

Starting School at FIRTH PRIMARY



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www.firth.school.nz

Haere whakamua E tipu e rea - Go forward, Grow and flourish

Kia Ora & Welcome to the New Entrant Class & Junior Years at Firth Primary.

We hope that the following information and advice will assist both you and your child in making a smooth and happy transition to school routines and experiences.

Please remember that communication is a vital tool. Please ask if there is anything you are unsure of or wish to know. Also remember, that we cater better for your child if we are aware of problems or difficulties your child already has.

If your child is sick or has an accident at school you will be contacted immediately. Please remember to update any change to your phone number or the emergency contact number.

We have an open door policy and are happy to discuss your concerns at any stage. Alternatively, give us a call to arrange a time to meet.



Pre-School Visits

We suggest that you and your child make at least two morning visits to school prior to your child starting. This gives your child the opportunity to become familiar with the environment and to socialise with peers. Your child will be encouraged to join in with the class activity.

We also regularly have **'Fun in 1'** on Friday afternoons. See our website for details or contact the school office.

Enrolment Procedures

When enrolling your child at the office for the first time, the school requires a copy of:

- Birth Certificate as proof of age
- Immunisation Certificate

Please write down details of medical information/problems which may affect learning, as well as any parental/custody arrangements. School Donations & Paper Charge fees can be made at the office. An enrolment form can be done prior to their 5th birthday (we suggest when you come in for your pre-school visit).

Personal Belongings

Please make sure that your child has a LARGE school bag that is named on the inside (for your child's safety) and can be easily opened by the child.

Please name any item of clothing/footwear that your child is likely to take off as well as all swimwear and towels.

Unless an item is required for a specific reason or study, we actively discourage toys at school.



Stationery

At Firth we provide all of our learners with free start up stationery. However, each class may request a few extra items to help you learner, ask at the office for this list.

School Hours & Breaks

8.55am	School Starts <i>(any children arriving after this time MUST report to the office)</i>
10.20-10.40am	Morning Tea
11.40-11.50am	Brain Food Break <i>(cheese, fruit, crackers, yoghurt)</i>
12.45-1.30pm	Lunch <i>The children sit for the first 10 minutes to eat their lunch in a supervised area.</i>
3.00pm	School Concludes



We are proud to be a 'Water Only School'. We encourage healthy eating. Please save lollies and other sweet goodies for home.

Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP)

PMP is a coordination programme for our new entrant children that links physical movement to the brain. This programme helps develop their motor skills through a series of sequential movement activities using specialised equipment.



Reading

- Initially your child's reading will consist of saying the alphabet, learning the alphabet names and sounds and reading simple books.
- Reading books are not necessarily brought home every night. Reading may sometimes be a poem, a story written by your child, a worksheet, or a library book for you to read and share with your child. Please remember that reading to your child is very important! Don't ever stop!
- Eventually your child will progress towards 1 and 2 lines of text per page in their readers.
- A book may come home more than once to establish fluency, or reinforce a necessary skill.
- At this early stage, discussion about the pictures and making connections are important. "Talk is key".

Make sure that the time spent reading is enjoyable and relaxing and contains lots of praise and positive encouragement.



Playgrounds

There are two adventure playgrounds for our Firth children. We ask all children to wear shorts when playing in the sandpit and if they are playing out on the main field – especially in the winter months when the dew is heavy. This is to ensure children are warm and dry when in the classrooms.

Sunhats must be worn during terms 1 and 4 when the sun is at its strongest (our School provides sunhats).

There is also plenty of PE equipment to play with.



Bicycle Track

We are very lucky to have our very own bicycle track. Each child is fitted with their own helmet so they are set to enjoy the 61 bicycles we provide for our learners. The bikes are also available for lunchtime use.

Things You Can Do at Home

- ✓ Encourage your child to write their name, with a capital letter to start. eg, Daniel, Jade
- ✓ Cut with scissors
- ✓ Count to 10, recognize numbers to 5, then 10
- ✓ Learn the names of some colours



Parent Involvement

We are always keen to have parent involvement in our programmes and will endeavour to inform you of upcoming units of work so if you have an interest or expertise in these areas you can be involved at the appropriate times.

You are welcome to attend School Assemblies on Fridays at 9am.



We look forward to your child
going forward to grow & flourish
during their time with us.