



WELCOME TO MEADOWBANK SCHOOL

We would like to welcome you to Meadowbank School. The next couple of pages will give you some useful information on how to support your child as they transition into their new school.

Enrol Early

- We encourage you to enrol your child as soon they celebrate their 4th birthday.
- Early enrolment supports the school with funding and teacher organisation.
- To enrol please contact the Senior School Office for an enrolment pack
☎ 520 3739 ext : 700 or 📧 ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz
- You will receive a pack a couple of months before your child's 5th birthday, detailing the dates of their two half day visits prior to their 5th birthday and who their class teacher will be.

Getting Ready for School

Starting school is an exciting time for children however, it can also create feelings of anxiety. To support your child in making the transition into school here are a few things you might like to do to prepare them for the new experience.

Get to know the environment

Spend some time exploring the school site. Meadowbank is a large split site so it is important that you do explore the whole area but with a greater focus upon the Junior areas. Play on the playground, in the Lorax Garden, look for the toilets and show your child how to use the water fountains. Talk about the safety aspect of the yellow lines and where it is safe to play. Look for your child's room and if possible look through the windows and talk about what you can see.

Take the route you would in the morning to school and support your child in getting to know how they will come to school and what will happen at the end of the day. If you are enrolling in Club Meadowbank show your child the oak tree and the school hall.

Stationery and Uniform

On enrolment you will receive a list of stationery required which can be purchased online in Term 1 and 2 or from Senior School office in Term 3 and 3. Make sure stationery is labelled and ready for the first day at school. If possible bring the stationery to school on your child's visit day. Ensure all uniform is labelled in a way your child can read it, don't just put a surname if your child does not recognise it. You can purchase your uniform from the School Uniform Centre, 553 Remuera Road, Remuera and also second hand uniform are available from the Junior Office during school hours - term time only.

Getting Ready for Learning

You can help by encouraging them to:

- sit on a chair at a table for short periods of time to complete an activity.
- ask for things they need.
- be comfortable being away from you.
- know how to take turns, or is able to wait for things.

It is helpful, but not essential for your child to:

- Speak clearly and in full sentences.
- Hold a pencil in the correct grip.
- Use scissors.
- Recognise and write his or her name.
- Listen to stories and nursery rhymes.
- Know some letter names or sounds.
- Count to 10.
- Read numbers to 10.
- Recognise colours and shapes.
- Toilet themselves and wash and dry their hands.
- Put their shoes on.
- Be responsible for personal belongings.
- Sit on the mat for a period of time and listen well.
- Play co-operatively alongside other children.

Once their teacher has assessed what your child can do, they will develop a learning programme. If your child can already recognise some words, their teacher will take that into account when developing your child's learning programme.

At School

What time should I come to school?

It is important that you are on time for school. The classroom opens at 8.30am and learning begins promptly at 8.50am. Lots of social things happen before 8.50am and it provides your child with the opportunity to ready themselves for the school day. They can be responsible for hanging their bags and jackets on their pegs and getting their book bags ready. During this time they can interact with friends and the teacher making the separation from you smooth.

Talk to the teacher

Please share information with your child's teacher. If you have any concerns about your child it is important their teacher is made aware. These may be related to health, behaviour, social, learning etc.

Morning Tea and Lunch

When visiting the school site bring a packed lunch and encourage your child to practice opening their lunch box and carrying it for themselves. Meadowbank is a 'Beyond Green Gold Enviro School' and we encourage litterless lunches. If you can use plastic containers for snacks help your child open and close these, either by unclipping or unscrewing. We also suggest a balanced diet and encourage the selection of fruits, raw vegetables and healthy snacks over chocolates, lollies and chips. Water is also essential to keep your child hydrated and ready to learn.

Making Friends

Establishing friendships with other children is an important part of school life. A great way to encourage friendships is through arranging playdates with a wide range of children in your child's class.

Once your child has started school here are some helpful tips on what you can do at home.

Reading

Your child will bring home a reading book everyday to read to you. This book will have been read in class.

Find a quiet 5-10 minutes to read. Share the book and listen to your child read. If they have difficulty reading a word – wait. Give them time to think.

If they are still unsure try the following steps:-

- Look at the beginning and help them sound it out.
- Look at the pictures.
- Talk about possible words that make sense.
- Re-read the sentence and check their word choice makes sense.
- If they are still unsure, tell them.
- Remember to praise your child and make a comment in their reading journal for the teacher to see the following day.

Once they have read the book talk about what they have read. Did they like the book? Why? Retell the story in their own words. Answer simple questions on the story.

As your child begins to read, look for words in the environment. Look for signs, labels and posters.

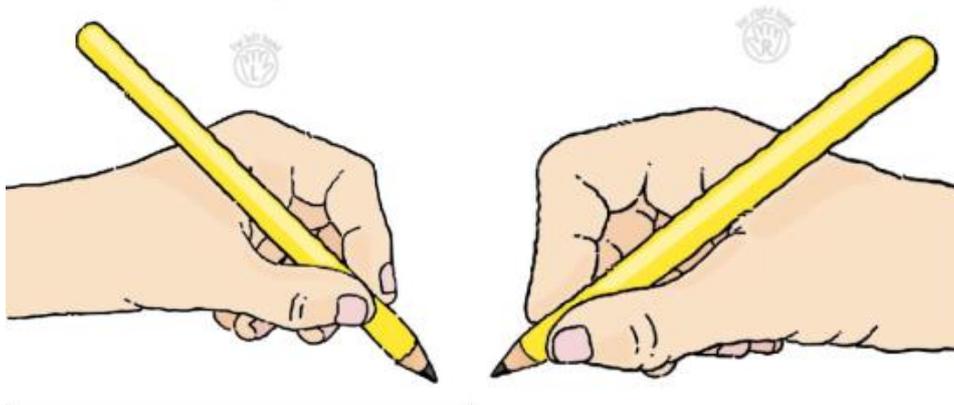
Visit the local library and encourage your child to choose their own books to share with you. Model reading to your child, if they see you reading they will be even more enthused to learn to read for themselves.

Writing

Provide your child with access to pens, jovis, felt tips, pencils, paper and scissors and encourage them to be creative and make marks and form letters.

Practise writing their name using a capital letter to begin.

Support your child to hold the pencil correctly and model the correct formation of letters with a focus on lower case letters.



a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



Maths

To support your child with Maths you can make the most of daily activities and games. Use the local environment to support number recognition and sequence by reading house numbers, counting cars, counting out fruit at the super market etc. You may wish to complete simple sums such as I have 3 apples and I get 2 more how many do I now have? Your child's teacher will be able to suggest additional activities to suit individual needs.

Useful Website

Below is a link to the Ministry of Education website with additional information on starting school.

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/EarlyYears/MovingOnToSchool.aspx>