



West Gore School

Our Place to Grow *E Kikiri Tātou*

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West Gore School

Our Place to Grow *E Kikiri Tātou*





Thank you for considering West Gore School for your child. This booklet contains an overview of West Gore School's Enrolment process and New Entrant programme.

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Welcome to West Gore School

Starting school is a significant milestone for every child. While this is a time of mixed emotions, it is exciting to watch the rapid development children make as they transition from home to school. To ensure this transition is as seamless as possible we, at West Gore School, have adapted to remove barriers to participation and learning.

Each child learns in their own way, which means a wide variation in the rate and timing of learning. Likewise, children's capabilities fluctuate from day to day. We needed a flexible curriculum to accommodate this.

In Te Kākano, our teachers work together to respond to the strengths, interests, abilities and needs of each child by providing a rich array of play-based experiences. Our students are able to make sense of their world through exploration, communication and imagination. Active participation within a supportive learning environment ensures appropriate levels of challenge for all children, including those who may need additional learning support. Students can learn in their own ways, supported by adults who know them well and have their best interests at heart.



We value the trust you have placed in us when you send your child to West Gore School. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of educating your child.

Linda Fraser
Principal



Our Vision...

Our Vision

Our Place to Grow
E Kikiri Tātou

Our Mission

Our **mission** is Stand Tall

Respect | Responsibility | Resilience

Our Values

Who we are being

- **Be Authentic**
- **Embrace Change**
- **Acknowledge and Celebrate**
- **Collaborate**
- **Have fun and play**
- **Utilise strengths**

Ways of Growing

We think
We communicate
We manage ourselves
We work together

Creativity	Change	Growth	Community	Diversity	Impact
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Creativity is using our imagination to develop new ideas and ways of working.	Change whether good or bad happens and we need to be adaptable and resilient in response.	Physical, mental or emotional growth is inevitable and we need to take responsibility as we grow.	We are a community. We are interdependent and therefore responsible for each other.	People have different perceptions, perspectives, culture and identities. We are unique.	People and the environment are connected. We need to understand our world and look after it.



West Gore School New Entrant Parent Information
Our Vision, Mission, Values and Ways of Growing / Enrolling



Enrolling at West Gore School

Meeting the Principal

Mrs Linda Fraser welcomes the opportunity to meet with all parents of prospective children. She is very happy to discuss the values and beliefs of the school and learn about your child's specific needs within the school setting. It is an important time to develop that first contact in building the partnership between home and school.

Linda encourages all families to have a walk through the school with her so you can meet the staff, see the classrooms and children in action and learn a little bit about the culture of the school.

Once your child is enrolled Linda values the opportunity to discuss your child's education or any issues as they arise.

Please make a time to meet Linda Fraser, our principal, by phoning Kim Wilson in the school office on 03 208 7586.

Enrolment

There is no right or wrong time to enrol your child at school but the school does appreciate early enrolment so planning and organisation can occur to ensure we can best meet the needs of your child. Early enrolment ensures a smooth and easy transition into school for your child.

How to Enrol:

Once you have decided to enrol your child at West Gore School you will need to complete the following enrolment documentation:

- Enrolment Form
- A copy of your child's birth certificate
- Immunisation Record
- Medical History
- Internet Safety Agreement (permission to use the internet for educational purposes)
- Privacy Statement (permission around privacy expectations)

It is important we have all the required documentation on or before your child's first day of school. Miss Kim Wilson, in the school office, will help you to ensure you have completed everything that is required.



Getting School Ready

What do I need?

- **School bag** - please ensure this is big enough to fit the following; lunch box, drink bottle, reading folder, library books and jersey/jacket
- **Uniform** - Please see uniform pamphlet
- **Lunch box and water bottle**
- **Stationary** - Please look carefully at the items on the stationary list. A pencil case is not required as items such as pencils, glue sticks and whiteboard pens are stored by the classroom teacher and used by everyone
- **Spare Clothes** - Accidents can happen so it is a good idea to pack some spare underwear and clothing for those moments
- **Reading Folder** - This will be used daily for reading books, reading log, homework book and library books
- **Red School Sun hat** - This is compulsory in Term 1 and Term 4
- **Vest** - This must be worn to and from school
- **Appropriate shoes** - we do fitness daily so children need to be able to run in them. Unless your child can tie their shoelaces, it is a good idea to have slip on or Velcro shoes
- **Everything must be clearly named**

Tips for a positive start

It is important to set up good routines at home and school.

- Arrive at 8.30am to allow plenty of time to unpack and settle into the classroom
- Encourage your child to carry their own bag and get them to unpack their lunch box and reading folder into their cubby then hang their bag up on the hook
- Remember to check their reading folder each night for homework and notices
- Ask any questions you may have



West Gore School New Entrant Parent Information
Getting Ready for School

How can I help my child get ready for school?

