

Welcome to Kaiapoi North School Te Kura ō Ruataniwha



Starting school at five can be an exciting and nervous time for children and their families. It is an important event in your child's life.

This booklet offers some ideas and suggestions to help make the day (and following days) go more smoothly.

If you have any questions please contact the school office or your child's teacher, they will be more than happy to help you.



School contact details:
Kaiapoi North School
278 Williams Street
Kaiapoi

Ph: 3278803

Email: office@kaiapoinorth.school.nz

Principal: Jason Miles jason.m@kaiapoinorth.school.nz

Deputy Principals: Dawn Anderson, Felicity Fahey, Steph Hunter

School website: www.kaiapoinorth.school.nz



The school office is open from 8.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. during term time.



Communication with Whanau:

Teachers communicate with families via the Hero app. This needs to be downloaded and it uses the email address you provide on enrolment. All notices, absences, and reporting is done via this app. Please download and sign up.

In addition, teachers share posts via Seesaw. You will be sent an invitation to join the Seesaw Family app once your child has started school.



Enrolment Procedures:

You may enrol your child using the online form, which can be found under the enrolment tab on our school website. If you require a paper form please contact the school office.

We encourage parents to enrol as early as possible before their child's fifth birthday. At least one term ahead is advisable.

Parents are welcome to make an appointment to talk with the Principal and have a guided tour of the school. We are required to take a copy of your child's birth certificate and an immunisation certificate is required for all New Entrant enrolments. The Ministry of Education also requires us to take a copy of a services bill or similar that shows your name and address to provide proof that you live within our school enrolment zone.

If parents wish to enrol children with diverse learning needs we recommend contact with the school is made much earlier, even six months before the child starts.

School Visits:

Before your child starts school the New Entrant teacher will make phone contact with you regarding visits. Normally there are four morning visits on Thursday mornings from 8.45 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. You are welcome to request more visits if you feel your child would benefit. For the visits please come to the school office at 8.45 a.m. and you will be shown to the classroom. We encourage parents to stay for the visits, however if your child is settled it may be possible to leave them at some stage. It is not expected that children will need their school uniform at the time of the visits.

For those children starting school in the new year, two morning visits are organised. On these occasions, the children meet with other children who will be in their class the following year and also their teacher.

You will receive a letter detailing the dates and times of visits following the phone conversation.

If possible, please bring your child's preschool learning portfolio to share with your child's teacher.

Starting School - The First Day

Please be at school by 8.45 a.m. to allow time for your child to prepare for the day and to socialise with the class teacher and peers.

School finishes at 3.00 p.m. however for the first few weeks you may find your child is very tired and needs to have a shorter day with pick up at 1.30 p.m. Please discuss this with your child's teacher.

Please also speak to your child's teacher if you have alternative arrangements for pick-up at home time.

We strongly encourage children to be self-managing and independent.

You can help by letting your child:

- carry their bag
- hang up their bag
- bring their reading folder into the classroom

The New Zealand Curriculum

"The New Zealand Curriculum is a clear statement of what is deemed important in education at a national level. It takes as its starting point a vision of our young people as lifelong learners who are confident, creative, connected and actively involved. It includes a clear set of principles on which to base curriculum decision-making. It sets out values that are to be encouraged, modelled, and explored. It defines five key competencies that are critical to sustained learning and effective participation in society and that underline the emphasis on lifelong learning."

Karen Sewell, Secretary for Education

At Kaiapoi North School we strive for personal excellence and value:

Respect

Reflect

Connect

Create

being Brave



A Typical Day in a New Entrant class:

8.30 a.m. Classrooms open

8.55 Ako Tahi time - a time for play, social interaction and focusing on our school Values and Beliefs (Connect, Reflect, Respect, Create and being Brave)

Fruit break

Literacy

10.55-11.20 Morning Tea

11.20 Literacy

12.50 -1.35 Lunch

1.35 Maths

Physical Education

New Entrant classrooms at Kaiapoi North School promote play-based learning. We appreciate the developmental stages of children and encourage flexible thinking, creativity, problem-solving and communication skills through guided play.

Friday is the day for the Arts and Topic inquiries.

We encourage parents to be involved in their children's learning.
Parent help within the class is appreciated and encouraged.

Oral Language:

The focus is on developing good listening skills, speaking clearly and loudly for others to hear, and asking appropriate questions.

You can help your child by:

- Giving your child time to answer questions
- Encouraging and valuing the questions they ask
- Including them in family discussions
- Encouraging them to listen to others
- Reading stories to them
- Showing them how to ask for help
- Telling them stories
- Encouraging your child to bring things along to school that relate to current learning

Reading

Our focus for reading is to develop a love of books and establish effective reading skills and strategies. Our particular focus is the development of phonological and phonemic awareness. We use a structured approach to teach literacy skills. We teach these skills explicitly and work through a particular scope and sequence. Your child's teacher can talk about this more with you.

