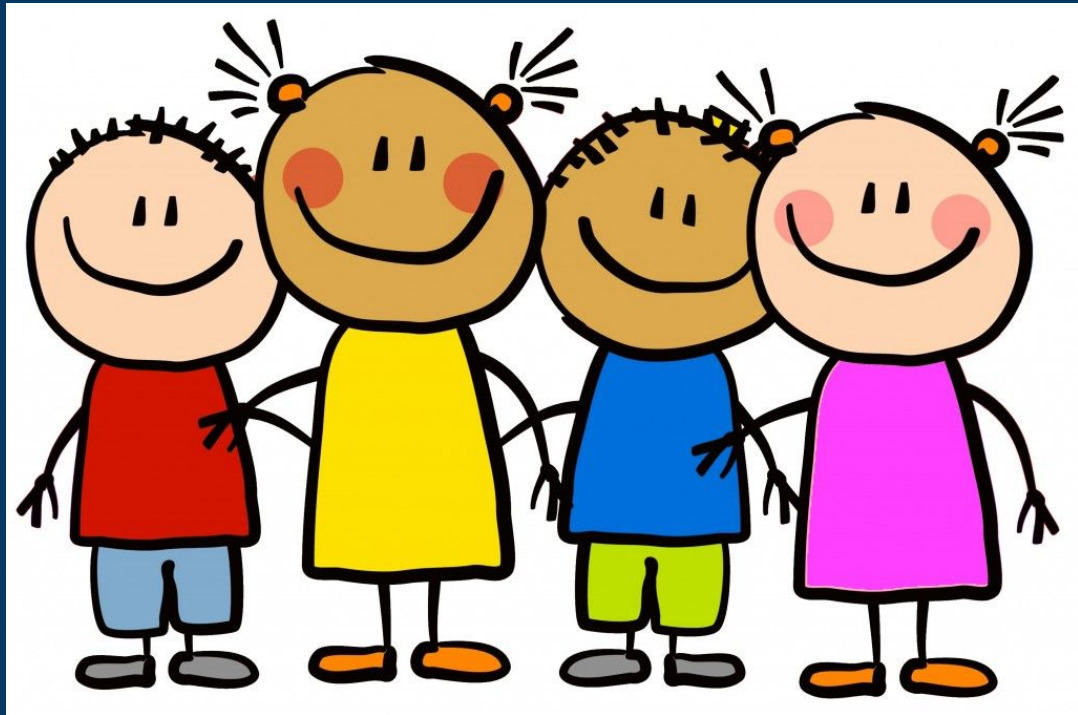


‘Now I am 5’



A guide for new entrants and their families
to starting at Te Ao Mārama School



Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to the Pukeko Team at Te Ao Mārama School. Starting school is an exciting time and we are very pleased to have you and your child join us.

Team Introductions...



Kia ora, I'm Sarah!

I grew up in Kerikeri, in the Bay of Islands. I have family living in the UK and Germany. My husband Andrew and I have two children, Blake (3) and Taylor (1). I love spending time with my family, swimming, playing and watching sports, getting outdoors, reading and going to the beach.



Kia ora, I'm Donna!

I grew up in Kawerau. I have family all over New Zealand and Australia. My husband Jason and I have three amazing children, two at RHS and one at University. I love spending my time with my family, going to the beach, reading, and doing art and craft.



Nau mai haere mai, I'm Anna

I am from the beautiful and sunny East Coast and grew up mostly in Gisborne. I am married to Joe and have four children, two of whom will be at te Ao Mārama and the other two are at Rototuna Junior High. I am passionate about education, photography, films and music.



Kia ora Koutou, Ko Sandra tōku ingoa.

I was born in Auckland and grew up in Hamilton. My Mum is from Kiribati and my Dad is from England. My partner is Hone and I have 3 children who whakapapa to Ngaitai on the East Coast, Tia (16), Xavier (13) and Eboni (9). I love sport. My favourite place is at the beach.