Kindergartens, Early Childhood Centres and everyday home activities are fantastic environments that encourage your child to develop a variety of skills. These are some ideas and activities that will help to support your child in transitioning to school.

- Encourage them to speak in full sentences
- Read to them daily
- Recognise their own name
- Practise writing their name
- Put on their shoes and socks
- Take off and put on their jersey
- Count to 10
- Hold a pencil
- Draw pictures
- Ask for help when needed
- Know some basic rhymes
- Pack and unpack their own bag
- Know the colours
- Go to the toilet independently
- Peel fruit
- Open packets
- Use scissors
- Follow 2 step instructions
- Take turns
- Share
- Tidy up
- Know that mistakes are okay because they help us learn
- Try new things
- Use their manners
- Blow their own nose

All children are individuals and learn things at different stages and rates. Don't be overly anxious if your child cannot do things his/her peers can do. Remember that development is on-going.

Through Te Kākano we will continue to develop these skills as they enter school.



School Visits

Once enrolment is completed West Gore School offers 3 visits prior to your child starting school.

Your child's new entrant teacher will make contact with you 2 months prior to your child turning 5 to arrange days and dates that suit you. A letter will be sent to you with the confirmed dates and any additional information.

Times for these visits are as follows:

Visit 1 8.30am - 10.30am **Please bring:** Something for fruit break

Visit 2 8.30am - 11.50am **Please bring:** Something for fruit break and morning tea

Visit 3 8.30am - 1.30pm **Please bring:** Something for fruit break, morning tea and lunch

Please come to the school office and our office staff will show you to the classroom.

We are flexible with times and children can stay on for playtime or lunchtime if you and the teacher can see they are settled. We can discuss this in the morning of the visits. Parents are more than welcome to stay for the whole time or part of the time however if your child is settled it is a good idea to pop away for a while. You are more than welcome to make a hot drink in the staff room.

School Visits are a time for your child to...

- Meet other children
- Get to know our morning routines
- To see where their cubby is and where their bag will go
- To meet their teacher and get to know them
- Ask any questions you may have



Te Kākano 'The Seedlings'

Our New Entrant Classroom

Te Kākano was developed to best suit every child's social, emotional, educational and physical needs and to make the transition from early childhood education to school seamless for our children and their families. It is an innovative and collaborative environment where students engage in learning that interests, challenges and grows them.

Te Kākano is made up of 3 classrooms with 3 teachers. At the start of Term Two another classroom will be set up in Room One. Jill Robb and Heather McNaughton will share this class for the remainder of the year. Every child has a 'home room' with a 'home' teacher where they start and finish the day. We call these our 'T' (teacher) groups.

Innovative Learning at West Gore School

- Supports teachers' and learners' strengths and offers students and teachers flexibility, learning at any time and any moment
- Te Kākano is learner focussed where each child is valued. Teachers teach in a style that best suits the needs of each individual learner
- Learning shifts from a one size fits all approach to a flexible approach that can be customised and adjusted for individual student needs
- Learners have choice about what they decide to work on during Action Stations based on personal interests
- Increased levels of engagement and encouraging students to develop their curiosity and creativity



Meet Our Teachers



Danielle Hurley

Kia Ora! I see Te Kākano as a way that we as teachers can be flexible and adjust our programmes to suit the individual needs of our children. It is a way of encouraging children to have active roles in their learning by having choice and knowing what they are learning and why they are learning it. I see our children as being at the centre of our classroom and planning. I would love to be able to build on their passions and foster their creativity and curiosity. I believe my strengths are building relationships with my students and being able to develop a love of learning by engaging them and making learning fun! I work hard to make sure each child's beginning of their school journey is the best it can be.



Nicole Weir

My ultimate vision for Te Kākano is to create an environment where children are empowered to make their own decisions and develop the skills to become independent and confident learners. They will be creative and motivated thinkers who have the ability to think outside the square and drive their own learning.

I am an organised, approachable and empathetic teacher who strives to create a safe environment for children where they are engaged and able to take risks in their learning.



Jessica Stevenson

Kia Ora! My vision for Te Kākano is to create a fun, safe and inspiring environment where the tamariki are given the power to make decisions in their learning. They will become independent, critical thinkers and will be encouraged to use and build on their creativity. As teachers I feel it is important that we adapt our programmes to meet the needs of each individual learner. I believe my strengths are the ability to build effective relationships with my students and engage them through creating an atmosphere where they want and know how to succeed along with taking risks in their learning.



