



COASTAL TARANAKI  
SCHOOL

# STARTING SCHOOL

## Information for families



Welcome to Coastal Taranaki school.

This booklet is designed to create conversations with you and your child about beginning school.

It is to encourage your child to share their thoughts, and maybe concerns, and for you all to ask any questions that you may have about our school.

School is different to early childhood centres and kindy. This book will hopefully highlight some of the changes your child may encounter and give you ways to deal with them.

At Coastal Taranaki school, we realise that starting school can be a time of uncertainty and we hope this booklet provides some assurances.

Please feel free to write in it and please bring it along when you come for the school tour when enrolling.

Have you been to Coastal Taranaki School before?

Do you know anyone who already goes there?

It is a good idea to come and have a look around in your own time, maybe at the weekend, so you can familiarise yourself with the school grounds.



Welcome ☺

*When you arrive you will come in one of our gates to Room 16  
as this will be your classroom.*



*Have you seen Room 16  
before?*





*Mrs Page is the  
teacher in Room 16.*



*Dr McKenzie is the  
Principal.*



*Mrs Normanton is  
the Deputy Principal.  
She will give you a  
tour of the school  
when you enrol.*



*Jacky works in the  
office. She will help  
you with your  
stationary and  
uniform.*

*Have you met these people before?*





*When you get to school you will come inside and put your things away.*



*You will put away your book bag, drink bottle and shoes. Mrs Page will show you where everything goes.*



*It is good to have your name on all your belongings.*

*We wear a school  
uniform at Coastal.  
We look pretty cool.*



*In Term 1 and Term 4  
you need to bring a  
sun hat.*

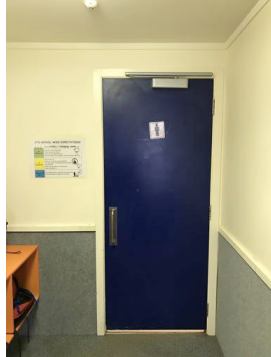
*Your shoes can stay by  
the sink.  
Make sure you know  
how to do them up.*



*Sometimes it is a good idea to have a change of clothes  
in your bag just in case.*



*The toilets you will use are in the corridor near to our class.*



*There are girls toilets and boys toilets.*

*Can you see which one is for girls and which one is for boys?*

*Don't forget to wash your hands when you are finished.*



*We have drinking fountains at school. They are in the playground in case you are thirsty.*

*Have you used a drinking fountain before?  
If you forget your drink bottle you can use a fountain to get a drink.*

*Have a go at using one when you are on your visit.*

*At morning tea and lunch time, all the children eat either outside or inside with their teacher.*



*<<<WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES. >>>  
Please check the labelling of foods especially muesli bars.*

*Just like early childhood centres and kindy, we encourage a healthy lunch box.  
School is busy so you will need foods that fuels your body and your brain. Some good foods for school are: yoghurt, fruit, crackers, cheese, sandwiches, salami or ham. You can bring your own drink bottle for drinks in class. Like early childhood and kindy we encourage water only. Children will be offered milk four days a week as well.*



*When the bell goes you go outside and play. You can play on the playground, courts, sandpit or field.*



*There will be adults outside at play time. They wear bright orange vests to help you find them. When the bell goes again you go back to your class. Watch what the other kids are doing to help you know what to do.*

*Have you been to the playground?*

*Have you tried out our climbing walls and slides?*

*In the summer time we go swimming twice a week. We walk to the Okato pools together. You will need your togs and a towel in a swimming bag.*



*It is helpful if you can undress and dress yourself.*

*Have you been to Okato pools? It has a shallow pool for smaller children.*



*Once a week your class will go to the library. You will be able to borrow two books a week to take home to read.*



*Delwyn is our librarian.  
You can take two books  
home per week, you take  
them home in your book  
bag.*



*Our library is also open during the holidays. Have  
you been before?*

*School finishes at 3pm.  
Mrs Page will ask you to pack your bag to take home so  
you are ready to go.*



*If you take the school bus,  
you will need to go and line  
up by the bus stop. Mrs  
Page will help you the first  
few times.*



*We encourage children to pack their own bags  
however you can help by talking about what goes in  
and what can be carried. For example, big jackets  
don't often squeeze in. Check that bags only have what  
is necessary in them to make the job easier.*



*Every Friday there is an assembly, either a Junior or whole school one. We sing songs and certificates are given out. Sometimes we have special visitors.*



*Families are welcome to join us for assemblies. They start at 2:30pm*



## NEWSLETTER

Kia ora katoa and Welcome to Week 4.

