



STARTING SCHOOL AT TE KURA O TAKE KĀRARA

Kia ora e te whānau

We are really excited about your child starting their primary school years with us and are looking forward to building a partnership that will allow your child to thrive while they are at Take Kārara

Your child's start date

We have Cohort Entry for our New Entrant children starting school. We know that children who have school visits and start school with a group of children feel more of a sense of security, belonging and community from day one. This means children will start with us at either the beginning of the term or on the Monday of the sixth week. Children start Cohort groups following their 5th birthday. Cohort dates are assigned by the Ministry of Education and there are eight Cohort intakes throughout the year.

For Cohort Entry dates please see this [Ministry of Education link](#).

School Visits

Once you have enrolled your child through the link on our website, we will contact you with information regarding the format, dates and times of the visits as well as the contact details for your child's key teacher. Most children will have three transition visits before your child's first day of school. Additional visits can be arranged. The aim of these visits is to familiarise you and your child with school, their key teacher, other staff and the other children in the learning space. Our Associate Principal, Daryl Gellatly will contact you approximately a month before your child is due to start.





The Teaching Team

TRANSITION VISITS

What your child will be doing

Starting school is an exciting time. Some of the things your child will be doing on these visits include:

- Meeting your child's Key Teacher and spending time together in the Tuna learning space
- Your child will spend some time working in a small group, or with other children working across the learning space. They will be with their Key Teacher the whole time
- During breaktime, your child will join the rest of the school playing in our school playground if they choose too. They will have a big buddy who will stay with them and support them during this time
- When playtime finishes, your child will come back into the Tuna learning space and will have food from their lunchbox with the Key Teacher and their classmates
- Once your child has started school, ECE Teachers visit us so that children can show their previous teachers their new learning space

What you will be doing

What you, the parents will be doing on these visits:

- Go with your child to the Tuna learning space so you can see where they will be spending their time, meet your child's Key Teacher
- Meet the Senior Leadership team where they will share with you key information about the people at school who your child will get to know, 'Need to Know' aspects of your child starting school, the teaching and learning programme, communication between home and school and the classroom programme
- Your child's teacher and /or the team leader will also meet just with you on you third visit to answer any further questions you may have





NEED TO KNOW

Packed Lunches

For your packed lunches, please be aware that we have children enrolled at Take Kārara who have potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts. While our children are to eat only what is in their own lunchbox, it is helpful if parents do not send food to school with their children which contain nuts. This is to minimise the likelihood of an adverse reaction. Children are supervised during eating times and children with allergies are monitored closely. All staff have current first aid certificates and take part in refreshers for using EpiPens.

Further Information

Please take the time to look through the Parent and Whānau Information Book found on our website before your first visit. There you will find details about the school day, communication and contact details, health and safety information, a little bit about the learning and opportunities for students, as well as information about purchasing the uniforms.

Contacts

If for any reason you cannot make it on the day of a scheduled visit or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Daryl Gellatly (Associate Principal) or Estelle Moore (Associate Principal and Junior Team Leader). The school phone number is 03 9747575.





OUR TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES

Your child's Key Teacher

We want your child to feel safe, and to have a sense of belonging. Your child will be with one key teacher. This teacher is responsible for a group of children, and provides the support and care expected of any classroom teacher. They focus on the learning and on the wellbeing needs of your child.



Our Learning Spaces

Where our learning spaces are a little different is the layout and design of the building and the spaces within them. While the teacher and their class work together in one space, there will also be other teachers working with their classes in spaces nearby. These buildings are designed in a way to minimise noise and where the walls and breakout rooms are placed, they provide quiet zones and more intimate areas for children to be working in with their classroom teacher. However, it also provides opportunities for children to collaborate and connect with other children and teachers in the learning space through interactive activities.



Communication

Any questions, concerns or wonderings you have about your child should always be addressed to your child's key teacher. We welcome parents and whānau into our learning spaces to see what the learning and the learning environment looks like for your child.





NURTURING LEARNING

Tuakana Teina

New Entrant children are assigned a big buddy whom they will meet during their pre-entry visits. Their big buddy helps them settle into school life. They meet them in their class and offer support in the playground.

All children are part of a whānau group. These whānau groups will include children from all levels of the school. Siblings will be placed in the same whānau group.



Learning Dispositions

In the Tuna learning space, teachers focus on holistic child development, nurturing social, emotional, and academic skills. Recognising and responding to children's natural dispositions, such as curiosity and resilience, is integral to this approach. Through observation and tailored responses, teachers support each child's unique learning style and personality. Our environment encourages hands-on activities, curiosity, and collaboration, fostering positive dispositions and providing rich learning opportunities.



Learning Through Play

Neuroscientists stress three key factors for a child's brain development: emotional nurture, conversation, and play. These foster trust, empathy, and learning. In Tuna, we prioritise these for a nurturing environment. Learning Through Play is central to our teaching. It encourages inquiry, creativity, and social skills. Research shows hands-on learning enhances executive functioning and supports curriculum values. Our approach balances child-led and adult-guided activities, ensuring responsive learning. Play fosters resilience, nurturing intelligent, cooperative, and innovative individuals.