A Typical School Day

8.30am - 8.55am Arrive at school and settle in for the day

8.55am - 10.30am Learning Block 1

20 minute morning tea break

10.50am - 11.50am Learning Block 2

40 minute break lunch break

12.30pm - 1.30pm Learning Block 3

20 minute afternoon tea break

1.50pm - 3.00pm Learning Block 4

Morning Routine: 8.55am - 9.20am

- Calendar - Learn the days of the week, months of the year, talk about the concept of time
- Shared Book and Poem - Read the poem together when it comes home on a Friday
- News and Sharing - Encourage your child to bring something along, practise what you are going to say at home
- Goal Setting and Reflecting – Ask your child what their goal for the week is and reflect on how they are going on it



Learning Programmes and Tips



Action Stations - Active Learning - What is it?

- Action Stations are a range of thought provoking and planned learning activities
- It allows children to test ideas, work through uncertainties, explore social interactions and make sense of the world around them
- Recognition of educating the whole child - social, emotional, physical, as well as cognitive
- Active learning provides opportunities for children to be involved in a range of hands on learning activities; these may be solitary or group activities
- Action Stations are always evolving depending on children's interests and needs
- Teachers work alongside children questioning, extending their thinking and teaching foundation skills

Workshop Teaching - What is it?

- Children receive daily small group and individual workshop teaching for Reading, Writing and Maths
- Children have workshop teaching in a quiet room where they are solely focussed on the teaching and learning without distraction
- Children complete follow up work in this room which is purposeful and engaging before returning to Action Stations
- Groupings are flexible. Teachers understand each child's learning style and group them based on this.
- They may be taught individually, in groups or in more than one group
- Teachers assess children weekly and make changes to groups based on this assessment



Reading

Children are read with daily from Monday - Thursday. They will bring a book home daily to read at home.

- Talk to your child about the book
- Look at the pictures
- Retell the story in their own words
- Help them point to the words
- Take turns at reading a page each
- Read the book to them
- Beginning readers use the pictures to work out words so encourage them to use the pictures to work out a word they are stuck on
- Prompt them, give them wait time and tell them the word if they are stuck
- Find words they know in the books

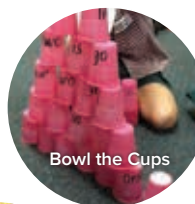
Sight Words

Your child will bring home sight words to learn in their homework, which will help them in their learning to read journey. They will begin learning magenta words. These are words found in the magenta books which they begin reading on arrival to school.

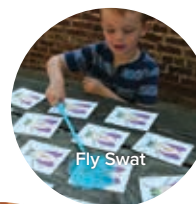
Fun ways to learn sight words:



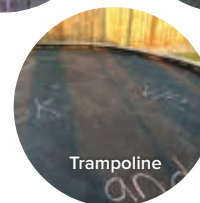
Chalk



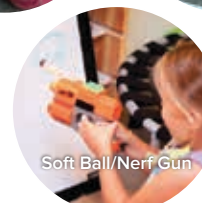
Bowl the Cups



Fly Swat



Trampoline



Soft Ball/Nerf Gun



Maths

Children are seen daily for a maths session. The programme is mainly number based and involves children working on basic number concepts by manipulating equipment. There are two aspects to the programme, knowledge and strategies. Once children have sufficient knowledge of numbers they are then taught how to apply their knowledge to solve problems. Children also have the opportunities to learn about fractions, length, shape, time, weight, statistics etc.

- Provide opportunities for your child to practise counting as they help you e.g. get me 8 oranges, put 4 forks on the table
- Use maths language with your child e.g. tallest, heaviest, long, short, before, after
- Point out numbers around you
- Help with baking and making things e.g. we are going to cut this sandwich in half
- Count forwards and backwards from lots of different numbers

Phonics and Writing

Your child will begin to learn letter names and sounds. They will have a sound each night to practise in their homework. Learning the sounds and learning their sight words then helps them to develop their writing.

- Magnetic letters e.g. find the sound at the start of sun
- Practising your sounds
- Play snap or memory with the sounds and letter names
- Draw sounds and words with chalk
- Encourage children to write e.g. write the shopping list, a letter to grandma



Handwriting - Our initial goals are:

- To use the correct pencil grip
- To form letters and numbers correctly

There will be a correct letter formation sheet glued into your homework book. Please help your child to correct and practise this when writing words and completing homework.



About Your Child

We would appreciate you filling in this form to provide us with additional information about your child. Please cut this off and bring it along to school with you.

Child's Name:

My child's interests and hobbies are:

.....

My Child's strengths are:

.....

Some things that my child may need additional support with academically, socially or emotionally:

.....

Anything else you think we should know:

.....

.....

If your child has a learning journal from their Early Childhood Centre, we would love to see it.

Thanks, Te Kākano classroom teachers

