

Hoiho Class Welcome Letter



Starting school is an important milestone and I feel privileged to be teaching Hoiho this year. I look forward to working with you and your child so that they have the best possible start to school! If you have any questions or concerns, please do feel encouraged to get in touch so that we can discuss. Michaela's email address is michaela.w@hinds.school.nz and Sarah's email is sarah@hinds.school.nz

Hero: Hinds School uses the Hero App to communicate with you and can use this app to report absences. I will send progress reports via this app too. On Hero is where important classroom notices will be posted and it is also a great way for you to keep in touch with what the children are learning each week.

Seesaw: This is our homework application that tamariki can do at home to support learning at school via their own account (this will be set up once your child has started full-time at Hinds School).

Absences:

If your child is going to be absent from school, please either put this onto Hero. If your child has not been enrolled yet, you can mail Miss Watt (michaela.w@hinds.school.nz) or Mrs Read (sarah@hinds.school.nz) or phone the school office in the morning and let Karen/Melissa know. If your child goes on the bus it is important that you let the office know if you are going to pick up your child at the end of the day.

It is important that if your child does not take the bus home each day and you collect them, to please sign them out with the teacher by the office. They will be holding a pink clipboard which is called the 'walkers list'.

The School Phone number is (03) 303 7208

If we do not know that you are collecting your child or where your child is at the end of the day, we can not send the bus until we locate your child. Please find your child's bus monitor to sign your child off the bus if you are collecting them from school at the end of the day.

Transitions:

Starting school is an exciting time. All children are different, some need more parental support than others when starting school. Keep expectations realistic and encourage confidence and independence during this time. Your positive attitude helps your child to adjust. This pack contains information about a regular day at Hinds School and any important information to do with learning that I thought you may like to know.

Beginning of the day

When coming for a visit, you can head to the office to be shown to our classroom or head straight to the classroom (Hoiho) any time after 8:30am to prepare for the school day.

In the early days of your child's school journey it may be helpful that your child arrives well before the school bell. We suggest dropping your child off at 8:40am to allow them to settle into the classroom and be ready for the school day.

Parents are welcome to stay for the first half an hour of their first visit to ensure your child has settled in. By the second or third visit we encourage parents to leave your child once at school and set up in the classroom. This is to help them have a smooth transition and start to the day, preparing them for when they start school full time.

Once your child has completed a few visits we ask that you say goodbye to your child at the door and encourage them to come and play (if the bell hasn't rung).

I strongly encourage you to let your child do their own morning jobs before school starts such as them putting out their own drink bottle, book bag, lunch box, etc. This is so they are familiar with this routine and starting to become responsible for themselves.

The Hinds School uniform is compulsory - please visit our school website for more information!

Hinds School Uniform Includes

Green school jacket (purchased through the school office)

Green quarter zip tunic sweatshirt (purchased through Mainland Uniforms)

Green quarter zip merino jumper (purchased through Mainland Uniforms)

Emerald Green Polo Shirt, available from September 2024 (purchased through Mainland Uniforms). Please note in the meantime a plain red polo is to be worn.

Plain navy trackpants (purchased through Mainland Uniforms).

CCC K Club plain taper leg cuffed navy trackpants are another acceptable option for all students:

<https://nz.canterbury.com/kids-tonal-long-length-tactic-short-in-navy/13689480.html>

Plain Navy Shorts (purchased through Mainland Uniforms). Navy CCC

Boys Tactic Tonal shorts are another acceptable option for all students.

<https://nz.canterbury.com/kids-tonal-long-length-tactic-short-in-navy/13689480.html>

Plain Navy Skort (purchased through Mainland Uniforms)

Navy socks or tights (to be worn with skort)

Sports shoes. Please note Jandals and Crocs are unacceptable.

Plain green sun hat (purchased from the Warehouse.) These need to be worn in Term 1 and Term 4. Responsibility of parents.

Sports Uniform - sports tops are provided by Hinds Home & School and are handed out at the start of the year or when your child starts. These are to be handed back at the end of the year. These are to be worn with navy shorts when attending school sports events.

Fluro vests: Students are required to wear their fluro vest on the bus and if they are walking or biking to and from school. Please ensure your child has a vest on as they are much safer. Vests are held in the School Office and allocated when your child starts school. Replacements can be purchased at the Warehouse. We are grateful for the local sponsorship we get towards fluro vests.

Hats: In term 1 & term 4 we wear school hats. These need to be our green or navy 'bucket hats' with the brim going all the way around, please no caps. If your child does not have a hat they will have to play under the archgola. No hat = limited play. We want to keep your child safe from the sun!

We have some limited items of second-hand uniforms available at the Office to assist with starting at Hinds School. Please enquire when you enrol your child. The second-hand uniforms are actively used by all students, and whānau are very good at sending in outgrown items.

