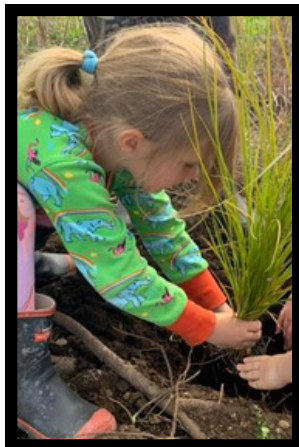


Starting School

Starting school at five can be an exciting and nervous time for children and their families. It is an important event in your child's life.

We look forward to welcoming your child and family to Hauroko Valley Primary School.

This information is intended to help with some ideas and suggestions to help make the big day (and following days) go smoothly. If you have any questions, please contact the school office; they will be more than happy to help you.



Enrolment Procedures

We encourage parents to contact the school as early as possible prior to their child's fifth birthday – at least 10 weeks in advance is advisable.

You will be given enrolment forms to complete and Hauroko Valley Primary School staff will be able to answer any questions you may have. Parents are welcome to a guided tour of the school.

We are required to take a copy of your child's birth certificate and an immunisation certificate from a doctor. This is required for all New Entrant enrolments.

If parents wish to enrol children who have any special needs, we recommend that contact is made at an earlier stage – even up to six months to a year prior to the child starting.

Our school office is open
between 9.00am and 1.00pm
during term time.

Make contact via

032266753

or email

office@haurokovalley.school.nz

School Visits

Prior to your child starting school, they will be booked for 2-4 morning visits to our New Entrant classroom.

All visits happen on a mutually agreed time made by the parents and classroom teacher. Please come to the office by 8:45 am and you will be shown around our place.

All students starting at Hauroko Valley Primary School must have a school uniform. Samples of school uniforms can also be viewed from the school office at this time and ordering support is provided.

It is not expected that children will have their school uniform at the time of their visit but it certainly does make them feel a part of the class.

Teachers would prefer you to make alternative arrangements for preschoolers during these visits.

You are welcome to stay with your child for some of the visit. Depending on how settled your child is, you may be asked to leave them in class, at some stage.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Kirsty Erskine our New Entrant Classroom teacher at k.erskine@haurokovalley.school.nz



Starting School

You will need to come to the school office to complete the enrolment procedure before going to the classroom. You and your child will then be shown to the classroom where you both will be welcomed by the class teacher.

The school day starts at 8.50 am. It is a good idea to be at school by 8:40 am to allow time for your child to prepare for the day and to socialize with the class teacher and their peers.

School finishes at 3.00 pm and we ask all parents of New Entrant children to collect their children from the classroom (unless travelling via bus). Please wait outside the Kowhai class for your child.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have alternative arrangements for home time. While your child is a 4-year-old, legally they are unable to travel via school bus independently.

Children need to develop independence by packing and unpacking their own bag and managing their belongings.



You can help by letting your child:

- Carry their own bag
- Hang up their bag
- Put their reading book bag in the classroom

Morning tea and lunchtime can initially be overwhelming for children when they first start school and you may find they don't eat all their lunch in the first few weeks of school. As they become used to the morning tea and lunchtime routines this will change. If you have any concerns, please talk to your child's teacher.

You can help by making sure your child can/are:

- Open their lunch box and drink bottle
- Open packets of food, eg. chips, muesli bars (snipping the corner or semi-opening the packet is helpful)
- Unwrap their sandwiches
- Independent, which grows over time
- Social, so can listen and talk with others
- Ready to learn
- Responsible for their belongings



Social

A wonderful part of school is making new friends.

As part of our school learning through the New Zealand Curriculum Key Competencies and our Haurko Valley Primary School Values, we support your child to make and maintain positive relationships with others.

You can help by developing sharing and encouraging your child to expect equal relationships of giving and turn-taking.

Teach your child about using manners and being polite so they will know how to think and act socially.

Responsible

School requires a child to become responsible. You can help your child practise responsibility by setting regular times for packing up toys etc. at home. Have clear and achievable expectations about what your child is expected to do and help them to be organised for this.

Independence

Encourage your child to be independent when dressing, by choosing clothes they can fasten themselves (eg. shoes with velcro straps, etc.).

Make sure they can open and close their bags and lunch boxes and know how to sit and eat their food.

Help them learn to care about their own belongings. They need to be able to take off their own clothes and put them in a sensible place so they remember where they are.

At school, they will be expected to do all of this for themselves, with support from classroom teachers and support staff, as needed.

Over time they will be developing more and more independence.

Ready To Learn

There are some simple ways you can ensure your child comes to school ready to learn. You can help by providing opportunities for your child to actively listen to instructions to complete simple 1-2 steps or tasks. Give them opportunities in which they can experience success and are congratulated when doing new things.

Talk to them so they know they are at school to learn lots of new things and provide them with chances to take risks, and encouragement to try things they may feel insecure about.

Your child becomes ready to read when you read them lots of books and take them to places that they can talk about.



Learning at Hauroko Valley Primary School

For New Entrants our goal is to firmly establish the key skills required for literacy and numeracy success and to build upon the work you as parents and your child's Early Childhood Centre have begun.

We know all children are different and as such we structure our New Entrant programme to cater to each child's needs.

