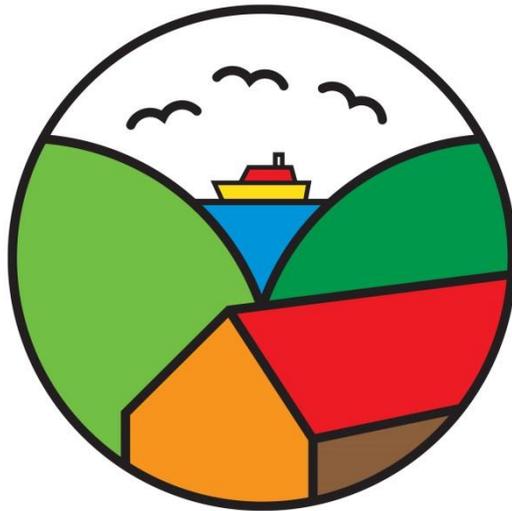

Houghton Valley School

Te Kura ō Haewai



Vision: Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together

“Transition to School Information”

Belonging to our School

‘Nau mai ki tō tātou kura’



Transition to School

Here are some things that you may like:

To make the transition from pre-school to primary school as easy as possible, we encourage you and your child to attend new entrant classroom visits, before your child starts school.

These visits provide your child with the opportunity to meet the classroom teacher, the chance to meet the other children in the class, to establish some friendships and to gain confidence in the school environment.

It enables them to participate in the classroom programme and become aware of some of the routines and systems that are in place in the classroom.

You and your child are invited to make two classroom visits before your child turns 5 and is ready to start school.

The visit mornings are on a Thursday.

The visit is from 9.00 am until 11.00 am.

I recommend bringing some morning tea for your child and a water bottle.

You are required to stay for the morning.

Class Teacher

Jos Abernethy

New Entrant Teacher

jos@houghton.school.nz

Good Things to Know!

Success at School – How you can help your child?

Eat Well:

Children need a healthy, well-balanced diet. A good breakfast is important for every child before a 6-hour school day. Children also need a healthy packed morning tea, and lunch with a bottle of water to drink during the day to help them to maintain energy for learning and playing.



Lots of Sleep:

Tired children will not learn as well. Children who have stayed up too late find it hard to focus on learning tasks in the classroom.

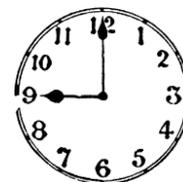
Being Positive – Give a Smile/Menemene:

Be positive about school and what is happening there. Listen to your child and talk about the exciting things that are happening in their classroom (check the class blog for ideas). Support them to become increasingly independent when getting ready for school. For example, get them to help pack their lunch box and school bag. Help them to hang up their bag and put their book bag away in the classroom. Encourage them to take responsibility for their own belongings.



Be On Time:

The school day begins at 8.55am. Lots of socialisation happens before school. Children who come late are disadvantaged. They miss out on mixing and playing with their peers before school begins. This is an important time for interacting with others informally and developing friendships. Ideally, arrive around 15 -20 minutes before the bell goes.



Pick Up and Drop Off Time

Nga tamariki may be dropped at School from 8.30am.

Your child needs to be picked up from their class room from 2.55 pm.

Readiness for School:

For children turning 5, beginning school is a really important and special event in their lives - one that is celebrated by family, whanau, friends, their preschool and wider community.

At Houghton Valley School we are committed to helping your child adjust happily and easily to school. Lots of things contribute to making the transition to school a positive and exciting experience for your 5-year-old.

Years 0 and Years 1

When your five-year-old starts school, you may hear them referred to as a Year 1 or Year 0. This is determined by when your child starts school. If your child starts school after the 1st June or later, and is aged five, they will be classed as Year 0. If they start school before April they will be classed as Year 1.

Welcome/Powhiri

Once a term there is an official welcome/powhiri for new children who have started at HVS. You will be welcomed by the school and children

Absences

If your child is going to be away for any reason notify the office by phone 939-3318 or email admin@houghton.school. If your child is not at school and we have not been contacted, we will ring, email or send a text reminder to you in the first instance or any of your emergency contact people. This is to make sure your child is safe.

