



**FREEMANS BAY SCHOOL**

Engage, Empower, Enrich

## New Entrant Information Pack



Whānau Tahī Teachers:

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## WELCOME TO FREEMANS BAY SCHOOL

### Tena koutou e te whānau, he mihi ki a koutou katoa

Welcome to Freemans Bay School where we aim to create a stimulating, inclusive learning environment which engages, empowers and enriches our learners to prepare them for their future world. Our learning principles are:

**Engage** learners through active involvement and powerful learning partnerships.

**Enrich** learners through personalising learning, inquiry and a wide curriculum.

**Empower** learners to be collaborative, critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Our school is situated on the edge of the Central Business District not far from Ponsonby Road. We are a medium sized primary school with approximately 550 students. Students from many ethnic backgrounds attend Freemans Bay School which makes our school an exciting and vibrant place to be. A commitment to Ako and Te Tiriti o Waitangi is reflected in our school culture.

This booklet provides you with some information about how to help your child settle into Freemans Bay School, what to expect in the beginning, and how you can help your child be prepared for school.

The better prepared a child is for school, the easier the transition will be. However, it needs to be emphasised that the ideas outlined in this booklet should not create any stress or anxiety for parents or the child.

Sometimes a child is simply not ready to start certain tasks. We all grow and learn at different rates. If providing any learning experiences for your child in any of these areas turns into a negative experience for either you or your child - STOP and relax.

**The most important thing is to help your child be excited and confident about starting school.**

### Our Leadership Team

Helen Armstrong (Deputy Principal),

Cindy Walsh (Principal),

Sinead Heckett (Deputy Principal)



## SOME COMMON QUESTIONS

*What if my child finds it hard to make friends?*

Talk to your child's teacher. There are strategies we can use to help them make friends. It is also a good idea to organise 'play dates' after school or in the weekends with other children from the class, who your child feels friendly with.

*When will my child start to get homework?*

Your child will be enrolled into Reading Eggs and Matific once the teacher feels they are ready. These are activities that can be done at home. Once your child has developed beginning reading skills and behaviours, they will start to bring a reading book home. This is a book that they would have read with the classroom teacher. Sit somewhere quiet and help your child to re-read the book to you. They should be looking at the pictures to help them read words they do not know. Ask them to re-tell the story to you, but most importantly, reading should be fun, so if it is too difficult or causing problems at home, please talk to your child's teacher.

*How often do we get school reports?*

We are currently reviewing our reporting procedures but will have at least two dates during the year for student conferences.

*Who can I talk to if my child is having problems?*

Firstly, make an appointment to see your child's teacher. It is best to do this rather than pop in and hope to talk before or after school, as they will be busy preparing or greeting other children. Your child's teacher may refer you to our SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator) or another school leader for a chat.

*What activities are available for my child to participate in?*

During lunchtimes there are various activities, such as clubs for gardening, art, chess, and cooking, that children can participate in during lunch breaks. These are promoted through our daily notices to each classroom. Other agencies run activities before and after school. Please read our school newsletters, our website, or our FACEBOOK page for information about these groups.

*What do I do if I am worried about my child's progress?*

All children progress at different rates. Try not to compare your child's progress with other children or siblings. If your child's teacher is worried about your child, they will communicate with you, but again, please talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

## OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

### SCHOOL BAG

Choose a practical bag (not too big and not too small), that your child can manage by themselves. It should be big enough to fit everything that is needed, but not too big for your child to carry, or hang up independently.

#### Things to pack in the bag (all named):

- A raincoat
- A drink bottle (we are a water only school)
- A change of clothes
- The book bag
- A lunch box
- A sunhat (in Term 1 and 4)

It is helpful if you teach your child to pack and carry their own school bag, then hang it up themselves when they get to school. We encourage independence.

### LUNCH BOX

Pack a separate healthy snack for your child to eat at FEED and READ. This could be a piece of fruit, a vegetable, some nuts etc.

