

Waikite Valley School

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NEW ENTRANT INFORMATION BOOKLET

Thank you for choosing to send your child to Waikite Valley School. Starting school is a major milestone in everyone's life. We have put together a few helpful tips to assist you in making your child's first year not only memorable but successful and enjoyable. Firstly we acknowledge you and the work you have done as 'first teachers' of your child.

Please feel free to speak to either Mrs Lisa Dinning (the New Entrant teacher) or myself if you have questions or concerns.



Pre School Visits

- 👍 The purpose of pre-school or 4 year old visits is for parents and children to become familiar with our school. All children are individuals and will have differing needs.
- 👍 We encourage pre-school visits for your child. From the age of 4½ years we are happy to talk to you about the needs of your whanau and the best visit program we can put in place to suit the needs of your child.
- 👍 Your child will require morning tea and lunch for school visits.
- 👍 We recommend that parents bring their child into the classroom on the first day. Feel free to take photos or videos of your child. Some children will bounce into school and be totally independent, others may require a little more support and encouragement. You will know your child.
- 👍 We WILL contact you if your child is distressed.



Six Week Parent Meeting

- 👍 After your child has been at school for 6 weeks we will arrange a parent meeting to update you on their first weeks at school. By this time most children have settled in, found friends, learnt the routines of school and their school learning is well underway. The New Entrant teacher will arrange a time for the meeting.

What to pack for lunch?

👍 As parents it is your choice for what your child brings for lunch, however, we recommend that they have a balanced lunch that assists the brain to learn. This may include sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt, cheese, raisins, a biscuit or baking etc. Processed or packaged foods are not advised as they are often full of unhelpful preservatives and colourings. They also create an unnecessary waste with their packaging.

What to wear to school?

👍 Depending on the season dress your child in clothing that will allow them to move freely and able to perform physical activity. School hats are compulsory during Terms 1 and 4, and can be purchased for \$15 from the school office.

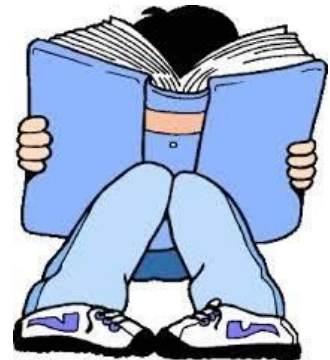
👍 Name all clothing – essential!

School Bag

👍 This important item must be child friendly. Children only need to bring their lunchbox, a jacket and a reading Book Bag to school. It is not necessary for them to have a large bag. Have them try it on for size in the shop. Many children unfortunately have bags that are too big for them. They should be able to carry it comfortably.

How can parents help with reading?

👍 Please read with your child each night. Make this an important part of the day. Choose a comfortable chair to sit on. Talk about the book they have. Discuss the pictures and words that might be in the book e.g. “what does ‘look’ start with?” Play rhyming games e.g. what word rhymes with... As they read the book discuss the pictures as these provide visual clues. Don’t cover up the words.



👍 When they are stuck on a word try the following 3 steps

1. Pause and wait for them to see if they can work it out (about 10 seconds – it will feel like a long time!)
2. Prompt them e.g. what does it sound like? Look at the first letter? What is the cat doing? What is in the picture? Say, “Let’s go back to the beginning of the sentence” etc. After each prompt, wait for about 10 seconds.
3. Praise your child – “Well done, you sounded the word out!” or “Excellent, you used the picture to help you with the word”

Other ideas include; reading aloud to your child, read the newspaper together, nursery rhymes, play “I spy with my little eye something beginning with ...”, Opposites – in/out, up/down etc

How can parents help with maths?

- 👍 Practise counting with your child e.g. what number comes after or before...
- 👍 Read and write numbers – use a calendar
- 👍 Play dice games – snakes and ladders, monopoly etc
- 👍 Discuss shapes that are all around the house, out the car window, at the park etc
- 👍 Read timetables and prices at the shop
- 👍 Learn to tell the time – digital and analogue
- 👍 Play shops with money
- 👍 Measure things – height, length (use standard units e.g. cm, m and non standard units e.g. hands, shoes etc)
- 👍 In the car discuss distances, speed and time using road signs



You should also:

- 👍 Talk and listen to your child. This develops their oral language which is the foundation for all literacy.
- 👍 Celebrate and enjoy their successes.
- 👍 Develop, encourage and celebrate their strengths and interests.
- 👍 Ask them questions e.g. Where does the sun go? Why does it rain? (The actual answers are not important.)
- 👍 Model respect and collaboration to your child – describe the problem, give information, offer choices.
- 👍 Stay positive and promote their self-esteem at all times.
- 👍 Teach them independence - tying their own laces, organising themselves before and after school, choosing their own clothes, doing home reading, coming into the classroom, carrying their own school bag.
- 👍 Encourage them to reflect on the day at school. Use open-ended questions e.g. “Tell me about today? What did you learn? What did you do at playtime?”
- 👍 Teach them how to use technology safely and appropriately.

Have fun!

Teresa Topp

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Developing Learners for Life

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