You can help your child by:

- Making reading part of your regular routine
- Ensuring reading is enjoyable
- Provide opportunities to practise
- Talking about the book or story with your child
- Encouraging them to retell the story
- Read books to your child every day
- Join the local library and visit it regularly

Your child will bring home letter sounds and blending activities. <https://www.fivefromfive.org.au> is a site which explains our approach to literacy. There is a part which has [parent resources](#) which would be beneficial to look at.

Alphabet/ Sight Words

As part of early reading children need to be able to know the names and sounds of letters and also to recognise some Heart words (words to learn to read and spell by heart)

You can help your child at home by:

- Looking for letters in the environment
- Playing eye spy
- Reading letters in your family names
- Play alphabet and word bingo
- Reviewing and practising your child's home learning sound book

Writing

Our focus for writing is to encourage children to record their ideas on paper fluently and accurately. We have a strong emphasis on correct letter formation and pencil grip in the early years as well as learning to write the sounds for letters with automaticity.

Once children have a grasp of most consonant sounds they begin to record sentences themselves. Until then, their ideas are scribed by the teacher or shared orally.

You can help your child by:

- Reading to your child as often as possible to build vocabulary knowledge
- Practising correct letter formation when he/she brings home letter sounds
- Supporting your child when they are learning to spell Heart Words.

Mathematics

Our main focus in Mathematics is developing children's understanding of numbers. Other mathematical areas are covered in the year also e.g. measurement, geometry, statistics

You can help your child by:

- Encouraging your child to count groups of things
- Looking for numbers in the environment e.g. letter boxes, phone numbers...
- Solving simple real-life problems e.g. if Grandma and Grandad came for tea too, how many people will we have all together?
- Encouraging your child to count using their fingers or counters
- Playing board and dice games
- Asking your child how they figured it out.

Morning Tea and Lunchtime

Sometimes this can be overwhelming for the children when they first start school. You may find they don't eat all of their lunch in the first few weeks. If you have concerns please speak to your child's teacher.

You can help your child by ensuring he/she can:

- open the lunchbox
- open packets (or better still put "nude food" in their lunch box)
- unwrap their sandwiches.

Please include healthy options and remember we are a "drink water-only school." We encourage "nude food" to minimize rubbish and children are to take their lunch rubbish home with them.

Before and After School

There is before and after-school care available at Kaiapoi North School. This is run by SKIDS and information about this service is available from our school office.

Before school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30 a.m. until 8.55 a.m., there is toast available in our school hall for any child who would like it. This is run by parents on a roster system.

Class Sizes

Generally, we limit the class sizes in the junior school to 20 students, however, this is subject to change with unexpected enrolments or limited staffing.

In the Yr 3 and 4 area of the school classes normally have 23 students

Once children are in Yr 5-8 class sizes increase to around 28 students.

Important skills for your child:

Independence

Can your child open and close their bag?

Can they take care of their belongings?

Can they take off clothing and put it away in a sensible place?

At school they will be expected to do this for themselves as much as possible.

Social

A wonderful part of school is making friends. Your child needs to know how to make and maintain positive relationships. You can help by developing sharing and turn taking and also encouraging the use of manners and being polite.

Ready to Learn

There are some simple ways you can ensure that your child comes to school eager to learn. You can help by providing opportunities for your child to actively listen to instructions to complete simple tasks. Give them opportunities in which they can experience success and are congratulated when learning to do new things.

Talk to them so they know they are at school to learn lots of new things and provide them with chances to take risks, and encouragement to try things they may feel insecure about. We want children to understand that making mistakes is part of learning.

Your child becomes ready to read when you read them lots of books and take them places that they can talk about. These activities do not need to be expensive, just to the park or shopping, as long as they are talking to you about what they see and are challenged to look and think more closely.

Responsible

School requires responsibility.

You can help your child practise this by setting regular times to packing up toys etc. at home. Have clear and achievable expectations about what your child is expected to do, help them to be organised for this, and provide lots of praise when jobs are completed.

Learning

We understand that all children are different and as such we structure our programme to cater for each child's needs. Literacy and numeracy provide the bulk of our junior programme. Children work in small groups for literacy and numeracy.

Home and School

Education is a partnership between families and school. We welcome parent contact and greatly appreciate any help in the classroom you might be able to offer.

Please let your child's teacher know if there are any special circumstances affecting your child. If you have questions about your child's progress or the school's programmes please speak to your child's teacher.

We look forward to working with you to provide a quality education that meets the needs and interests of your child.