Pack enough healthy food for your child to have for morning tea and lunch. Please do not include lollies or chocolate or fizzy drinks. Any packets should be easy for your child to open by themselves.



Lunches can also be ordered and delivered to school through KINDO. Please see our website or the office for details.

## PRE-SCHOOL VISITS

We encourage all new pre-school children and their parents to have three visits prior to starting school. Visits are from 2 –2.45pm on Tuesday afternoons. Please come to the office to sign in and you will be guided to the classroom by our student councillors.



The classroom visits will be in Te Whare Kahurangi (The Blue Building).

The purpose of the visits are to make the transition to school an enjoyable experience for your child and yourself, meet fellow pupils, staff and prospective friends, develop confidence in class, become familiar with the layout and facilities of the school, experience some school activities and routines, leaders and have any questions answered.

## CLASSIFICATION OF CHILDREN

In New Zealand, New Entrant children usually start school on or around their 5th birthday. Your child's date of birth determines whether they enter school as a Year 1 or a Year 0 child.

If their birthday falls between December and June 30, your child will be a Year 1 in their first year of schooling, and will move to Year 2 the following year.

If their birthday falls between July 1 and the end of the school year, they will be a Year 0, and will move to Year 1 the following year.

## GUIDE FOR NEW ENTRANT SKILLS

### BEFORE YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL IT IS HELPFUL IF THEY CAN:

- Take their shoes off and put them back on again
- Go to the toilet and wash their hands
- Blow their nose
- Recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water
- Ask for things they need
- Dress themselves and put items of clothes away in their school bag (e.g., jumper or raincoat)
- Open their lunch box
- Follow simple instructions
- Sit down for a short time and listen
- Tidy up after themselves and put things away
- Manage scissors and crayons



THANK YOU

I'M SORRY

PLEASE

EXCUSE ME

- Play kindly with other children
- Express an idea or a feeling
- Share items they are using
- Be comfortable being away from you
- Take turns and know how to wait for things
- Use their manners

## OTHER PROCEDURES

### ATTENDANCE:

Student attendance, along with effective teaching, has the greatest influence on student engagement and achievement. Children need to be present at school so that they can participate and engage in learning and feel safe and secure. We run a motivational programme called H.E.R.O to empower our students to have good attendance. The school can offer various supports to help families who are struggling to get to school on time. Please contact [senco@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:senco@freemansbay.school.nz) if you would like to talk to someone.

If your child is unable to come to school please contact the office [reception@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:reception@freemansbay.school.nz) or phone 09 360 1572. If your child is absent with no explanation you will receive a text from the school to inform you, please respond to the text with a reason. If you do not supply the school with a reason then your child will be marked as Truant?

If your child is late to school they need to sign in at the office because the class teacher will have already taken the roll. They will get a stamp on their hand so that when they get to class, their teacher knows that their presence has been recorded into our student management system.



### SICKNESS:

If your child is unwell, they should not come to school.

If your child becomes unwell while at school, or has an accident at school, they are tended to in the sick bay by one of our staff trained in first aid. If we feel they need to go home, or been seen by a doctor, we will call you and ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible.

## COMMUNICATION

### EMAIL

Our main method of communication is via email so please make sure we have your current details, and update them if they change. Our office email is [admin@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:admin@freemansbay.school.nz)

#### Team Tahi email addresses

Tahi 1 [rebeccag@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:rebeccag@freemansbay.school.nz)

Tahi 2 [rebeccac@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:rebeccac@freemansbay.school.nz) (Team Leader)

Tahi 3 [bonnieh@freemansbay.school.nz](mailto:bonnieh@freemansbay.school.nz)

### NEWSLETTERS

School newsletters are emailed to you once a fortnight. Team newsletters are embedded into the team sway available through the school website.

### WEBSITE

Our website <https://www.freemansbay.school.nz> has a lot of information about our school. Each team has a link on the front page of our website which is updated at least twice a term with news from the team.

