



Geraldine Primary

Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve

Whaia e koe te iti Kahurangi

New Entrant Information



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www.geraldine.school.nz
or follow us on Facebook

Welcome to Geraldine Primary School & Room 6.

My name is Andrea Bathgate and I teach the New Entrant class at Geraldine Primary. I have taught this age level for many years and love the enthusiasm, energy and excitement five year olds bring to learning.

Young children go through many transitions but one of the most important is moving from early childhood education to primary school.

This information is designed to help you understand what you can expect from your child while they are in Room 6 and have an understanding of what happens on a daily basis.

It is really important to me that your child has a successful transition to school and that they start the next step of their learning journey in a positive way and feel happy, safe and secure in their new environment.

I realise it can be an anxious time for both you and your child but, rest assured, I have your child's best interests at heart and I will do my best to ensure they are happy and settled.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at andreab@geraldine.school.nz

What your child should know before starting school.

Children learn at different paces and in different ways.

Your child will start from where they are “at” with no set expectations about what they should already know.

There are however some skills that would be helpful and these are mainly around independence:

- Communicate their needs
- Manage their belongings
- Toilet themselves and wash their hands.
- Dress themselves
- Use tissues and blow their nose
- Get their shoes and socks on by themselves
- Follow instructions
- Share and take turns

If they can also do some of these things, then that would be a great start:

- Recognize and write their own name
- Know some letters and letter sounds
- Count to 10
- Hold a pencil correctly
- Use scissors

If they are unable to do some of these things, do not worry, they will learn them at school.



Enrolment and School Visits

You can contact the school at any point and ask for the enrolment forms.

You would then need to fill these in and return them to the school office.

Our office email address is:
office@geraldine.school.nz

You are welcome to email me or ring the school office to arrange school visits. The Principal would be happy to meet with you and give you a tour of the school and answer any questions you may have.

If your child attends an early childhood centre, they will bring them for a visit, often with a group of other children who are also starting soon.

You are then welcome to bring your child for a couple more visits in the weeks leading up to their start day.

Parents are welcome to stay for the first visit but we encourage you to leave your child, when they are settled, for the next visits to help with their independence.

School Uniform

Information about this is in the enrolment pack or on our website.

Children coming for school visits do not have to wear school uniform unless they wish to do so.

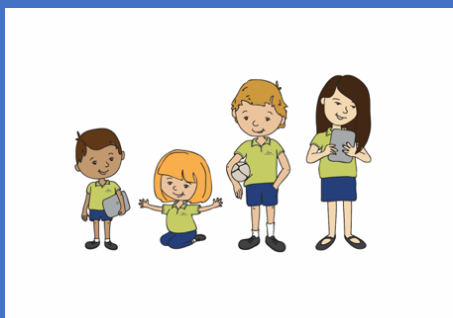
School shoes need to be suitable for participating in physical education lessons. If your child is unable to tie shoelaces please do not send them to school in lace up shoes.

PLEASE make sure all items of clothing are clearly named. Show your child where to find their name so they can identify their own belongings.

In case of toileting accidents, it is a good idea to have a spare change of clothes in a pocket of their school bags.

Sunhats are required to be worn in Terms 1 and 4.

We swim daily at the end of term 4 and the start of term one. Can you please ensure children have a separate bag for their togs and towels and that these are all named. The children can wear swimming goggles and swimming caps if they choose to.



Stationery

A stationery list is available from the school office. The Page & Post booksellers in Geraldine put together a NE pack. The reading folder is available from the office. If your child is starting nearer the end of the year, come and have a chat to me as they may not need the full list.

What to bring to school on your first day

School stationery – if you have this ready before the first day and are able to bring it on one of the visits that would be really helpful.

- Covering books is not a requirement, but it is a good idea, as it keeps the books tidy and makes it easier for them to identify their own books.
- If children have a pencil case they are welcome to bring that to keep in their tray.
- Drink bottle (named) – this can be placed in the tray in the classroom. There are drinking fountains that are available to be used.
- Morning tea and lunch in a lunch box.
- We have a healthy snack break at 10am, while a story is read to them. This can be brought into the class in the morning and kept in their tray. Food suitable for this is fruit, cheese and crackers, vegetables etc. It makes it easier for the children if this is in a separate container to their lunchbox
- Terms 1 & 4 only- school hat and swimming togs.

Remember – please name everything!

