

Toko School New Entrant Pack



Quality learning for all in a caring community.

About us

Welcome to Toko School.

The partnership between home and school is crucial to ensuring student's success.

A quality education is the key to your child's future. Together we have a powerful influence on how your child will picture themselves as learners and achievers for the future. We want children to look back at Toko School and say that it prepared them well for a modern world. Our school is also a place where we live today. We need to set challenges and design pathways that makes learning powerful, meaningful and relevant. Toko School looks to the future by building on the best of the past and incorporating this with the knowledge of the present. We also seek new ideas and carefully evaluate changes that will lead to a better tomorrow.

Preparing children for their future.....



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Transition from home to school

The purpose of pre-school visits is for both child and parental familiarisation. They give the child the opportunity to become used to the environment and socialise with peers, whilst parents have the opportunity to get a feel for the school. It is a good time to become familiar with where classroom equipment is located, room number, teacher name, bag hooks, library, toilets, bells ringing, office and playground. We realise that all children are different - some needing more parental support than others. Your child may experience a variety of emotions when starting school. These could be: excitement.....enjoyment..... confusion.....tiredness etc. Keep expectations realistic and encourage confidence. Your positive attitude helps your child's adjustment.

We encourage 3 – 4 visits before your child starts school. Parents are asked to stay with their child during the first couple of visits. Visits can be scheduled at the following times:

9.00 – 10.40
11.00 – 12.30
1.30 – 3.00

On the third or fourth visit, if parents wish, your child can stay for a longer time and you may leave them on their own. During this time you can return home or go to the staffroom and have a cup of coffee.

Please call the school office to arrange your child's visits with Annette the school secretary.

On your child's first day we suggest that you arrive approximately 15 - 20 minutes before the school day begins and let your child begin to organise their belongings. Depart on a positive note soon after the bell has gone and your child is involved in an activity or happily settled in. Occasionally, children become very tearful when parents depart from the room, but experience has taught us that they do settle and if you are anxious a phone call can often ease any concerns.



Enrolment procedures

When enrolling your child at the office, the school requires proof of age and citizenship from a Birth Certificate / Passport and your child's immunisation form.

Details of medical information, allergies etc which may affect learning or require specific attention need to be noted, as well as parental/caregiver or custody arrangements. This may be done prior to their 5th birthday.

All children will need to purchase a school t-shirt that is to be worn at all school events. Stationery items are purchased through the school and will be organised by your child's teacher. Once your child has their stationery we ask that it is covered. Please arrange for the books to go home with the teacher. You can purchase these straight away or pay when an account is sent home.

Classification

Children enrolled at school when 5 years old are classified as new entrants and will be classified as below.

Year One- If a 5 year old new entrant begins prior to 30 April these children are regarded as Year 1 from the outset and move to Year 2 after their first year at school.

Year Zero- If a 5 year old new entrant begins school on/after 1st May these children are regarded as Year 0 from the outset and move to Year 1 after the completion of their 1st year at school.

Parents as first teachers

Children learn by example. They need to be involved and converse with adults who are interested and prepared to share ideas and experiences with them. Everyday happenings can provide an invaluable basis for learning at home and in the wider community. At school we encourage the development of INDEPENDENCE and it is important that you encourage your child to do as much as possible (within reason) for themselves. Have available such items as: Sand, shells, crayons, games, books, paper, magazines, boxes, glue etc. You will automatically be introducing your child to concepts of colour, shape, size and number by talking while they experiment. Talk with and to your child, drawing their attention to "things around them" when you are out in the car, at the beach, on the farm, park, shops, doctor etc. Children are curious by nature and ask lots of questions. It can build a great repertoire of words and knowledge for them.

Some tips for preparing your child for School

It would be helpful if your child could:

- Write his/her name or recognise it.
- Listen to a story and talk about it. The greatest preparation a child can have for reading/writing learning is book experience.
- Recognise some letters possibly at least those in their own name.
- Handle pencils/crayons. Be able to draw a simple picture.
- Dress and undress him/her self. (Swimming in summer).
- Recognise colours by name.
- Count to ten.
- Use scissors to cut simple shapes from paper.
- Recognise basic shapes.
- Be able to express their needs to the teacher.



ALSO:

School Bags: These need to be large enough to hold all the gear necessary for school i.e. book bag, lunch box, raincoat, spare clothing, swimming gear. Show your child how to pack his/her own bag at home, they have to do it for themselves at school.

Shoes: Tying shoe laces is difficult for most five year olds. Shoes are not allowed to be worn in class so children are putting on and taking off shoes several times a day. Shoes with valcro fastenings or other alternatives are easier than shoe laces.

Lunch: Let your child know what is in their lunch box for lunch and play lunch. We encourage healthy food options during the day and water. On Wednesdays children can bring food to go in the pie warmer. Food items include: mini pizzas, pies, sausages rolls etc. Our PTA also provide school lunches on and off over the year. Please read the newsletter to find out about this.

Clothing: It is most helpful if all clothing and belongings are named. Please ensure your child has a full change of clothes in their bag. We encourage children to wear comfortable clothing and sensible shoes to school. During Term 1 and 4 all children must wear a bucket hat when outside.

Newsletters: These are sent home each Thursday with the eldest and only child. We would prefer that newsletters were e.mailed.

Bus: If your child is going to catch the bus you will need to contact Tranzit Coachlines. After school all bus children must take their bags to the bus shelter. They can then go and play until the bus bell rings at 3.20. At this time all children line up in their bus lines. A roll is called and we wait for the buses to arrive. On each bus we have Year 7 or 8 monitors who are responsible for ensuring our children are well mannered and behave appropriately while travelling to and from school. The Principal has regular meetings with the monitors to ensure that all children abide by our school values.

Arriving at school: Social things happen before school so children who come late are disadvantaged as they are not ready for the day's learning and playing. 8.30 - 8.45am is a realistic time for your child to arrive to school if they are not catching the bus. This allows time to hang up their bag and get their belongings organised, talk to their teacher and chat with their friends.

Please ensure school bags, clothing and shoes are named.

Toko School is Quality learning for all in a caring community

We strive for an environment where all our children are personally known and valued, supported and secure.

We strive for children's success and development of responsibility.

We encourage all children and all parents to participate in school life and not just be spectators

**Our children will develop:
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
And make the
RIGHT CHOICES**



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Our vision of a Toko School Learning Star . . .



A Toko School Learning Star uses a range of thinking strategies confidently.



A Toko School Learning Star will wonder, seek and evaluate.



A Toko School Learning Star will express their own ideas and understands the ideas of others.



A Toko School Learning Star perseveres to achieve their best.



A Toko School Learning Star will take responsibility for their own wellness.

Further information about our Learning Stars is in our Introductory Book and on our school website.

What do we want for our children's future?

We don't know what the future will hold for our children, what jobs they will have, what knowledge they will need. BUT..... We know what is going to be vital. We want to develop learners that know what to do when faced with a problem. To learn, unlearn and relearn – exciting times ahead!



Useful websites

<http://nzmaths.co.nz/>

A wonderful site with a range of resources for Parents, students and teachers!

<http://www.toko.school.nz>

Our School website.

<http://www.dotolearn.com/>

A wide range of resources for learning at home.

<http://minedu.govt.nz/parents>

A Ministry of education website for parents.

Welcome to our school family. We are excited about assisting you and your family on your child's learning journey at Toko School.

*Arohanui
Kim Waite
Principal*