We have had a very busy start to the year and it has been great to see the positive, enthusiastic feel around the school. During Week 1 we had a highly successful Whanau Sports day. It was amazing to see our senior students stepping up to take on lead roles during the games. Points were awarded for participation on the day – with Whanau coming out on top! This has inspired the other whanau groups to lift their game and try and lead the points table in upcoming events that are scheduled.

We also held 3 Way Goal Setting meetings last Friday. It was great to see the number of parents who were able to come into school and meet with their child's teacher(s). I appreciate it is not always easy to make the time to come into school during the day and thank each of you making this happen. If you have asked the teachers for information or made suggestions, these will be followed up over the next few weeks.

Our senior students (mainly Year 11) have also had a busy first few weeks. They have completed a Work Health and Safety Course and are part way through a First Aid course, both of which will help support their vocational pathways into the future. Many have also started their WITT courses through the Trades Academy and other Gateway programmes. It is great to see the high level of engagement amongst these students.

This week is a big week for Years 1-10. Each class has a series of assessments to gather data of where each student is at this stage of the year. March is the traditional time for each assessment which helps teachers to set goals and next steps for student learning. So if your child comes home feeling a little tired from all the hard work, you will know why! We are spacing tests out over the course of the week so that students are not having to complete too many all at once.

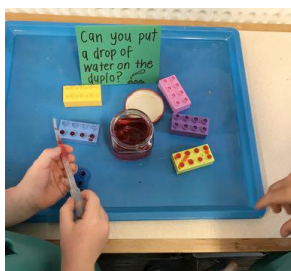
Over the next few weeks there are again a number of things happening. One of the most important will be the Teacher Only Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. On this day all staff and the Board will be heading off to Punakaia for the day to learn more about our community, our history and to make some plans for the future. I am really looking forward to the day and all that it entails. With this being a teacher only day, please do not send your children to school. Buses will not be running.

So what else is happening? Today (at 5.30 pm in the library) there are registrations for Otago Junior Rugby players. There is also a Board meeting tonight. Tomorrow we have a meeting for the Year 1-2 students and their families/whanau to learn all about the Learning Through Play programme that is happening in the school. This is a truly amazing programme – the students are engaged with projects and activities and don't even realise just how much they are learning during this time. The teachers are all looking forward to sharing this with families tomorrow at 3 pm.



*On alternate Tuesdays a newsletter is sent home. There is a lot of information about upcoming events, sports and things to remember.*

*In the New entrant classroom the day is based on Learning through play. Mrs Page takes groups for reading, writing and maths whilst the remainder of the children learn through play.*



*Learning through play provides a smooth transistion from early childhood and kindy to school.*



*Our outside space shared with Room 15.*



*Children are developing skills of dexterity, concentration, problem solving, resilience, social skills, confidence, negotiation and leadership whilst learning through play.*



Other things you need to know:

- \* School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3pm.
- \* If you want your child to take the school bus, please see Jacky in the office to put them on the list.
- \* Fonterra provides free milk for children four days a week. This is optional and drunk in class.
- \* School uniform can be purchased at the school office.



#### School visits:

Your child will have two full day visits to school. Parents are welcome to stay until your child has settled, but every child is different. Please feel free to discuss with Mrs Page. Please don't be offended if you are asked to leave as most of the time this actually helps your child settle.

Once your child starts school, if you feel they would benefit from half days, this is fine. Please chat to Mrs Page to make a plan.

Before you start school it is good if you:

- \* Know how to be responsible for self care (get dressed, put shoes on, blow nose, manage toileting)
- \* Understand that there will be some rules.
- \* Recognise your name and some letters of the alphabet.
- \* Know who the members of your family are.
- \* Recognise some numbers.
- \* Recognise some colours and shapes.
- \* Know when to say "please" and "thank you".
- \* Can look after your belongings.
- \* Can follow some simple instructions.

Mum and Dad can help you get ready for school by:

- \* Encouraging you to try new things.
- \* Reading to you.
- \* Showing you what your name looks like.
- \* Pointing out numbers and letters.
- \* Teaching you to write your name.
- \* Encouraging counting.
- \* Doing puzzles with you.
- \* Talking about things you see and do.
- \* Encouraging you to be independent and curious.
- \* Providing opportunities for you to use scissors, to write, draw and be creative.