



Inspiring and challenging adventurers, creators and thinkers.

Starting School at Pegasus Bay

...a guide for parents of New Entrants



Starting school is a HUGE milestone in your child's development. We've created this information booklet to help you and your child prepare for school.

Updated in March 2022

When does my child need to start school?

- Your child can start school from the day they turn 5. Most children start on, or just after their fifth birthday, but it is not compulsory to start until they are 6.
- We are not legally able to enrol children prior to their 5th birthday.

My child has turned 4, what should I do?

- Have a read through our enrolment information (<http://www.pegasusbay.school.nz/enrolments>) and complete our online enrolment form and then get in touch with the office to make a time to come in to complete the enrolment process.

What is the enrolment process?

- You will come in and meet with Jared Kelly, our Principal or Di Murphy our Deputy Principal. They will talk you through how our school operates and will answer any questions you may have. They will also get relevant information about your child and your family from you. This includes health information, what your child is interested in/good at, any anxieties your child or you might have about starting school, your child's preschool experience, and any particular family information that is helpful for us to have about your child/family.
- You will visit the Learning Community your child will be in, and will meet the teachers.
- We encourage you to bring your child along to this meeting, so they are fully involved in the whole process from the start, and can see what it's all about.
- They will introduce you to the NE Lead Teacher, Sally Patterson, who is also our Transition to School Teacher. Sally will be in contact with you 6 weeks out from your child's starting date to organise transition visits.
- We will check your enrolment documentation prior to your child starting school. We need to sight the Birth Certificate and Passport if your child is not born in New Zealand as well as immunisation information.

*Please note that it is **your** responsibility to contact our school to enrol your child. Preschools may arrange group school visits for children in their care, but they can't enrol your child on your behalf, or arrange individual visits for your child.*

What is the Transition programme about?

- We hold regular group visits and we also offer three individual visits with your child, gradually increasing the length of visit each time - the first from 9 - 10.30am, the second from 9-1.30pm and the third one is all day 9am-3pm.
- These visits are an important part of the transition process to school for your child. Yes, you can stay and be part of the day, as this is a great way for you to see how the class runs.
- Some children wear their new school uniform, but this is not compulsory until they start fulltime.
- You can talk to the transition to school teacher – Sally Patterson - about dates for individual visits. Your child will usually have 3 individual visits and these visits will be carried out one week before your child is enrolled to start. We do try to accommodate your schedule when planning these visits, please bear in mind that trips and events may mean we cannot have visits on certain days.

What happens at a group school visit?

The visits are during the first learning block which is 9am-10.30am. Your child will need to bring a small snack with them. It is a good idea for you to stay with your child if they are unsure or nervous about school. During these visits the children will become familiar with;

- Learning community spaces routines, children and the teachers
- Where to hang their bag and coat
- Where to put their lunchbox and drink bottle
- Where to sit
- Where the toilets are
- Where to play at playtime
- Where to have a drink

During the morning your child will participate in an intentional learning experience designed to develop fine motor skills and concentration. These visits are invite only and for tamariki who are starting school in 6 weeks' time. The purpose to build relationships with the child so they feel secure in their new environment.

****Unfortunately, while we are under the red setting in the Covid Protection Framework, these group transition visits are paused****

Please ensure that you have been in touch with Sally prior to book a space as they are limited.

What is our New Entrant programme?

We work in Learning Communities and it works differently to the classrooms you will remember from your school days. Our teachers operate as a team, working collaboratively to best support your child's needs. There is a lot of information on this in our Parent Handbook – if you have any other questions, please ask.

The Junior team have a literacy and numeracy focus as well as a strong emphasis on social and emotional development;

- Literacy is delivered using a Structured Literacy programme focused on letters, their sounds and how to read and write these. Tamariki are supported through the different stages in small groups of 3-5 tamariki in a lesson where learning is explicitly delivered by a kaiako in ability groups.
- Mathematics delivered using the Maths-No Problem programme. This programme is designed using the Maths Mastery approach to learning. It is predominantly hands on using a lot of specific equipment, math talk and sharing their understandings through experience.
- Social and emotional skills are developed intentionally through intentional provocations and experiential learning pedagogy. Skills are taught during circle time, such as turn taking and asking how to join in a game, and reinforced during our Discovery Learning Programme.

What happens on the first day of school?

- Enjoy packing their school bag with them - be sure to include lunch box, water bottle and spare underwear. It is essential you name everything, and that your child can recognise their own belongings.
- You should arrive with your child about 8:30 so there is plenty of time for them to get ready. (Teachers are in the Learning Communities from 8:30am).
- If you have not been able to attend school visits prior to starting, then please be at school just after 8:30 so your child can meet the teacher and be shown the morning routines and become familiar with where everything is.
- Bring along all the items from the stationery list. You can name all books but do not name pencils, scissors, whiteboards, whiteboard pens, highlighters etc. as these are shared between the children.
- Encourage your child to carry their school bag themselves, and to show you that they remember the morning routine they learned on their visits by doing as much as they can by themselves. This helps

them to realise how much they can do by themselves and create a sense of belonging and independence.

- When your child looks settled, we recommend that you say goodbye and let them know that you'll be back to get them at the end of the day – don't leave this until bell time, try to give them some time to settle without you before the bell goes. Some children become upset at the thought of their primary caregiver leaving, but quickly settle down once you've gone.

