

NEW ENTRANT PARENT INFORMATION BOOK



TUPU TAHI TATOU



TOGETHER WE GROW



Dear Parents/Caregivers



Starting school is an exciting time and an important step in your child's life and also your own. We look forward to working with you and your child to make the transition to school a positive experience.

This booklet gives you some information about how to help your child settle into Te Miro School and how to help them with their learning in their first year of school.

During a child's first year at school we focus on developing foundation skills in literacy and numeracy along with encouraging the children to begin to develop the key competencies through our "learning through Play" programme. These are skills they will need to be successful life-long learners. In addition to these core areas the New Entrant programme also covers Physical Education and Health, The Arts, and Topic studies (science, social sciences, technology.)

At Te Miro School we have an open-door policy and see communication between home and school as an integral part of your child's learning. If you have any concerns, please feel you can approach the teacher or principal and arrange a meeting.

Once again, welcome to our school! We look forward to working with you and your child.



Learning by play



In the first few years at school your child will be involved in our 'learning through play' programme.

Top 3 Benefits of Learning through Play

1. Play Encourages Communication

Play allows children the opportunity to develop speech and language skills as well as listening skills.

2. Play Improves Cognitive Development

Children who engage in pretend play tend to have more sophisticated levels of interaction with others. Bergen, D (2002) found that more and more evidence supports the connections between cognitive ability and high quality pretend play. Moreover, if children are deprived of play, their long-term capabilities related to problem solving, social skills and academic areas (e.g. literacy, math and science) could be lessened.

3. Play encourages relationship building

Play helps to promote the development of social skills. Children who play with their parents and peers learn how relationships work through their play experiences. As play becomes more important in a child's life, an increase in the number and quality of friendships has been seen. Many people don't realise that social skills are a vital part of language development. Language is so much more than simply spoken words!

Starting School



Your child will use the skills and knowledge they have learned at playgroup, preschool, Kohanga Reo or Kindergarten when they start school. Children bring to school many different skills and experiences and we spend the first few weeks getting to know your child. After they have been at school for 3–6 weeks we will chat with you about how your child is settling in and what their learning needs are.



We believe that each child is unique, so we try and tailor our learning programme to meet their needs and passions



What they need to bring each day

- Your child will need a school bag
- A change of clothes - for those 'just in case' times.
- A sunhat (Terms 1 and 4) Raincoat (Terms 2 and 3)
- A lunch box filled with morning tea and lunch.
- A drink bottle filled with water.
- Something warm because it can get cold up here!!
- Swimming togs and towel for the summer
- Covered shoes or gumboots on Bush Class Day

Please name all your child's clothes, shoes, and even socks!

Tips for a positive start



Help your child to prepare for school by:

- o Talking about school with enthusiasm and being positive
- o Visit the school grounds in the weekends or holidays.

It is helpful if your child can:

- Recognise their own name
- Manage their own clothes and shoes
- Manage the toilet independently, wash their hands, and blow their nose
- Sit down for a short time and listen
- Follow simple instructions and ask for things they need

When you get to school

- Encourage your child to hang their bag up and get their book bag out.
- Say hello to the teacher and other children
- Remind them where the toilets are
- When the time comes, make goodbyes short. We have a lot of practice helping children settle in and managing an upset child.
- If your child is upset when you leave, we still recommend you leave anyway. Most children settle in 2-3 minutes. If your child does not settle, we will contact you. So please do not worry!

After school

- Expect your child to be very tired for the first few weeks.
- Let them adjust to being at home before asking too much about their day.
- Try and make a habit for your child to do the set 'home learning' each day – it should only take a few minutes and it is a great way for you to see what your child is learning at school!

Maths



In the first year at school your child will focus on becoming confident with numbers from 0-20.

This includes counting forwards and backwards, reading and writing numbers, and simple addition and subtraction.



Ideas for helping your child in Maths at home:

- Pointing out numbers, colours and shapes, in your local environment e.g., letter boxes, signs.
- Provide opportunities for your child to practice counting as they help you with simple chores e.g., Laying the table- “Can you put out 4 forks and 3 spoons”
- Talk about simple math problems e.g. “I need to make 2 sandwiches for you and 2 for your sister. How many will that be altogether?”
- Use math language with your child e.g., smaller, heavier, long, short, before, after etc.
- Let your child help with baking. This activity involves lots of math concepts.



Literacy – BSLA

.....

The Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) is a structured literacy approach for Year 0 to Year 2, to support children's early reading, writing and oral language success.

It has been developed specifically for our New Zealand educational and cultural context and controlled research trials have proven its effectiveness. It includes the **systematic teaching** of critical phonological awareness skills and letter sound knowledge skills through fun, games-based activities, activities making explicit links to the reading and spelling context, and structured small group reading sessions.

In addition, the approach includes explicit teaching of vocabulary skills and in building children's oral narrative and listening comprehension skills through quality children's story books. The Better Start Literacy Approach follows a structured phonics scope and sequence that is used in Rata class and small group reading teaching.



How to help your child with the reading:

- At the back of the little reading books there is some very helpful notes.
- Remember to give your children plenty of praise and encouragement. Your positive encouragement will motivate your children to keep listening and reading stories, which in turn, will help build important foundational learning skills for educational success.

Contact Information



Fiona Ruthven

Years 1 & 2 teacher

fruthven@temiro.school.nz



Michaela Phillips

Principal

&

Years 1 & 2 teacher

principal@temiro.school.nz



Te Ara Ki Te Maturanga ● Pathway to knowledge

Jennie Molloy

School office

07 827 8146

office@temiro.school.nz