



Long Bay Primary School

[www.longbayprimary.ac.nz](http://www.longbayprimary.ac.nz)



## A Guide for Parents of Pre-School Children

Ensuring a smooth transition into school life

- Pre-school visits.
- Preparing your child for school.
- Developing Independence.
- Health and Well-Being.
- We are Long Bay Learners!

The teaching staff of the Long Bay School Junior Syndicate (Atatu Tahī) welcome you as Parents/Caregivers, and look forward to a pleasurable association with you.

We would like to share some positive ways that you can work with us to ensure your child has a smooth, happy transition to school life.

### Visits for Pre-school Children

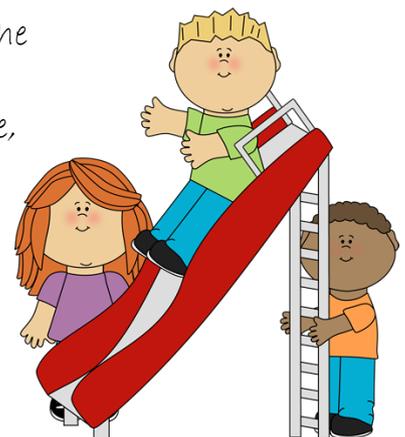
On Wednesday mornings, for up to 3 weeks before they are to begin school formally, the children can come for school visits:

8.55am-10.30am for the first two visits with parent in attendance and  
8.55am-12.30pm for the third visit.

Visits to school are special times in children's lives. They are beginning a new learning adventure! We ask that no pre-schoolers accompany you during your school visits. This allows you time to become more familiar with school routines, ask questions and helps you to give your child your full attention if needed.

Morning tea is from 10.30-10.50am. Parents and children are most welcome to stay for and enjoy Morning Tea with the class. We recommend providing a snack and drink. Please bring a hat for your child during the summer months.

All visitors who have stayed on for the latter part of the morning programme must be collected at 12:30 pm. Children are again most welcome to spend lunch time, eating and then playing with their class friends but must be supervised by parents/caregivers.



## What can I do to prepare my child for school?

Bring your child along for school visits prior to starting school.

Talk to your child about starting school to develop an awareness of what school is all about.

The school day begins at 8:55 a.m. Children settle better if they are early enough to unpack themselves and have a little play. Children can work quietly in the classroom after 8:30 a.m. The junior children are able to play on the **BLUE** coloured section of the playground. Children are welcome to play on the playground after school with adult supervision. They are, however, not allowed to play on the playground before school.

### Developing independence

Encourage your child to take responsibility for belongings and to develop a sense of ownership about school. Can your child recognise their own clothes, shoes and bag? Have your child carry their own school bag in the morning, unfasten/fasten their bag, and independently return their book bags into the classroom.

All clothing, bags, lunchboxes, drink bottles are to be named please.

If your child is having problems separating from you in the mornings, please make sure you arrive early, well before the bell.

It is a good idea to find a buddy for your child to play with. Let your child know when you are leaving and place your child in the teacher's care if needed. Class teachers are able to comfort and support new entrants more easily before the majority of the class arrives. Work towards your child entering school by themselves or with a friend. If you are concerned about anything, please ask. We are happy to help.



Please can you ensure that you have your child's full and correct stationery available on the first morning or prior to starting school. Your child will develop more of a sense of belonging by having the same special items as everyone else in the class.

Toys in school: Toys or non-school items such as bracelets can be a distraction in class and are very likely to go missing. We would therefore ask that **all non-school items are left at home** unless it is a very special item for news.

Home time is 2:55 p.m. The end of the day is a busy time and we would ask that you now wait away from the classroom, by the blue benches, to enable the children to organise their belongings.

## Health and Well-Being

Please ensure that your alert office staff if your child needs medications administered at school. Medicines, including asthma inhalers, must not be sent with your child in their bag.

**Water:** It is essential that every child comes to school with a water bottle. Young children find it very hard to drink adequately from a fountain. Unfortunately, fruit juices and sparkling drinks make everyone more dehydrated. Water is cheap, helps a person concentrate and wards off tiredness.