Getting your child ready for school

Before your child starts school, it's helpful if they can:

- do up their shoes (if they can't we encourage velcro shoes until they can tie their own laces)
- put on and take off their coats
- Put sunscreen on their face and arms independently
- go to the toilet and wash their hands by themselves
- blow their nose
- unpack and hang up their bags where they are told
- recognise their clothes such as: shoes, sweatshirts, and raincoats
- recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water
- ask for things they need

- Get themselves changed and unchanged (we will be swimming in Term 1 and 4 and children will need to do this independently)

Ready to learn:

Children need to be able to -

- sit on a chair at a table for a short time to complete an activity
- sit and listen to stories
- know how to take turns, and wait for things
- recognize and write their name
- are comfortable being away from you
- engage in learning
- be able to sit during mat time
- sharing with others

Start/End of Day: The start of the school bell goes at 8.50am. Your child will need to arrive before this so that they have time to organise their belongings, greet classmates and their teacher and be ready to start their school day calmly.

Reading: Your child will participate in specific reading lessons Monday - Friday utilising a learning approach from the University of Canterbury (Better Start Literacy Approach). This means that they may not bring home a new book to read to you every night. The children will bring home their Poetry Book each Friday. This will include a poem that we will have studied in class. Over time these books can become very special and your child will hopefully enjoy reading the poems to you each week. I really encourage you to read to your child as much as you can. The children will visit the library weekly each Friday. Please enjoy reading books from the library to your child during the week and return them to school so they are able to get new books out.

Alphabet: Each week we will have a focus on specific alphabet letters (the letters of the week) and your child will focus on learning its name, sound and how to print it. You will be able to follow along and join in with this focus via Hero.

Mathematics: The class will focus on basic problem solving and number knowledge each week. There will be a focus on a specific number each week. Throughout the year we will also study the different strands including geometry, measurement and statistics.

Treasure Friday News: We have news and sharing times each day as part of our oral language programme. On Friday the children are encouraged to bring something from home to show and talk about. This might be a toy, picture, certificate or something that they have found e.g a shell.

Honey the Hoiho: We have a yellow eyed penguin (hoiho) toy called Honey. Each week, one child will be selected to take Honey home. When it is your child's turn, please take photos, draw pictures and help your child to write a simple story in Honey's diary. The

selected child will take Honey home on the Monday and return Honey to school on Friday. They will be supported by the class teacher to share Honey's diary in front of the class.

Kai (Food):

We have four opportunities for your child to be eating throughout the day. Please let your child know what is in their lunch box for snack break, morning tea, fruit break and lunch. We encourage healthy food options during the day and water.

Water bottles:

There is a space where the children can keep their drink bottle in the classroom. It is very helpful if they are clearly named to avoid any mix ups and water in their bottles please. Lunch boxes are also kept in the classroom.

Fruit/Veg Break:

Please ensure that your child has fruit or vegetables to eat during this time. It would be very helpful if you could have these prepared for the child (e.g. oranges cut or peeled), as we do not keep knives in the classroom. It is important for your child to have some fruit/veggies each day.

Pie warmers:

This term children can continue to bring food to go in the pie warmer which must be in a steel container or wrapped in tin foil. Food items include: mini pizzas, pies, sausages rolls etc. Make sure your child's food is **clearly named** with our class name Hoiho in vivid/sharpie. We have pens in the class you can always use.

Swimming: In terms 1 and 4 (in summer) we go swimming in our school pool as a part of our curriculum and to grow students' confidence being in water for when we have our annual swimming lessons in the middle of the year. Your child will need to bring their togs, a towel and goggles (if you have them).

Outline of daily timetable:

8:50am - start of school

9am - Morning Routine (roll, waiata, karakia, etc), Letters/handwriting & Math

10:30am - Morning tea break (sit down to eat food first)

10:50am Reading time

11:50am - 12:00pm Fruit break/shared book

12:pm - 1pm Writing time

1pm - 1:15pm Eat lunch on deck, sitting down and waiting until the teacher checks lunchboxes.

1:15pm - 1:50pm Lunch break

1:50pm - Tidy up & pack bags, inquiry/te reo/P.E.

3pm - Home time

Absences:

If your child is going to be absent from school, please phone the school office in the morning and let them know. If your child goes on the bus it is important that you let the office know if you are going to pick up your child at the end of the day.

****Please flick me a message too so I can then let your child know and have them in the right spot.**

The School Phone number is (03) 303 7208

If we do not know that you are collecting your child or where your child is at the end of the day, we can not send the bus until we locate your child.

We will aim to visit the library each Friday, please ensure that your child has brought their bookbag and books to school each day, especially their library books each Friday.

Finally, please make sure that you clearly **name** all of your child's belongings. We encourage the children to develop their independence and self management skills and naming their uniform, stationery, lunch box and drink bottle is really helpful. Please also make sure that they can fit their lunch box, drink bottle and jersey easily into their bag - their bag needs to be quite big. I have a lost property box in the classroom and there is a school lost property area as well. The children also need to be able to take off and put on their shoes by themselves and they need shoes that they can run in. The velcro shoes work well.

I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Nga mihi nui,

Michaela Watt (Miss Watt) & Sarah Read (Mrs Read)