



Starting School Guide

Scott Point School



Starting school at five can be an exciting and nervous time for both children and their whānau. This is an important event in your child's life, and we are here to support you through this transition.

The information in this booklet is intended to help make your child's first day at school (and the days to follow) go smoothly. If you have any questions or require assistance in any way, please contact the school office.



How to Help Your Child Prepare For School

Children need to develop independence by packing and unpacking their own bag and managing their belongings.

You can help by letting your child:

- ✓ Carry their own bag
- ✓ Put their bag in their cubby hole
- ✓ Put their reading book bag in their whānau book bag box
- ✓ Put their water bottle in their whānau water bottle box



They will also need to be able to manage their own clothing by:

- ✓ Putting on and taking off their socks and shoes
- ✓ Putting on and taking off their jumpers and jackets



Morning tea and lunchtime can initially be overwhelming for children when they first start school and you may find they don't eat all their lunch in the first few weeks of school. As they become used to the morning tea and lunchtime routines this will change. If you have any concerns, please talk to your child's teacher.

You can help your child by making sure they can:

- ✓ Open their lunch box, containers and drink bottle
- ✓ Open packets of food, eg. chips, muesli bars (snipping the corner or semi-opening the packet is helpful) - Please remember that we are a 'zero waste' school, so your child will be bringing home their food wrappers

During the school day your child will be doing many fun and exciting activities.

To help your child enjoy and join in confidently with these activities they need to be able to:

- ✓ Use scissors to cut paper
- ✓ Hold a pencil correctly
- ✓ Write their name



The First Day

The school day begins at: 9.00am.

It is a good idea to be at school at 8.30am to allow time for your child to prepare for the day and to socialise with their class teachers and peers.

The school day ends at 3.00pm.

We ask all parents of our new entrant children to please collect their child from their learning space. Please wait outside for your child. The teachers will open the doors once they are ready to go.

Please speak to your child's teachers if you have made alternative arrangements for home time.



Share the excitement of starting school with your child. Listen to them talk about their first day of school and celebrate their successes.

Remember, that it can take some time for your child to fully settle into school life.

During the first few weeks, we encourage you to visit your child's learning space before and after school, so they can share their learning with you.

The School Day



9.00–9.10am	Whānau Class Time / Hui Time
9.10–10.00am	Mathematics
10.00–10.05am	Fruit Snack
10.05–10.40am	Writing
10.40–11.00am	Morning Tea Play
11.00–11.15am	Morning Tea Eating
11.15am–12.35pm	Literacy
12.35–1.10pm	Lunch Play
1.10–1.25pm	Lunch Eating
1.25–1.30pm	Whānau Class Time
1.30–2.45pm	Inquiry / Experiential Learning
2.45–2.55pm	Whānau Time / Hui Time
2.55–3.00pm	End of Day Organisation and Pick Up

Maths

As a school we use a Mathematics programme called Prīme. This focuses on the development of early numeracy and problem solving skills.

It covers a wide range of mathematical skills including recognising, ordering and comparing numbers, counting, addition and subtraction, understanding length, weight, big and small, 2D and 3D shapes, patterns, sorting and grouping.

The Mathematics program in Kāinga Waitā consists of two parts. They will spend time working in a small levelled group with a teacher focussing on building their mathematical skills and knowledge. The rest of the time they will be working on a range of tasks at their level either in their small group or independently.



Exploring Maths - This is wide range of activities which encourage the development of fine motor skills across a range of hands on tasks. These cover shape, length, weight, patterns and sorting.

Number Work - These are a range of activities which reflect the learning they are doing with the teacher. It enables them to continue to practice these skills independently.

Solve Me - Is a set of number based problems across a range of levels which challenge the Learners to use the skills they have been taught in their teacher led small group.