Hello, I'm Linda!

I grew up in Richard's Bay, in South Africa. I have family living in South Africa and the United Kingdom. My husband Shaun and I have two children Kayleigh (11) and Kade (7). We enjoy bike riding, water skiing and spending time on the beach!



Kia ora

Welcome to Te Ao Marama School. We are very pleased to have you join our whānau.

Your pre-school visits will be on _____
from 8:15am- 11:10am (our first teaching block of the day).



At your visits you will learn all about Te Ao Mārama so that you and your family feel really happy about starting school.

On each pre-school visit please meet us with your parents or caregivers at **8:15am in Te Aroha**, our community space just by the school office.

The grown ups with you will need to stay at school with you for **each** visit and you will need to bring a **lunchbox** with some healthy snacks inside it as well as a **water bottle**.

Visit 1: Meet and greet, school tour, observe the learning space in action, Whanau Orientation 1,

Visit 2: You will be met by your whanau teacher in Te Aroha and taken to your learning space. Parents and caregivers remain in Te Aroha for Whanau Orientation 2.

Visit 3: Go directly to meet your whanau teacher in the learning space. Your parents/caregivers are welcome to stay for the morning session with you.





New Entrant FAQ

How do I Enrol my Child?

You are encouraged to pre-enrol your child from their 4th birthday. This enables us to plan for their arrival and have everything sorted to help enable a smooth transition into school. You can enrol your child via the school [website](#)

What is the process for school visits and transition from Early Childhood Education Centres?

Once your child is enrolled we will contact you to arrange three transition to school visits close to the time they will start at Te Ao Mārama. The aim of these visits is to familiarise the your child with school, their teachers and the other children in the learning community. There is also a chance for new families to connect with each other, find out about more information about our school and to answer any questions you might have. Transition visits are held on Tuesday mornings. To further strengthen the transition process we are also in close contact with the early education centres where the majority of our students attend.



What are the stationery requirements?

The stationery list is [HERE](#) or via myschool.co.nz. We encourage you to order stationery online as it saves you time and helps to ensure we have all the items required.

Where will my child be placed?

Your child will be placed into a learning community with their peers and one or two other teachers. They will become a member of a whānau group with one whānau teacher. Your child will begin and end each day in this group. Any pastoral or learning needs you have about your child should always be addressed to this teacher first.

What is the cut off date for Year 1 or Year 0?

At Te Ao Mārama the cut-off birthdate for children to move from Year 1 to Year 2 is 30 April/end of Term 1. This means that in general, children who start school in Term 1 will be considered Year 1 and will move into Year 2 in the following calendar year. In general, children who start in Terms 2,3 and 4 will be considered Year 0 and will move into Year 1 in the following calendar year.

What food should my child bring to school?

We have a healthy eating policy and encourage parents and students to limit sugary or overly processed food. Please bring water only to school for drinking. Students are to only eat the food they bring from home. Eating of morning tea and lunch is supervised and uneaten food and rubbish is taken home in the lunchbox to minimise waste at school and also so that parents and caregivers can see what has or has not been consumed.

What will the learning be like for my child at Te Ao Mārama?

Learning experiences will be based within the New Zealand Curriculum, our school vision, values and principles. Reading, Writing and Maths will remain important but there will also be a focus on Learning through Play, Inquiry through Play and the holistic development of all of our students.



How is the school day organised?

8am - children welcome on site
8:20am - Families and students welcome inside learning spaces
8:40am - School starts - Whānau Time
9am - Session 1
10:40am - Break time
11:10am - Session 2
12:30pm - Break time
1:15pm - Session 3
2:15pm - Whānau Time
2:30pm - School Finishes

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

- Fill out the Student Profile (please see pg 7) and bring this to your child's first preschool visit. This will help us to begin to learn about your child in advance of them starting school.
- Write a Teacher to Parent Letter (pg 8) to your child's whānau teacher about your child
 - Talk to your child positively about starting school.
- Help your child to learn how dress themselves and care for personal belongings.
 - Clearly label all possessions your child brings to school with his/her full name.
 - Help them learn to write their own name.
 - Make sure your child can toilet themselves.
- Help your child learn to blow their nose with a tissue and to cough and sneeze into their elbow.

