



Together we are lifelong CREST learners

New Entrants
Transition Information
Nau mai! Welcome





Kia ora Parents/Caregivers,

Starting school is an exciting and important step in your child's life - and your own! At Paraparaumu Beach School we look forward to working with you and your child to make this important stage rewarding and positive.

Our staff are committed to meeting the needs of all children, to the best of our ability, whilst valuing their uniqueness.

At Paraparaumu Beach School we have an open door policy and value the communication between home and school, as partnerships between staff and parents are an integral part of your child's learning. Please do not hesitate to contact our New Entrant Coordinator - Sandy Saunders (sandys@pbs.school.nz) with questions regarding your child's transition to school.

The following information provides some information about starting school and an overview of Tātahi Syndicate (Year 0-2) and how you can help your child with their transition to school.

Once again, welcome to Paraparaumu Beach School. We look forward to a positive partnership between your family and our school.

Tātahi Syndicate (Year 0-2 Teachers)



Class Level - Junior Placements



At Paraparaumu Beach School a child who starts in Cohort 1 and 2 will be classified as Year 1. All other cohorts are classified as Year 0. Please note that Cohort 3 students are reviewed on a case by case basis due to changes in the yearly cohort dates.

Helpful Information - Before your child starts school

School Visits

You and your child will be invited to **four school visits** before starting school.

Most children are able to transition smoothly with these school visits.

These school visits provide your child with a little taste of school life within the actual school environment.

Prior to starting school, it would be helpful if your child:

- can toilet themselves, change their clothes, wash their hands.
- can pack and unpack his/her bag.
- can handle morning tea and lunch items independently.
- can put on and take off their own shoes (velcro is great!).
- can follow 1-2 simple instructions in sequence.
- is able to sit and listen to and tell stories.
- can vocalise their needs e.g “I have a sore tummy”
- can recognise his/her own name.

School Bags - ensure your child's school bag is big enough to fit items comfortably

Stationery - Please name all stationery items



First Day Information

On your first day at PBS, please go to the office with your child. Our Principal/Deputy Principal will ensure all documentation is complete and show you to your child's classroom.

School Hours:

8.55 am - 10.40 am (Fruit break at 10.00 am)

10.40 am - 11.00 am - Play

11.00 am - 11.15 am - Morning Tea

11.15 am - 12.50 pm - Middle block

12.50 pm - 1.40 pm - Play

1.40 pm - 1.55 pm - Lunch eating

1.55 pm - 3.00 pm - Afternoon block

Please arrive at school before 8.45 am to ensure your child is settled into the class before the first bell rings. Our classrooms are open from 8.30am.

Children should not be at school before 8.30am or after 3.15pm as there is no supervision.

Once your child is organised, please use the teacher's guidance as to the best time to leave. Teachers are well experienced in managing and looking after the emotional needs of children during the transition to school. Please be assured that upset children often settle quickly; once parents have gone and they get swept up in the exciting day ahead.



How can I support my child?

- talk to your child about starting school where he/she will meet new friends, play games, sing and make things.
- Teach them to put on and take off their own shoes.
- Provide them with clothes and shoes that are easy to manage.
- Label all possessions (e.g. clothes, books, lunchbox).
- Give them duties to perform around the home which will require simple directions - this will help with confidence.
- Teach your child to put things away after using them.
- Read to them regularly to develop a love of books.
- Encourage your child to talk positively about their day at school.
- Be at school on time each day (before 8.55am).
- Support your child to leave toys and special items at home.
- Discuss any concerns with the classroom teacher.

Programme Overview



When starting at Paraparaumu Beach School, our first priority is ensuring children feel safe and secure within their learning environments. As this sense of security develops, they become open to learning.

Oral Language

Oral Language is the foundation of all literacy programmes. For children to be able to read and write, they need to be able to talk about their experiences and learn to ask questions to further their understanding of the world around them. Teachers build vocabulary and oral language skills with the use of quality picture books and during Learning Through Play. Classrooms are rich in language and opportunities to talk.

Learning Through Play

Learning Through Play uses active, hands-on learning experiences that are authentic to the child. It provides students with opportunities to explore curriculum learning and key competency development. The Key Competencies are central to the students' learning. These may include such things as resilience, problem-solving, working together, having a 'can do' attitude, following a task through and thinking creatively. As well as focusing on the main learning areas of reading, writing, maths, science, the Arts, Social Sciences, PE, Health and Technology, Learning Through Play is a vehicle for extending oral language, developing social skills and self-directed play.

Reading

Early reading success is a powerful predictor of later reading success and education achievement. At Paraparaumu Beach School, we follow the Better Start Literacy Approach whereby our teaching is explicit and systematic. Teachers work on introducing sounds and building early literacy foundations. The children work on learning to identify sounds, manipulate sounds in words and finally with support, read a decodable text.

Whānau support really matters! Talking and reading with your child is so important. Having a rich language background enables your child to gain meaning from printed text.

Writing

At school, your child will learn to write words, then sentences with the sounds they know. They will also write stories from their own experiences. As a child grows in confidence they begin to expand their ideas and use several sentences.

[How can you help at home?](#)

Mathematics

Students in Tātahi experience teaching that encourages curiosity and fosters success as they explore environments and contexts that are rich in number and spatial elements. We provide active, hands-on experiences to help engage students in mathematics and statistics, with meaningful tasks that reflect their interests and the world around them (NZ Curriculum, 2025).

[How can you help at home?](#)

Lastly ..

- Transition to school can be a big step for some children. It can be hard for them to concentrate, follow instructions, make new friends and then do it all again the next day ... and the next!
- All Paraparaumu Beach School staff have a passion for learning and their aim is to nurture your child's potential and to ensure school is a happy and positive experience for them.