What else do you need to know?

- Please read the [Pegasus Bay School Parent Handbook](#) – there is a lot of information in there about our learning spaces and how we organise our Learning Communities. It also includes information on communication, uniform, school bus and lots more!
- Check out our website – read our front page blog, and have a browse through the site..
- Join our Facebook page – Pegasus Bay School Newsfeed. This is a closed group for parents with children currently attending our school only, and staff will post notices and photos here.
- Most importantly – keep in touch with us! If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, then talk to your home group teacher first, or email them.

How you can help prepare your child for school?

- Teach your child to recognise and write their name (capital for first letter, then lower case);
- Any other interest that your child shows in writing, insist on writing lower case letters;
- Counting to 10 both forwards and backwards;
- Read a wide range of stories (repetition is important);
- Sing and say nursery rhymes together;
- Make sure they can go to the toilet by themselves;
- Teach them to get their footwear on and off by themselves.
- Teach them how to apply their sunscreen.
- Teach them how to say please, thank you and sorry, and share toys and other special things.



What if my child is not “ready” for school?

School readiness is not about being able to read, write, know colours or counting – these skills will be taught at school so please don’t worry if your child is not a master of these just yet!

Readiness is about emotional and social maturity – aspects of development that we cannot fast track. We cannot make a child who lacks the necessary maturity become mature. A child who is ready for school may be able to...

- follow two or three instructions at the same time.
- move on to new activities easily.
- separate well from their care giver.
- show an interest in and interact well with other children.
- concentrate on a task.
- recognise and express their feelings and needs.
- deal with frustration appropriately.
- use the toilet by themselves.

If your child is not “ready” for school, again, don’t worry! If they are unable to manage themselves then we will talk to you about this and will put in place a plan to help them be successful at school. This may include attending for shorter periods of time, rather than whole school days or you coming in and supporting your child with their learning.

What will they learn in our Literacy and Maths lessons?

Literacy

Our literacy programme is taught using a structured literacy programme. This begins with specific phonological awareness instruction. This looks at parts of language such as rhyming, syllables and alliteration before beginning to blend and segment words to read and spell.

This is supported through the use of picture books and conversations. The teachers create multiple opportunities throughout each day to share stories with the child and teach the areas of phonological awareness.

Traditionally literacy is taught with reading, writing, handwriting and phonics as separate sessions. At Pegasus Bay School these skills are all taught in one focussed session each day, building a strong connection between reading and writing. Each child has one on one time with the teacher each day with each teaching point directly focused on that child's next step.

The alphabet is taught in a specific structured order:

Stage 1: m, s, f, a, p, t, c, i

Stage 2: b, h, n, o, d, g, l, v

Stage 3: y, r, e, qu, z

Stage 4: j, u, k x w

Moving onto diagraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound) such as th, ch, sh and then on to more complex spelling patterns such as ea, ee, ai etc.

During each stage the tamariki are taught the sound of each letter, the letter formation and how to blend the sounds together to read words and how to segment the sounds to spell words.

Once we begin "reading", the books the children are using texts that are completely decodable. Each word is able to be worked out (blended) using their phonetic knowledge (sounds). These books do **NOT** come home. The use of picture books shared at home enables them to carry on building vocabulary and growing their love of language.

Ways to help at home:

- Read stories together
- Practise writing their name (using only a capital letter at the beginning)
- Play “I spy” together to teach first sounds
- Play rhyming games together

Maths

During the first years at school, your child will learn the basics of maths – counting, sorting, comparing, ordering, patterning and matching using the Maths-No Problem! Programme.

There are many ways that you can support your child to love working with numbers:

- Sing counting nursery rhymes
- Use picture books with counting and sequencing for example “The very hungry caterpillar”
- Play snap with playing cards
- Count forwards and backwards to and from 10 and then 20.
- Write and read different numbers.
- Using everyday experiences i.e.: “Can you get me.... pegs?”; “How many carrots have we got?”
- Play dominos (the \$2 shop has great sets of these)
- Dot to dot pictures to help them order numbers
- Look at and read the numbers on letterboxes
- Learn your phone number–play with an old telephone at home
- Discuss the shapes and sizes of everyday items

This booklet is intended to help you with the enrolment process and also give you some ideas to help your child get a great start. There is no right or wrong here and no minimum entry level. If at any stage, you need more information we are only an email or phone call away.

Who do I contact.....

...for an enrolment pack:

- Visit our website, click the green 'enrolments' button at the bottom of the home page and you will find the contents of the enrolment pack there.

...for an appointment to enrol:

- phone us – 03 9207000
- email us – micky@pegasusbay.school.nz

...to arrange an individual school visit:

- Phone 03 9207000 and provide us with your email address – we will ask the transition to school teacher to contact you.
- Email the transition to school teacher, Sally Patterson
sallypatterson@pegasusbay.school.nz

...to find out more information:

- Our website: www.pegasusbay.school.nz has all our enrolment information, parent handbook, newsletters, calendar, term dates and lots more!
- Phone us: 03 920 7000
- Email us: admin@pegasusbay.school.nz (for Corinda at Reception)
micky@pegasusbay.school.nz (for Micky, the Principal's PA)
principal@pegasusbay.school.nz (for Jared, the Principal)

