

THE GARDENS SCHOOL

New Entrant Information



The
Gardens
School

Starting School

The most important thing you can do for your child is to be positive about school, that way your child will feel more relaxed about starting school. There is a lot to take in and your child will likely be very tired for the first few weeks, even if they have been at a full day pre-school or early childhood centre. Imagine yourself in a completely new environment, with new faces, new routines and new people telling you what to do.....you would be worn out too! If your child is upset about you leaving in the morning, the best thing you can do is stay calm, tell them to have a great day and that you'll see them after school and then leave with a smile on your face. They very quickly calm down after you have left and our junior teachers have plenty of experience dealing with tears in the morning.

The School Day

School begins at 8.50am and finishes at 2.50pm. We advise getting your child to school soon after 8.30am so they have time to put away their bag and book bag and settle into the classroom before the bell rings. If your child is late they must go to the office for a late pass before going to their classroom.

Bell times:

Block 1: 8.50 – 10.40

Morning Tea: 10.40 – 11.00

Block 2: 11.00 – 12.30

Lunch: 12.30 – 1.20

Block 3: 1.20 – 2.50

Lunches

Children must sit down to eat in a designated area and are supervised by duty teachers. At morning tea there is a 5 minute eating time and at lunchtime there is a 10 minute eating time. Young children often need longer than this to eat, so they do not have to finish eating in that time, duty teachers will still monitor them until they are ready to go and play. All children must have a lunch box. It is a good idea to talk through with your child about what they should eat at morning tea and what they should eat at lunchtime, so they are having food at both break times. We actively encourage students to bring drink bottles with water and there are many water fountains around the school as well. We strongly encourage healthy lunch options for children and it is helpful if you have taught your child how to open their lunch packets themselves.

Homework

Junior classes use a Communication Book to convey messages or notices relevant to your child. They are also a means for you to send messages to your child's teacher. Homework activities will be placed in the Communication Book and/or on your child's class blog or wiki, which you can access through the school website. Your child's reading log will also be in their communication book.

Junior children will bring home a reading book or other reading material, such as a poem, most nights. Please do not cover up the picture in the reading book, as this is a vital part for the children learning to predict and gain meaning from the text. Once you have listened to your child read the story, ask a few questions about what they have read, perhaps ask them to retell part of the story in their own words, or ask their opinion about what happened and what they liked in the story and please remember to sign the reading log. They may bring this book home more than once and it will be easy for them to read. Children need to re-read familiar material as it allows them to draw on all their language resources and to put this into fluent reading.

All students are required to have a Mathletics account, which can be paid for at the office and is then set up through the school. Mathletics is a fantastic online resource which children use right through to Year 8 and forms part of our homework expectations for the whole school.

Questions about homework should be directed to your child's class teacher. Our school homework policy is on our website.

Play Areas

The junior playground in front of the Weka classrooms is only for children in Y0-3. The field is an open play area for all students. There is often sports equipment put out for children to use at lunchtime. The school library is usually open at lunchtime as well. Teachers will tell children which areas are 'out of bounds'. Duty teachers wear a yellow hi-vis vest during break times and monitor all play areas.

Toilets

New Entrant children use the "Weka" or "Kereru" toilets, located in the Weka cloak bay and at either end of the Kereru block. They are directed to where these toilets are when they have their school visits and on the first day of school. Accidents do happen at school occasionally and our junior teachers and office staff will sort out clean clothes or may phone you if need to bring something else in for them to wear. It is helpful if your child has their school PE gear in their bag each day, as this can be a change of clothes if needed.

Uniform

All uniform can be purchased at school from our on-site uniform shop. This is the only official supplier of our school uniform. We have high expectations with regard to uniform and expect it to be worn correctly. Your child will need their school PE gear in their bag every day, as well as their school hat in Terms 1 and 4. Shoes should be black sandals or black closed toe shoes worn with black or white ankle socks. Please choose sturdy shoes that are suitable for school, not a fashion style shoe. Make sure your child can take them on and off easily. Shoes with velcro straps are a good option, no laces or tricky buckles if they aren't ready for them yet. In the winter terms there are the extra options of the grey undershirt, the school beanie and school scarf and black cargo-style pants. Girls may wear black tights (not footless) if they can manage getting them on and off themselves when they are changing for PE.

