



Long Bay Primary School

www.longbayprimary.ac.nz

A Guide for Parents of Pre-School Children

- **Pre-school visits**
- **Ensuring a smooth transition into school life**
- **Preparing your child for school**
- **Differences between school and the pre-school environment**



Version 2010

Visits for Pre-school Children

On Wednesday mornings, for up to 3 weeks before they are to begin school formally, the children can come for school visits:

***8.55am-10.30am for the first two visits
(includes Maths) with parent in attendance and
8.55am-12.30pm for the third visit (includes
Literacy)***

- Morning tea is from 10.30-10.50am. If your child is staying for morning tea, please ensure he/she has a drink and snack.
- All visitors who have stayed on for the latter part of the morning programme must go home at lunch time (12.30pm).

NOTE: We recommend that New Entrant children go home at 2.00pm daily for several weeks after beginning school. Young children, new to school, **DO** get very tired and take a little while to adjust to long school days and routines.

Please let your child's teacher know if you will be collecting them early.



- Within approximately six weeks at school, entry assessments are made to accurately gauge the progress each child has made during this time. Results from this, plus informal observations and information from parents are used in planning, to meet each child's individual needs at this early stage.
- After each child has been at school for approximately 6 weeks, we will arrange a Parent/Teacher Interview to discuss their 6 week report progress, concerns, queries etc.



The teaching staff of the Long Bay School Junior Syndicate (Atatu) welcome you as Parents/Caregivers, and look forward to a pleasurable association with you.

We would like to share some positive ways that you can work with us to ensure your child has a smooth, happy transition to school life.

- Children settle better in the morning if they arrive at school early enough to get themselves 'organised' before the first bell goes for the school day to begin at 8.55 am. (Book bags need to be returned daily, and placed in the appropriate box in the reading class, lunch orders are to be placed in the lunch basket.)
- If your child appears a little reluctant to leave you in the morning, rather than prolong the inevitable, it really is best to leave your child in the care of the class teacher - your child will settle much more quickly into school routines.
- Please ensure your child has the **correct stationery** right from day one. They feel a sense of belonging if they have the same bits and pieces as everyone else. We will provide them with a tote tray in which to keep their belongings e.g. hats, pencil cases etc.
- If your child is going to be absent, please phone the school office in the morning and leave a message.
- **Sunhats** must be worn during Terms 1 and 4. Please ensure your child has one in his/her bag each day. Some children keep a hat at school in their tote trays, specifically for this purpose.



- All clothing, bags, lunchboxes, drink bottles, are to be named (you wouldn't believe the amount of lost property we find each year)!!!
- We prefer that **valuable items** e.g. toys, remain at home. Loss or damage to such items can cause distress.
- We welcome **Parent help** in all our classrooms. Please see your child's teacher if you are able to help in some way – it is a good idea to wait until your child is well settled at school first though!!
- **Adventure Playground:** The Junior children are able to play on the 'blue' coloured section of the playground, however no child is allowed in the playground before or after school unless they have a Parent/Caregiver supervising them.
- **Homework:** Every child should have some reading 'homework' each night. This includes poems, library books, instructional readers, and books the children have chosen themselves.
We ask that Parents/Caregivers listen to their child read daily and share reading experiences with them:
 - talk about the pictures (please don't ever cover up the pictures)
 - help your child to point to each word
 - do not isolate letters and sounds
 - encourage your child to gain meaning from the story.
 - resist jumping in and correcting errors, (count to five)
 - ask questions like..."Does this make sense?" "What does it start with?"
 - encourage your child to re-tell a story in their own words
 - words are everywhere - when you go shopping or on outings, read signs and labels together.**Our aim is to create in children, a love of books, and to lead them towards being independent readers.**

We also aim to provide a happy, secure environment, with each child actively involved in the learning process.

What can I do to prepare my child for school?

- Talk to your child about starting school - develop an awareness of what school is all about.
- Bring your child along for school visits prior to starting school.
- Teach your child to look after his/her own belongings - to recognise their own clothes (it is really helpful if their clothing is named).
- Teach your child to tie laces, do up buttons, buckles, zips etc.
- Does your child know the correct toileting procedures? Flush the toilet, wash hands etc. Apart from the regular toilets at school, the boys also have a urinal.
- Can they blow their nose?
- It is helpful if your child can do all, or some of the following:
 - write his/her name
 - recognise and write the numbers from 1-10
 - recognise and write most letters of the alphabet (uppercase and lowercase) and know the correct letter sound
 - practise the basic handwriting script
 - encourage correct letter formation
 - count up to 20 or beyond
 - recognise colours
 - know the basic shapes



How is school different to the pre-school environment?

- Structured programmes, in a variety of curriculum areas.
- Set times for doing things, thus the element of choice is reduced.
- Longer periods of time are spent sitting and listening.
- Routines - bells for morning tea and lunch.
- Interaction with larger numbers of children of different ages out in the playground.
- Larger numbers of personnel/staff e.g. Administration staff, Principal, Caretaker, Dental Therapist, Teachers, Teacher Aides, etc.

We have an '**open door**' policy at our school - we welcome your involvement and interest in your child's learning, and would be pleased to discuss any problems or queries that you may have concerning your child.

Long Bay Junior School (Atatu) Teaching Staff

