent/teacher expectations will have a consequence

Routine

Lots of learning tires the brain and your child may be more tired than usual.

Sleep is important for restoring energy, and for growth and development, therefore a regular bedtime is suggested. Although some children naturally sleep slightly less or more, the recommended amount of sleep (according to the Ministry of Health website) for 5 year olds is 9-11 hours per night.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to school.

*Please don't hesitate to
contact us if you have any
questions, concerns or worries.
We are here to help!*