**Teach your child to fasten their school shoes** (velcro fasteners are ideal when a child first starts school). Prompt your child to remove outer clothing such as sweatshirts if they are hot or to fasten buttons, zips or bows if they need to warm up.

**Does your child know the correct toileting procedures?** Flush the toilet, wash hands etc. Apart from the regular toilets at school, the boys also have a urinal.

**Can your child blow their nose?**

**Sunhats must be worn during the summer heat of terms of 1 and 4.** We encourage parents to purchase a school hat (the bucket hat is most practical) and leave it in school for your child's daily use.

**Lunch time** is from 12:30 p.m. The children are supervised during lunch eating. Please be aware of what constitutes a moderate amount of food for your child at lunch time. Some children struggle to get through the amount of food packed in their lunch boxes. Try to avoid too many high sugar, high colour foods and drinks. These can have an impact on children's behaviour and energy levels for the rest of the school day.

Please don't send **any nuts** or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.

We are a wrapper-free school at Long Bay Primary!

Please be aware that New Entrant children do get very tired and take a little while to adjust to long school days and routines. Parents are welcome to collect their child early or spend a day resting at home on occasion. Please do notify the class teacher if you wish to pick up your child earlier.



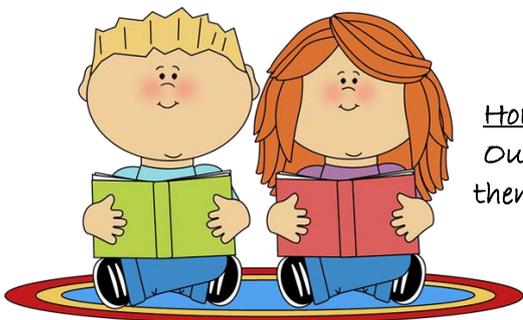
## We are Long Bay Learners!

### Reading, Writing and Mathematics

It is helpful if your child can do all or some of the following...



- write his/her name using an initial capital letter - followed by lower case letters. Please try not to teach your child in upper case letters.
- recognise and write most letters of the alphabet (uppercase and lowercase) and know the correct letter sound.
- practise the basic handwriting script and encourage correct letter formation.
- Count by rote to 20 and beyond; count objects to 10 with accuracy; recognise and write the numbers from 1-10.
- recognise colours and know basic shapes such as triangle, circle, square and oblong.



#### Homework

Our aim is to create in children a love of books, and to lead them towards being independent readers.

Every child should have some reading 'homework' each night. This includes poems, library books, instructional readers, and books the children have chosen themselves.

We ask that Parents/Caregivers listen to their child read daily and share reading experiences with them:

- talk about the pictures (please do not cover up the pictures).
- help your child to point to each word.
- encourage your child to gain meaning from the story.
- resist jumping in and correcting errors, (count to five)
- ask questions like... "Does this make sense?" "What does it start with?"
- encourage your child to re-tell a story in their own words
- words are everywhere - when you go shopping or on outings, read signs and labels together.

**Book bags:** Please help your child get into the habit of looking after books and returning books in book bags. The book bags protect our precious readers and library books from the rain and food/drink spills.

## New Entrant Assessments

Assessments are made to accurately gauge the progress that each child has made during the initial weeks at school. Results from this, plus informal observations and information from parents are used in planning, to meet each child's individual needs.

Once your child has completed six weeks at school, you will receive a report outlining how your child has settled into school. It also details your child learning goals in reading, writing and numeracy. There will be an opportunity for you to discuss the report and initial assessments with your child's teacher by invitation. Please do use this opportunity to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.



Parent Help in Classrooms: We welcome parent help in a variety of ways, so if you have some spare time and would like to help out in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

Parents are always welcome to come and discuss any concerns they may have about their child's well-being or progress. Please feel free to email as well. Sometimes things can be discussed or clarified before or after school, however, if you require a longer interview it is advisable to make an appointment. We aim to provide a happy, secure caring environment with each child actively involved in the learning process.

We look forward to sharing this special time in your child's development with you!

Long Bay Junior School (Atatu Tahī) Teaching Staff