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!

Named uniform items will be returned to your child if they are found.

Medication/First Aid

If your child requires any medication at school you must advise the staff in the office and also your child's classroom teacher. Any medication that needs to be kept at school (e.g. asthma inhalers) should be named and handed in to the office staff to be kept in the sick bay. The sick bay is in our Administration block at the bottom of the Mt Lebanon carpark. If your child becomes unwell during the school day they will be attended to by the office staff and you will be contacted if necessary.

School Rules/Behaviour

We follow the "Cool Choices" programme at school. We encourage positive behaviour at all times. Teachers work with their classes to develop a "class treaty" or set of expectations within the classroom. Inappropriate classroom behaviour is managed by the teacher, inappropriate playground behaviour is managed by the teachers on duty. Any ongoing problems or serious issues are managed by Team Leaders and/or the Principal or Deputy Principal.

House System

Upon enrolment, all students are placed in a House. Houses are used for sports events, assemblies and other competitions during the year. Children can earn "tokens" for their house through good behaviour, hard work etc. Siblings are always kept in the same house. Each house has a colour and we will often ask students to dress in their house colours for events such as Athletics day or school cross country.

Our houses are: Rimu (Red), Tawa (Blue), Kauri (Green) and Kowhai (Yellow)

Physical Education

It is our normal practice that PE is taken by a PE Specialist Teacher, with each class participating in a 45min PE session each week. Teams may organise other sports and fitness activities during the year.

Students need to wear PE for all PE sessions and sports activities.

Children should NOT wear their PE gear under their school uniform or wear it to or from school.

Newsletters

Our weekly school bulletin comes out at the end of each week. If you would like to receive this via email you will need to subscribe via our Skoolbag App which you can access on a smartphone (type “The Gardens School” into the search option on the iTunes Store or the Google Play store) or through the internet. There is a link to this on our school website.

Team newsletters will come out at the beginning of each term. Other notices do come home quite regularly so check your child’s book bag each day.

School and Team newsletters are also uploaded to our school website.

A Facebook page is also set up and regularly updated with current notices and reminders.
www.facebook.com/TheGardensSchool

Absences

Please phone the office or notify us via the website if your child is absent from school.

Alternatively there is an absence notification form on our school App, which sends a message directly to the office.

Concerns

If at any time you have concerns about your child, in the first instance please speak with their classroom teacher. Sometimes children will come home and tell you about something that happened to them that they didn’t like, but for whatever reason, they haven’t told anyone at school about it. We teach children to tell someone at school so that accurate information is collected and matters can be dealt with promptly. If you feel the matter is more serious you may contact the principal via email or directly.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

AT

The Gardens School 

1 STOP 



2 THINK



3 DO



What should my child know to be “ready to learn” at school?

Numeracy/Mathematics:

- be able to count out loud forwards to and backwards from ten
- recognise what comes before and after a given number to ten
- identify and name basic shapes - circle, square, triangle
- know names of colours
- discuss sizes, shapes, direction and position of people and objects e.g. the cat is under the table, I am standing beside my friend

Literacy (Reading, Writing, Spelling):

- Recognise the alphabet and know the sounds that each letter makes
- Recognise basic words such as Mum, Dad, names of siblings etc.
- Understand that books are read from left to right and that the picture matches what the words are telling us

You can help foster your child’s love of reading by reading to them regularly and encouraging them to read and look at books with you and on their own. Talk about the books you read together and find ways to relate what you have read to their own experiences.

- Help them learn to write their name correctly (use a capital letter for the first letter only, for example, Ben not BEN)
- To hold and use pens and crayons correctly
- Draw and colour in
- Cut with scissors

Self-Management Skills:

- tidying up after themselves
- taking responsibility for their book bag each day
- dressing themselves/changing into PE gear and putting their uniform into their school bag
- encouraging them to carry their own school bag
- open food packets by themselves
- teach them to use the toilet/urinal properly
- teach them to blow their own nose
- talk to them about how we sit down outside to eat, we don’t walk/run when we are eating
- give them shoes they can put on and take off by themselves - no laces if they aren’t ready for them