How can I help once school begins?

- Get up early so that you have plenty of time to get ready for school each day.
 - Try to send your child to school on time each and every day.
- Initially go with your child into their learning space greeting your child's whānau teacher.
- Show or remind your child where the toilets are and any other important pieces of information such as where they will be collected at the end of the day.
- Make goodbyes short. Encourage your child to join into an activity then give a hug or a kiss and depart promptly with confidence. If there are any issues our teachers are very experienced in settling children. We will always contact you if there are any ongoing issues.



What can I expect after the very first school day?

- If you pick up your child from their learning space please feel very welcome to attend our **Whānau Time** at the end of each day at 2:15pm - where we encourage student reflection about their learning. Afterwards you may wish to ask your child's whānau teacher how the first day went. If there are a lot of new children starting school please be mindful of others and patient with the process as a lot of mums and dads will also want the same information.
- A **simple progress card** will be sent home with your child **each day for the first week** they are at school and will indicate how they are settling in.
- Expect your child to be very tired in the first few weeks as they adjust to new routines.
- Listen to your child with their readers each day. Ask them questions about what they have read or how they might relate to the text.
- After one month at school your child's whānau teacher will arrange to have a meeting with you to discuss how the transition is going and answer any questions you may have.

How can I keep myself informed about school news and events?

Information about our school will be available in the following places:

- School newsletter
- Facebook Page
 - Website
- Digital signage

How will I know about my child's learning at school?

- Learning will be shared regularly through LINC-ed, our student management system.
- Join your child in their learning space for Whānau Time, held daily in the learning spaces at 2:15pm.

What do I do if I have a concern?

If you are worried about your child's learning or wellbeing, speak to their whānau teacher first.



Student Profile Template

(A chance for us to learn more about your child. Please note the template below is just a suggestion, the information about your child can come to us in any format, drawing, poster, letter etc... and you are very welcome to help the children write, or to write for them if they are wanting to use words)

Please give completed profiles to your child's whānau teacher during their pre-school visits.

Nau mai haere mai ki Te Ao Mārama School

Ingoa - Name

Interests/hobbies

Ko ahau tēnei
(insert a photo of
your child here)

Birthday

**Previous kindy, daycare,
preschool etc...**

**Favourite Food and
Drink**

Special and interesting other things about me...



Parent to Teacher Letter (example)

(A chance for parents and caregivers to tell us more about your child, their backgrounds, their interests and what you would like for us to focus on with your child etc...)

Dear Anna (please insert whanau teacher's name)

I am delighted that my daughter Ruby will be joining your learning community this term. Ruby is the youngest of our 4 children and is really excited about starting school.

Ruby is often quiet around new people but usually becomes quite outgoing once she establishes positive relationships with others. At times, Ruby is not very assertive around others, we would welcome any opportunities for Ruby to grow in this area.

Ruby has been a member of Cumberland Early Learning Centre for the past 3 years. While there she was a confident learner, especially interested in dramatic play and creative pursuits such as dance and art. We would love Ruby to continue to have plenty of opportunities to explore the arts and develop her interest further.

We want to have a really positive relationship with the school, thinking of it as "team Ruby"! So please let us know of any worries or concerns you have about Ruby as soon as you see them. We also, of course, want to hear about all the good stuff too happening in Ruby's learning.

Our family are excited to meet you (especially Ruby of course!) and we look forward to the start of our pre-school visits to Te Ao Mārama School where we can start to get to know you and all that is awesome about this new school.

*Sincerely
The Pratt Family*

