

15 November 2023

**COHORT ENTRY SCHEME: Do you have a child turning 5 in 2024 or in coming years?**

Kia ora PBS Parents and Caregivers

Following a consultation process in conjunction with our neighbouring school Kenakena, the Board of Paraparaumu Beach School has decided to adopt a Cohort Entry process for five-year-old students from February 2024.

Our cohort entry dates for five year olds starting school in 2024 are:

PBS Term Dates for 2024	START OF TERM ENTRY DATE	MID-TERM ENTRY DATE*
1: 1 Feb - 6 April	7 February 2024**	11 March 2024
2: 29 April - 5 July	29 April 2024	4 June 2024
3: 22 July - 27 Sept	22 July 2024	26 August 2024
4: 14 Oct - 17 Dec	14 October 2024	18 November 2024

\* The mid-point of each term will be the Monday nearest to halfway between the first and the last day of the term. If the Monday falls on a public holiday the next working day will be used as the mid-term date.

\*\*The date used for cohort entry in the first term is the latest possible term start date. Even though our school uses a general earlier start date than the day after Waitangi Day, the mid-term dates will apply for the purposes of a cohort entry policy.

History of Cohort Entry

Cohort entry was introduced as an option for schools in July 2017. Schools can consult with their communities on whether to adopt cohort (group) entry or keep continuous entry. Paraparaumu Beach school has opted for Cohort Entry. From term one 2018, new entrants were able to start

school in groups at the beginning of each term closest to their fifth birthday. That meant that some children were starting school at the age of four. However, the government changed this policy so that new entrants can start school in groups, only after children have turned five. Therefore, from 1 January 2020, four-year-olds were no longer able to start school as part of a school's cohort entry policy, and two cohort entry points per term were mandated (one at the beginning of each term, and one at the mid-point of each term).

### The Benefits of Cohort Entry

Cohort entry is about helping children to settle better into school. There is evidence that starting school alongside other children helps build relationships and supports a smoother entry to school life.

Schools that are already using cohort entry believe it offers their children the best start to their school life. It can also mean less disruption for new entrant teachers who can prepare for groups of children arriving on a specific date rather than individuals on an ad-hoc basis throughout the year.

Ngā mihi

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