

Starting at Greenmeadows School



Welcome

Welcome to Greenmeadows School and the start of your child's school journey. To begin with your child will be a New Entrant in our Kōwhai Syndicate.

Our day is a balance of investigations (play-based learning), and other curriculum learning experiences.

We focus on fostering and teaching Foundation Skills in our learning programme. These are skills within hearing, seeing, movement, speaking and print that we aim to develop in our ākonga so that they are well-prepared for all areas of learning.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our kura and working alongside you as they learn, grow and achieve at Greenmeadows School.

Transition to School

Once your child is enrolled you will be contacted regarding the best way to support your child's transition to Greenmeadows School.

This will include some arranged visits in our transition class with a New Entrant teacher. These are weekly on a Wednesday from 9.00am - 11.30am.

These visits are an important way for your child to become familiar with school-life and their new surroundings. They will also have the opportunity to visit their first classroom and teacher.

You will be invited to a whānau information session to inform you about our school day and offer ideas to help your child as they transition to school. You will get to meet our wonderful team and other families starting school around the same time.

Self-Management Skills

Below are some skills that will help your child manage their needs during the school day:

- Take their sweatshirt on and off.
- Put on and do up their shoes/ take them off.
- Hang up their bag.
- Unpack their bag.
- Open and close their lunchbox.
- Blow their nose.
- Wash and dry their hands.
- Self-manage toileting procedures.

Foundation Skills for Learning

These are some skills that will support your child's participation in early learning experiences at school:

Moving

- Run, skip, jump, hop.
- Climb on playground equipment.
- Turn a page in a book.
- Sit for a short period of time.
- Hold and cut with scissors.
- Take lids off and put lids on pens.
- Hold a pencil with a triangular grip.
- Respect others personal space and bodies.



Speaking

- Use words in full sentences to say what they need and talk about their experiences.

Hearing

- Listen to a story.
- Follow simple instructions.

Seeing

- Recognise own name and belongings.

Investigations

We start the day with Investigation Time (play based learning).

Play based learning supports children in transitioning to school and provides authentic and meaningful learning opportunities at their own developmental stages.

In our Kōwhai classrooms you will see:

- Learning Centres such as a tinkering table, construction area, science and nature exploration areas, role play spaces, outdoor movement equipment and activities.
- Literacy and numeracy weaved into investigations.
- Opportunities for children to express their creativity.
- Children exploring their interests and passions.
- Explicit teaching of social skills within Investigation Time.



Literacy

At Greenmeadows School we teach literacy through 'The Code' which is a structured literacy approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling.

To begin with we focus on developing strong phonological awareness. This includes hearing individual words, hearing and generating rhyme, breaking words into sounds and hearing alliteration (e.g crawling caterpillar).

When the children are ready, they move on to decodable texts which they are able to read independently through their knowledge of sounds and tricky words (words they can instantly recognise).

Maths

Maths is taught in a hands-on and engaging way. We focus on conversation, hands-on learning, problem-solving and inquiry learning. Maths is weaved into Investigation Time through exploration and play and then taught explicitly each day.

Our maths programme links strongly with developing foundation skills. This includes:

- Seeing objects that are the same and different.
- Sorting and grouping items.
- Sequencing things in the correct order.
- Seeing and completing patterns.
- Collecting and counting sets of objects.
- Using comparison words such as big, bigger, biggest when talking about everyday experiences.



Sharing the Learning

Our home-school relationship is a priority. We endeavour to make connections in the following ways:

- Seeing you in person is important and we value finding out more about your child from you.
- We may contact you via phone, email and the Seesaw App.
We will share learning stories, classroom notices and other messages this way.

Each child will have a home learning book that comes home in their book bag. Your child's classroom teacher will share opportunities for them to practise their learning at home.

One of the most important and valuable ways in which you can support your child in their learning is to read rhymes and stories with them.

Ma te ako ka
tipu ka taea

Through learning we
grow and achieve

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