



Waimauku
School

Starting School
2024

*welcome to our newest young students
and their whanau*



Waimauku School

Telephone (09) 411 8222
Email office@waimauku.school.nz
Email principal@waimauku.school.nz

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, water bottle, school hat and morning tea.

Visit 2: 8.45 – 1.50pm *Please bring a 'brainfood' snack, water bottle, school hat and 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

Children can be collected from outside their classroom at 3 or from the top court. Children traveling on buses will go to their bus line on the top court. Any children not picked up at 3pm from their classrooms will go to the top court to be supervised by our duty team.

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

Children must wear either a Waimauku School Bucket Hat or Cap when they are outside during the summer terms. Hats can be purchased from the office, bucket hats are \$15 and caps \$20. Children who forget their hat must sit in a designated shady area for the whole of their morning tea or lunch break. Please ensure your child's hat is clearly named.

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 using 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!