New Entrant children stay all day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to touch base and enquire how your child is settling in. It is absolutely fine for your child to have a day off or do a half day if they are tired. Beginning school is a big step for a five year old!

Our School Day

The children are welcome to come into the classroom at 8.20am. If they come to school before this time, they need to wait under the Big Tree.

When they arrive at school, they hang their bag on the hook outside and bring their reading folder, drink bottle and snack into the classroom.

Please choose a school bag which opens easily and is a reasonable size.

Once they have done this, they are free to play in the playground or classroom.



Our bell times are as follows:

8.50 start of school

10.40 – 11.00 morning tea

12.30 – 1.25 lunch time

1.25 – 2.45 end of school

At morning tea time the whole school meets in the junior playground area to eat. The children choose one or two items from their lunch boxes to eat.

At lunch time the children remain seated for 20 minutes and lunch boxes are checked by teacher aides before they are allowed to leave to play. This just helps ensure the junior children have eaten enough.

Any food not eaten is sent home so you know how much they are eating.

The children can play on the junior playground and the stone playground. They can get sports equipment out, go to the library on certain days and play fun games with the PALS (Physical Activity Leaders).

There are always two teachers and teacher aides on duty, they wear high vis vests so the children can quickly identify them if there is an issue.

Lunch options include:

Subway – on a Wednesday, order online.

Sausages – on a Friday, order online on the KINDO app. Information about how to set this up is on the School Website.

Parkside Dairy – order from the shop and it is delivered to school. Children pick it up from under the Big Tree.

Room 6 Timetable

8.50 – 10.40	News, Calendar, Mihi, Jump Jam, Fitness, Handwriting, Snack break, Writing
11.00 – 12.30	Big Book, Literacy
1.25 – 2.45	Story, Maths, Topic, Physical Education, Art

Early Learning

Before a child is ready to read a book they need to learn the letter sounds. They then use these letters to blend and segment words. Prior to this the need to work on a range of phonological skills.

They will have a homework book where I will write what the homework is that night and you can then sign it when it is completed. This is also a great place to leave me a note or where I attach any notices that need to go home.

Homework at this early stage is a plastic bag with alphabet letters and Heart words to

practise at home. There may be games that reinforce skills being taught in class.

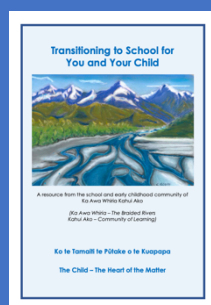
After a while, they will have a reading book and may have spelling words as well.

On a Friday, they will bring home their poem folder with a poem to share with you. Please return this to school on Monday.

Once a week we will go to the school library and the children will choose a book to bring home to share with you.

Other information you may find helpful

This booklet has been created with the assistance of the early childhood centres and primary schools who are part of the Ka Awa Whiria Kahui Ako (Braided Rivers Community of Learning). It is available from your local early childhood centre and is a useful tool to help with transition to school.



Numicon - this is an equipment-based resource that focuses on imagery, action, and conversation. It is designed to give children the understanding of number ideas and number relationships that are essential for success in maths.



Reporting - we have reports in Term's 2 and 4 and depending on when your child starts school you might also be involved in Three Way Conferences (3WCs). This is a chance to get together as parent, teacher and child to discuss progress, goals or any other issues you wish to discuss. The whole school takes part in these.

You are welcome to catch up with me at any other time to discuss your child's progress or any other matter you may wish to discuss.

This is Gerald, he's a good friend of the children in Room 6 and he will be having a turn at coming to your house.



PB4L and Whanau Groups



We are a PB4L school (Positive Behaviour for Learning).

The PB4L programme is underpinned by our school values, which are Caring, Achieving, Respectful and Responsible. You will hear the word "Gotcha" used by the children. This is what they are awarded for using the school values.

When your child starts school they will be placed in a Whanau Group, either Kahurangi (blue), Kakariki (green), Kowhai (yellow) or Whero (red).

This information is in their homework book. If they have an older sibling at school they will be in the same group. Throughout the year we get together in our Whanau groups and participate in lots of fun activities. The children can wear their whanau colours to sports days such as cross country.

Big Choosing and Wheels Day

On Friday morning the junior syndicate classes have assembly followed by Big Choosing. This means the children can go to other classes in our syndicate and participate in a range of activities such as art, craft, construction and dress ups. They can also play in the play house or in the sandpit. Friday is also the day when they can bring a scooter, roller blades or skateboard. They must wear a helmet.