Alphabet knowledge, essential words, concepts about print, emergent reading and writing, as well as a comprehensive numeracy programme provide the bulk of our Junior Class programme.

All New Entrant children will bring home readers in their book bags to read with you.

We ask you to help with foster independence by encouraging your child to get their reader out, read to you and then put it away in their school bag ready for the next day. These book bags come to school every day with your child.

Please support your child, by filling in the Home Reading Diary with the text read. Include reading night numbers for each day they read, and write a comment and sign to indicate reading has been completed. This supports our home and school partnership.

Home and School

Education is a partnership between parents and teachers. Staff welcome parent contact and also appreciate any help in the classroom you might be able to offer.

Please let your child's teacher know if there is anything that will help us as we get to know your child as a learner.

If you have any questions about school programmes or your child's progress, please ask the class teacher.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to provide a high-quality educational programme that meets the needs of your child.

Communication

Keep up to date with our school dates and events through our;

- Weekly School Newsletter - out Friday's via our Skool Loop App and emailed to home addresses
- Skool Loop App (download this and select Hauroko Valley as your school)
- FaceBook Page - Hauroko Valley Primary School

“The New Zealand Curriculum

The New Zealand curriculum is a clear statement of what is deemed important in education at a national level. It takes as its starting point a vision of our young people as lifelong learners who are confident and creative, connected, and actively involved. It includes a clear set of principles on which to base curriculum decision-making. It sets out values that are to be encouraged, modelled, and explored. It defines five key competencies that are critical to sustained learning and effective participation in society and that underline the emphasis on lifelong learning.” – Karen Sewell, Secretary for Education

Oral Language

Our focus is on developing good listening skills, speaking clearly, with volume for others to hear, and asking appropriate questions.

You can help your child to become a better speaker and listener by:

- Giving your child time to answer questions and encouraging them to ask questions
- Encouraging them to join in family discussions and encouraging them to listen to others
- Showing them how to ask for help
- Telling them stories
- Encouraging your child to bring an item to show and talk about during news time – eg. photos, books, insects, cultural items, own arts and crafts.

Reading

Our focus for reading is to develop a love of books and establish reading skills and strategies

You can help your child by:

- Making reading part of your regular routine and ensuring reading is enjoyable
- Providing opportunities to practise
- Talking about the book with your child and encouraging them to retell the story
- Encouraging your child to use the pictures to help with understanding
- Read books to your child daily, find books that tap into your child's interests and imagination
- Join your public library and visit it regularly

The books that your child brings home should be easy for them and enjoyable. Please ensure books are returned to school.

As part of developing early reading skills, children need to be able to know the sounds of letter names. These skills are prerequisites for reading and writing to occur.

You can help your child at home by:

- Looking for letters in the environment
- Playing ‘eye spy’
- Alphabet and word bingo
- Flash cards identification of letters of the alphabet

Written Language

Our focus in writing is to encourage children to record their ideas on paper.

You can help your child at home by:

- Encouraging them to write their names
- Encouraging them to hold a writing tool and write
- Talking about their message
- Not writing for them
- Writing letters and notes to friends and relations
- Drawing a story
- Writing numbers or the alphabet

Maths

Our main focus in Maths is on developing children's understanding of number concepts. Other mathematical areas that we cover are algebra, geometry, measurement, and statistics.

You can help your child at home by:

- Encouraging your child to count lots
- Looking for numbers in the environment (on letter boxes, license plate numbers, etc.)
- Solving simple real-life problems – eg. if Grandma and Grandad come for tea, how many people will we have altogether?
- Encouraging your child to use counters or count using their fingers
- Encouraging them to play board games
- Asking your child to tell you how they ‘figured it out’

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate you talk to your child's teacher.



Hauroko Valley Primary School Values

Hauora/Wellbeing

- at HVP we CARE for our people and place through our guardianship/kaitiaki and manaakitanga/care.

Village/Kainga

- At HVP we CONNECT. There is strength in our kotahitanga/unity and whanaungatanga/relationships with others.

Perseverance/Te Manawanui

- at HVP we CAN-DO. We keep trying even if it's hard. We know you have "to do the mahi, to get the treats"

Success/

- at HVP we CELEBRATE our unique place/turangawaewae and our progress in learning and achievements.

Learning Through Play

Learning through play is a pedagogical approach where play is the valued mode of learning – where children can explore, experiment, discover, and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways. Learning through play is also called play-based learning.

Learning through play forms the pedagogical foundation of Te Whāriki, New Zealand's Early Childhood Curriculum. It is also becoming a more common approach to learning in junior primary classrooms.

At Hauroko Valley Primary School we utilise this during Discovery Times on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm-3.00 pm.

Learning through play is distinct from the broader concept of play. Learning is not necessary for an activity to be perceived as play, but learning is fundamental to learning through play.

An effective learning-through-play programme enables children to engage in self-directed play that is internally motivated. Teachers can support children in play-based learning by providing an enabling environment and sensitive interaction. There is a role for the teacher to discuss, embed, and extend the learning with students.



Hauroko Valley Primary School Contacts

Hauroko Valley Primary School Administrator -
Karen Reid - office@haurokovalley.school.nz
03-2266753

Kowhai Class Teacher - Kirsty Erskine -
k.erskine@haurokovalley.school.nz

Principal - Julia Waikato -
principal@haurokovalley.school.nz

New Entrant Handbook