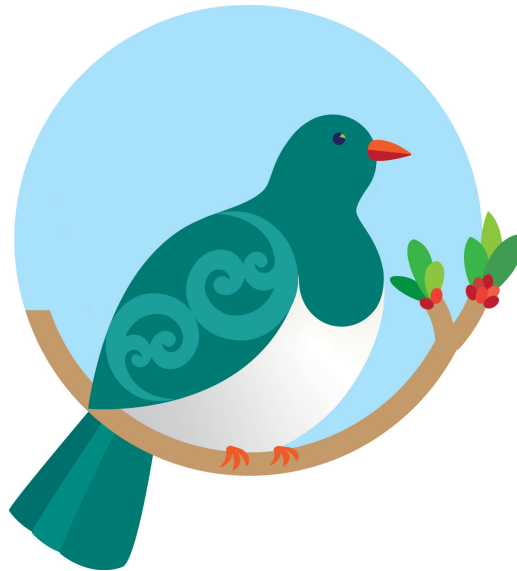


Houghton Valley School

Te Kura o Haewai



Vision: Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together
Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou

“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 your early childhood centre 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
Morgan Jones
New Entrant Teacher
morgan@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 fruit/vegetable break, 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:

Starting school takes up a lot of energy so sleep is vital to having a successful day. 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. 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 9:00 am. Lots of socialisation happens before school. 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

The tamariki may be dropped at school from 8.30 am.

Your child needs to be picked up from their classroom 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 the wider community.

At Houghton Valley School we are committed to supporting your child to have a happy and smooth transition 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 June 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 the 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 at their class library time or during lunchtimes.

School Assemblies/Hui

See the school newsletter. Parents are welcome!

Sun Safety

Use of sunblock 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.

Physical Education

Throughout the year we have several school sports events that we prepare the children to participate in. The children need to ensure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing during these times. We will send further information closer to the events in the school newsletter and in-class emails.

Swimming in Term 1 - Every Thursdays from 9 am-11 am

Swimming is a valuable component of our Physical Education programme and is a requirement for us to provide for Years 1-6. If there is a reason for your child not to be swimming, please drop a note to the class teacher or get in touch to discuss. All children will be tested during the first session so they can be grouped appropriately for their swimming ability. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing to school on Thursdays for ease of undressing and dressing themselves at the pool i.e. no tights or difficult shoes to put on!

Cross Country in Term 2

Athletics in Term 4

Biking - We have an amazing biking track for the children to use throughout the school year. We provide the children with a helmet and an appropriate bike to use based on their abilities.

Spare Clothing

In case of getting wet, muddy or toileting accidents, please keep a spare pair of socks, pants and underwear in a ziplock bag inside your child's school bag each day.

Communication

Please feel free to email me or come in before or after school. I am unable to respond to emails in school hours (9 am-3 pm), however, you can call Denise if you have an urgent message. I will do my best to respond to email as soon as I can. If you would like to set up a meeting with me, please let me know so we can arrange a time that works.

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