### FACEBOOK

We have a school facebook page which is updated regularly. We love parent comments on our posts.

## GUIDELINES FOR CONCERNS

Our teachers are usually available to chat before and after school, unless there are meetings planned, however, if you have a concern you would like to talk about please arrange an appointment to talk to your child's teacher.

To contact teachers directly please email, as they can not answer phone calls during school hours. Emails can be found on our school website.

If you are still concerned after meeting with your child's teacher, you may organise a meeting with the team leader and then our senior leaders.

## OTHER HELPFUL HINTS

The following are skills that are helpful for your child to have as they start to enter school.

### READING:

- Calmly sit and listen to a story being read
- Know we read from the front to the back of a book, and from the left to the right on the page
- Recognise their name
- Know the names and sounds of some letters of the alphabet
- Talk about a story using pictures from a book
- Know some nursery rhymes and rhyming words



### WRITING:

- Can hold a pencil using the correct grip
- Draw pictures about their experiences
- Attempts to form letters and shapes to convey a message
- Trace lines and shapes

### ORAL:

- Speaks in a sentence
- Recounts a personal experience
- Listens and responds to two-part instructions
- Able to answer a question with a relevant sentence
- Able to ask for help when needed

### MATHS:

- Say the numbers from 1 to 10 in the correct order
- Recognise numerals to 10
- Know basic colours and shapes
- Can use positional words correctly e.g., above, below, beside, under, behind, forwards, backwards, up and down.

## THE FIRST DAY

### SOME HELPFUL HINTS

- Help your child to get a good nights sleep the night before, and get up in plenty of time to get ready for school.
- Give your child a healthy breakfast.
- Get to school early enough to help your child settle in to the classroom before the bell. The first bell to start class goes at 9:00 am
- Remember parents also may feel unexpected emotions when a child starts school such as nervousness, anxiety and grief.
- Make goodbyes short. Settle your child into class, say goodbye and then leave. If your child is upset, please relax and continue to leave. If you appear upset or anxious this may affect your child. Teachers have a lot of experience in settling upset children. In most cases children settle after 2—3 minutes of a parent leaving. If your child does not settle we would notify you, so please do not worry.

## THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- Expect your child to be tired for the first few weeks. It takes a while to adjust. It is important to keep good bedtime routines and for your child to get plenty of sleep. It is recommended that children of 5 years, require approximately 11 hours of sleep each night.
- Be on time to pick your child up. If you are going to be late, please call the school office.
- Have quiet time connecting with your child after school - read a book, do some colouring, play some games.
- Avoid scheduling lots of activities after school - let them adjust to their new routine first.



## A TYPICAL DAY

### SETTLING IN:

Please be at school in plenty of time for your child to settle in to class before our first bell, which goes at 9:00. Teachers will be in classrooms from 8:30.

If you need to drop your child to school before 8:30, please talk to our office about enrolling them in Fernando's Before School Care which runs in our school hall.



Support your child to hang up their own bag and take out the items they need for class. You might like to come into the classroom so your child can show you what they have been doing.

### MORNING BLOCK 9:00 - 11:00

Learning Through Play—focusing on developing key competencies, such as sharing, taking turns, joining in, thinking, listening and speaking.

Literacy—writing

In the middle of this block children eat a healthy snack while they are read to by the teacher.

### MIDDLE BLOCK 11:30 - 1:00

Literacy— Reading

### AFTERNOON BLOCK 1:50—3:00

Mathematics and Inquiry (Science, Technology, Social Sciences, Art, etc.)

Please collect your child from the classroom on time. If you are going to be late, please phone the office. Only adults who are named as contacts on your enrolment form are able to collect your child.

### OTHER:

We fit daily fitness in around our other class activities.

Once a week your child will also be taught music, sport and digital technologies by specialist teachers.

### BREAK TIMES:

11:00 - 11:30: Morning tea and play time

1:00 - 1:40: Lunch eating and play time

Children are supervised by their classroom teachers while eating, and duty teachers during play.