



Puketaha SCHOOL
Powerful Learners

New Entrant Information



What to expect at Puketaha School

Transitioning

Our New Entrant classroom programmes are designed to make the transition from Early Childhood Education streamlined, by providing Learning Through Play opportunities to continue to develop children's social and emotional skills as well as introducing the more formal aspects and routines of school.

The T2S Programme

At Puketaha School, we run a 'Transition to School' Programme (T2S). This programme gives the opportunity for you and your child to have 5 fortnightly visits in the 10 weeks prior to your child turning 5.

Each session will be during the school day and will last for approximately 1 hour. Your child will be with one of their new teachers and the children in their learning environment. The session will allow time for your child to get to know the other children starting around the same time as them, introduce them gently to aspects of the classroom and give them a taster for the types of tasks they may be doing once they start school.

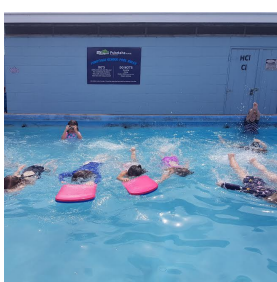
While your child is with their teacher, parents are invited to take part in information sessions that will help you get to know the school.

If you are unable to come to a regular transitioning session, the other option is that you contact the school office and we can organise visits to suit the needs of you and your child.

T2S Pack

We have prepared a resource pack to support your child's transition to school. It includes some of the things children will be doing once they start school, such as writing letters, counting, and reading sight words. We know that all children are different and some children may be interested in trying out some of the activities, while other children are not yet ready. Please use this pack at your discretion as you know your child best.

This pack will be given to you approximately 10 weeks before your child starts.



First day of School

School bag

A larger school bag is required as sometimes children have quite a lot of bits to fit in, such as jerseys, shoes, lunch, drink bottle, spare change of clothes and their book bag. Some children can get a little stressed about packing their bag. The classroom teacher is always there to help them but it is also helpful to start practising how to pack their bag and zip it up, before they start school.

Lunch

Children will need a healthy packed lunch each day. Make sure there is enough food for morning tea and lunch time. Teachers will help children make good choices about what to eat at playtime so there is enough food left for lunch time. Morning Tea is supervised by the teachers and at lunch time the children sit and eat for 15 minutes before their lunch box is checked and then they can go off and play. Some children get very hungry at playtime and want to eat all of their lunch. Make sure they have plenty of food for breakfast and they are not eating breakfast too early.

Drink bottle

Children will need a drink bottle at school with water in it. We also have drinking fountains at school. We are a 'water only' school so please do not send your child to school with juice or fizzy drinks.

Hat

In the summer month's children must wear a sun hat of their choice when they are outside.

Stationery

This will be organised by the school and will be ready for when your child starts. This includes a book bag for their library books and homework. You will be invoiced for the stationery pack.

Clothing

Puketaha does not have a school uniform. Please help children to make appropriate choices about what to wear. Children should come to school with some sort of footwear. Ensure that children are able to manage their own footwear and spend time teaching them how to put them on and off. Just in case of an accident, please put some spare clothes in the child's bag.

Please ensure all belongings are named so it is easier to return to your child. The school lost property box is located beside the PAC.



Settling into Puketaha School

Before school

When children arrive at school they are required to sign in and put their book bag into their tote tray. Children can then choose an activity for Learning Through Play inside or outside of their Learning Environment. This type of learning is very important for children's social development and their oral language skills. You are welcome to stay in the classroom while your child settles, and we encourage parents to be part of Learning Through Play by working alongside, questioning and supporting them with tasks.

Arriving between 8.30am and 8.45am gives children a chance to get themselves organised for the day, connect with other children and take part in Learning Through Play. If you need to drop your child off before 8.20am, we do have Before School Care and After School Care run by Journey Kids.

If your child is nervous about you leaving, ensure you have discussed when you need to leave, for example when the school bell rings. A positive, short, and cheerful goodbye is the best way to go, even if your child is upset. The teachers will always be there to support them until they have settled. Feel free to chat to the teachers about a specific plan for your child.

Settling in

The classroom teachers will support your child to make friends and will explain what is happening each day. They will be encouraged to take part but not pressured, as they settle in. The daily programme is based on the same routines each day which helps children feel more relaxed about what to expect. Your child will be given a buddy in the class to show them around and to have someone to sit next to and play with.

Toilet

Children are allowed to use the toilet during class time; they just have to let the teacher know they are leaving the class.

Home time

Our school day finishes at 2:55pm and it is a good idea to come a little early and just wait outside the classroom or at the back of the room. Let your child know who will be picking them up each day if possible. If you are running late, please ring the office and let them know. Your child can wait in the classroom if you are only running a little bit late, otherwise the teacher will take your child over to the office so they can have someone there to watch them. After school care will also take children who are not booked in. However, this will be at your cost.

Building independence

Here are some ideas to help your child settle into school.

Practical Skills
Uses basic manners
Can go to the toilet independently and wash their hands without reminders
Can blow their nose effectively
Can put on and do up their own shoes
Dress and undress themselves
Look after their belongings
Open food packaging
Can recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water
Can hold a pencil correctly
Can cut in a straight line using scissors
Can pack, zip up and carry their own school bag

These are the types of things we will be focusing on when your child starts school.

Your child as a learner
Can try new things on their own
Can follow basic routines and instructions
Can sit quietly and focus for about 5 minutes at a time
Can attempt to act on feedback
Can recognise and write their own name
Knows the names of colours
Knows the letters and sounds in the alphabet
Knows the numbers and can count 1 to 10, then to 20
Is able to hold a picture book and turn the pages carefully.
Drawing to develop fine motor skills

If your child is unable to do any of these tasks the teachers will be there to offer support.

Tips to help your child settle at school

- Talk to your child about starting school and what to expect (sitting on mat, sharing news, draw a picture and maybe write a story about it, reading, maths and so on).
- Talk about ways they could make friends (introducing themselves, playing nicely, sharing, being friendly, asking others to play or asking to join in, compromising).
- Make sure your child is able to toilet themselves. If they do have an accident, the teacher will use the spare clothes in the child's school bag.
- Help your child with their shoes and dressing themselves by giving them the opportunities to do it themselves and practise, with your support.
- Give your child simple duties to perform around the home, this helps prepare them for following instructions and builds their confidence.
- Teach them to put their belongings away so they can keep track of their things. This will help them to avoid misplacing things which can be upsetting for children.
- Talk to them about what they can do if something is bothering them (talk to the teacher, ask someone for help and problem solving strategies for different scenarios)



How do I enrol?

Gathering Information

- Look at our website www.puketaha.school.nz
- Read our ERO report. This can be found under general info.

Find out whether you are in zone or out of zone.

- The zone can be found on our website. Our roll is made of in zone and out of zone children.
- Out of zone students who wish to enrol will be part of a ballot process as defined by the Ministry of Education.
- A letter will be sent confirming a place at Puketaha School once this process has been completed.
- Contact the school for closing dates for the ballot.

Visit the School

- Ring our school office (07 824 3870) to make a time to meet our Principal Geoff Booth and to have a look around Puketaha School.
- You can ask any questions you have and see our Learning Environments in action.

Enrol

- If you would like to enrol your child at Puketaha School, you will need to fill out an enrolment form and bring it back to the Puketaha School office.
- This needs to be accompanied by a Birth Certificate or residency permit and an immunisation certificate.

Transitioning to School

- Contact the school office and we can talk about how to best transition your child and give you more information about our T2S programme.

