



Te Rito Harakeke

**MARSHLAND  
SCHOOL**



**Transition to School**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Marshland School. Starting school is a really important event and we wish to make the transition for your child and you a smooth one by helping children adjust happily and easily to their school experiences.



### Pre- entry visits 9.00 to 11.30am



We invite you to take the opportunity to visit school for the three Friday mornings prior to your child's birthday and start date. Your child is invited to visit school from 9.00am to 11.30am in the Pukeko Nest. They will need to bring morning tea with them. Morning tea is eaten between 11.00 and 11.10, then children have supervised play outside until 11.30. This is a good time for children to mix with each other and acquaint themselves with the playground. Your child may come to visits in mufti or, if they wish, in school uniform. Most children prefer to come in school uniform.



The purpose of these visits is to familiarise your child with their class, the teachers and surroundings. Parents and Caregivers are also welcome to stay. However, it is beneficial if you are able to give your child some 'time alone' to help them develop independence and mix with others.

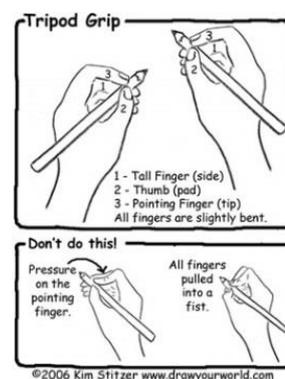


One of the most important things a parent can teach their child prior to starting school is a positive attitude towards learning. A happy relaxed child who is willing to try new things, ask for help, play alongside other children and respond when spoken to, will find school easier to adjust to.

Teachers expect children to be at different stages of development when they start school.

### It is helpful if your child can:

- Recognise and write their own name. When teaching your child to write their name, please only use a capital letter for the first letter. Otherwise it takes a long time to re-learn to write their name correctly
- Recognise some letters and corresponding sounds
- Hold a pencil correctly. It is important to check that they are using a three-fingered grip.
- Count to 10
- Read numbers to 10
- Recognise colours and shapes
- Use scissors



### Helping your child cope at school

We encourage children to manage and organise themselves. There are a number of things that it would great if your child can do independently.

- Blow their own nose.
- Toilet themselves, wash and dry their hands. Introduce boys to the urinal.
- Take their sweatshirt off.
- Open their lunchbox and food. Snipping the corners off packets is helpful.
- Play co-operatively.





## Preparing for the First Day

- Pre-entry visits make the transition easier
- Offer a positive attitude to school.
- Walk around the school and play on the playground at the weekend so that your child becomes familiar with the environment.

## Starting School

School is open at 8.30 and begins instruction at 9.00. It is recommended that your child arrives with enough time to unpack their bag and sign in, and have a little play before settling into the school day. As part of the Keys to Success, children are encouraged to put away their own reading folder etc.

A Stationery pack is available already made up at the office with all your child's requirements. These include appropriately lined books to make the teaching of printing easier. You may purchase these ahead of time and leave them with us to label if you wish.

Starting school is very tiring for your child. They have so much to absorb and learn. We have allocated the first part of Friday to activities catering for our transitioning visitors and the rest of the day dedicated to extra-curricular activities.



## Advice for First Day

We wish you and your child the best start to school life, and will endeavour to make sure that they have a happy day. Please phone us if you are concerned, but be rest assured that we would have phoned you if they had carried on being upset!

It is important that parents show confidence in their child's ability to cope on the first day. Keep calm and smile as you say goodbye. Remember:

- Goodbyes should not be dragged out. Say goodbye and go!
- It is OK for a child to cry. It is their way of expressing how they feel. Almost all children are absolutely fine once a parent has left.
- Parents should never sneak away. It is important that the child does not feel they are being 'abandoned'. Say goodbye and leave confidently.

## Reading at School and Home

We are passionate about reading at Marshland School. Your child will bring home a book to share with you from the first day. Make this an enjoyable relaxed time to share the book together. It is very important for you to keep reading to your child every day as this encourages a love of reading, a wonderful bond between you and your child and an opportunity for your child to hear many new words and ideas.

On Fridays, instead of a reader your child will bring home two library books and a poem to read and a rhyme.



### Reading and Talking

To your child,

With your child

and By your child

promotes great learning behaviours



## Meet the Teachers

Ann Gain - Pukeko Nest Team Leader

Matthew Boyce - Pukeko Nest Teacher

Wiki Brown - Pukeko Nest Teacher

Kellie Sim & Vic Miles - Pukeko Nest Teachers

We love being New Entrant teachers and really enjoy the children's enthusiasm and their honest approach to learning and life.

We provide a happy, safe, stimulating environment for every child, and it is rewarding to see them reach their full potential and a privilege to give them opportunities to do so.

We have high expectations of the children, and run very individualised programmes, so that their progress is maximized. We are constantly amazed by the talents that the children exhibit. They are wee sponges!

We maintain open communication with parents and caregivers and enjoy regularly sharing the children's successes via e-mail, the blog, our website and within the learning hub, where parents are always welcome.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. We are usually available before and after school, or alternatively you can e-mail us at

[gain@marshland.school.nz](mailto:gain@marshland.school.nz)

[boyce@marshland.school.nz](mailto:boyce@marshland.school.nz)

[brown@marshland.school.nz](mailto:brown@marshland.school.nz)

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Please check out the 'Day in the life of a New Entrant' on the Marshland School website under 'Transition to School' for more information about our programme.