Lateness

If your child arrives at school late you must let the office know.

Whānau Help

Parents and even grandparents sometimes help in the school and classes during school learning and activity. Ask your child's teacher if you're interested.

School Library/ Whare Pukapuka

Children can issue two books every week.



School Assemblies/Hui

See the school newsletter. Parents are welcome!

Sun Safety

Use of sun block is encouraged and you may want to pop a tube in your child's bag in summer. In Term 4 and Term 1 the school requires every child to wear a sunhat with a brim or flap that extends at least 5 cm and encompasses the entire head. Sunhats are available to be purchased from the office.



School Day 9.00am to 2.55pm	
School Sessions	
9am	School Starts
11am to 11:20am	Morning Tea Break
12:30pm	Lunchtime EAT
12:40pm	Lunchtime PLAY
1:25pm	Lunchtime LEARN (end of lunch)
2:55pm	School Ends

How You Can Help at Home

Mathematics

- Help your child find numbers around your home and neighbourhood – clocks, letterboxes, speed signs Talk about large numbers in your environment e.g., computer game scores, distances
- Count forwards and backwards (microwave, clocks, fingers and toes, letterboxes, action rhymes, signs)
- Make patterns when counting “clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4, clap 5...”
- Make up number stories – “you have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. There are 4 of them”.
- Involve your child in preparing and sharing out food – “one for me and one for you”. Ask, “How many for each of us?”
- Use words in everyday play like “under”, “over”, “between”, “around”, “behind”, “up”, “down”, “heavy”, “light”, “round”, “circle”, “yesterday”, “tomorrow”.
- ask questions like “How many apples do we need for lunches? What do you think the weather is going to be like today/tomorrow? What are we going to do next?”
- Use lots of mathematics words as your child is playing to develop their understanding of early mathematics (“over”, “under”, “first, second, third”, “round”, “through”, “before”, “after”).

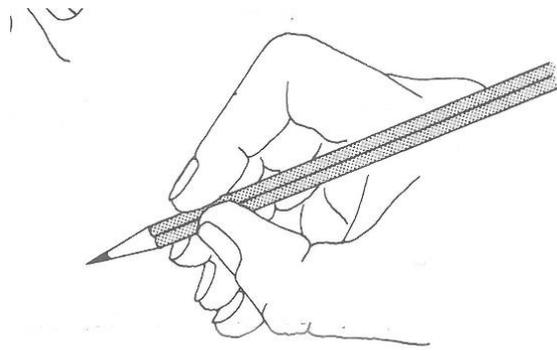


- Share the reading, take turns or see whether your child wants to read or be read to today.
- All children like to be read to, so keep reading to them. You can read in your first language.
- Visit the library together to help them choose books to share.
- Read emails from family or whānau aloud.
- Play card and board games together.
- Sing waiata and songs, make up rhymes together - the funnier the better.
- Be a role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading and talk about what you are enjoying.
- Share favourite books, point out words on signs, shops and labels, read poems and play word games like “I Spy” and “Simon Says...”

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter.
- Water and a paintbrush on a dry path and a stick on sand are fun ways to write letters and words.
- Write to each other. Write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like their lunch box. Ask them to write a reply.
- Help them email, text or write to family, whānau or friends.
- Show them how letters and words are formed.
- Work with them to put labels on special things - like the door to their room or their toy box.
- Talk about the letters in your child's name and where the name comes from.
- Help them create a scrapbook with pictures. Encourage them to write stories under the pictures and talk to you about them.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw - on paper or on the computer. Get them to tell you the story. Write or type the story under their writing if they want you to.



Helpful Tips in Learning to Write



The correct method of holding pen or pencil

2. Beginning Points and Directions of Movement Lower Case Letters

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u
v w x y z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

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Upper Case Letters

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W
X Y Z

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