

Starting School at Fairlie Primary

Visits

When will my child's visits start?

We will start visits about three weeks prior to starting school. Our main priority is to make your child feel comfortable and safe in the school environment, before they start full time. All children are different so we can tailor a transition programme to suit you and your child when we meet. Below is the structure for most children's visits:

- Visit 1: Morning visit - 8.45am- 10.50am (Parents are welcome to stay for this visit)
- Visit 2 : Half Day visit - 8.45am – 12.30pm
- Visit 3 : Full Day visit - Your child can come on the bus this day if you so wish. Please fill out the bus map and contact the Mackenzie College prior to arrange this.

What will my child be doing?

- On visits children will be exposed to different area of school life. They will participate in guided Maths, Writing, Reading & Phonics (Letterland) groups.



What does my child need?

- Your child will need their lunch box, a drink bottle, a large school bag, and a hat. For some summer visits, swimming togs may be needed.

What will my child learn?

- Independence from caregivers.
- Confidence in the school environment.
- Basic school routines.
- Trust in new adults and teachers.
- To make new friends.
- Appropriate school behaviour.
- Responsibility for their belongings.
- To eat at break times.
- Sharing and taking turns with others.
- Toileting independently.
- School orientation.



Skills to work on before school

What are the basic skills my child should have when they start school?

- The ability to communicate their needs to others, and to follow basic instructions.
- To toilet themselves independently.
- To dress and undress themselves independently, including tying shoelaces.
- Experience with scissors, glue, crayons and pencils.
- Experience with games - taking turns.

What are some other simple skills I can work on at home?

- Practice taking turns in a conversation.
- Describing things they are doing and seeing.
- Following instructions.
- Understanding what others are saying.
- Talking about the books you have read together.
- Use pictures to "read" a story.
- Retelling a story and sequencing the main parts.
- Reciting Nursery Rhymes.
- Singing songs.
- Participating in basic rhyme books.
- Learn to tell others who they are and where they live.
- Talking about things in nature and why they happen.
- Talk about colours of things.
- Talk about shapes of things and how they might feel.
- Counting aloud to 5, and then to 10.
- Counting back from 5, and then back from 10.



Frequently asked questions

When does my child need to start school?

Your child can start school from the day they turn five. Most children start on, or just after, their fifth birthday, but it is not compulsory to start until they are six. Once they are enrolled however they must attend daily.

My child has turned 4, what should I do?

Complete the enrolment forms and bring them to our lovely office ladies - it's as easy as that! They will check your enrolment documentation, and sight your child's Birth Certificate and plunket book. If your child was not born in New Zealand we will need to sight their passport.

You can also begin participating in our Jump Start afternoons in Term 4, we have these most fortnights. See our calendar on our website for days and times.

Please note it is your responsibility to contact our school to enrol your child. Neither Preschool or Kindy are able to enrol your child on your behalf.

Is there anything else I can do?

Follow our Facebook page - search for Fairlie Primary School on Facebook and you will find us. Also check out our website www.fairlie.school.nz. Come along to our events and join in the fun. It's never too early to become part of our school whanau.

I've got more questions who can I contact?

There's no such thing as a silly question. Our New Entrants teacher Courtney Cox is your first point of contact. Her email is courtney@fairlie.school.nz. Our office staff can be contacted on 03 6858 504 or emailed on office@fairlie.school.nz.