Literacy

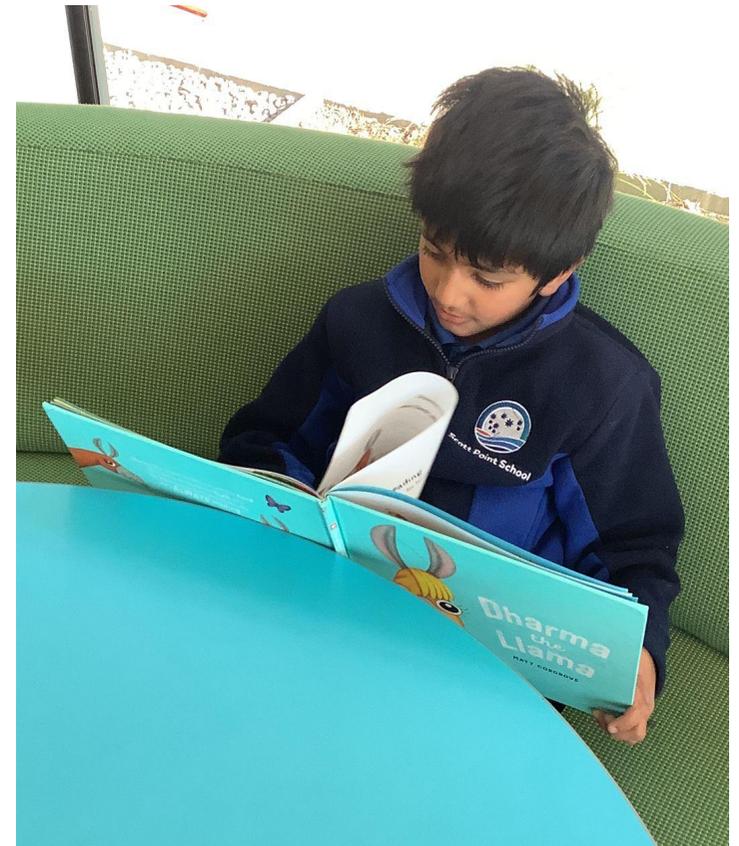
As a school we teach using a Structured Literacy approach, a program called Little Learners Love Literacy. This is a systematic approach to teaching using a specific order to teach the letter sounds in small levelled groups.

The Literacy program in Kāinga Waitā consists of two parts. They will spend time working in a small levelled group with a teacher focussing on building their phonics, writing and reading skills. The rest of the time they will be working on a range of tasks at their level either in their small group or independently.

During the teacher led small group we focus heavily on learning the sounds letters make and the correct letter formation. They then move on to reading and writing words that contain these letters. Once they are confident in reading these words they move onto reading books containing these words and heart words (words that are not decodable at this stage but are needed to make sentences).

This process continues, adding more letter sounds at each stage to increase the amount of words they can read and write.

We are constantly assessing the learners to make sure they are working within a group at the correct level.



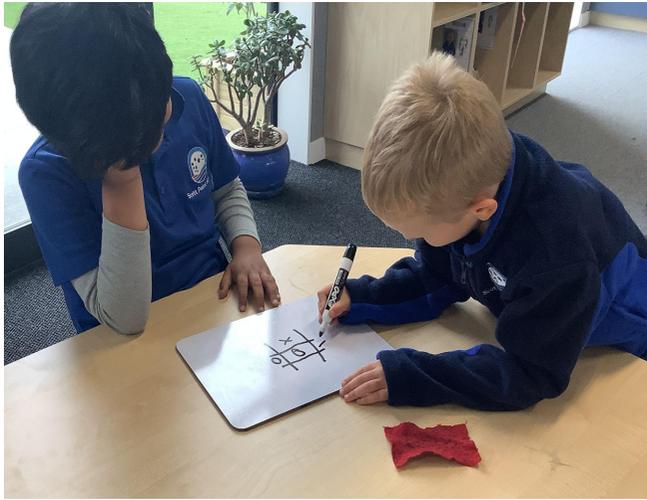
Read to self - They will be practising reading words, sentences and books at their level

Read to someone - They will share a book with a friend telling them the story using the pictures or reading the words.

Word work - They will work on activities which focus at a word level on the skills they are learning in their small group.

Ipad/Listen to reading - This is on the Ipad where they listen to a story being read aloud.

Inquiry



Our Learners use the Scott Point School's areas of Inquiry - Project Based, Problem Based and Design - within each area are four guiding principles - Wonder, Explore, Navigate and Seek.

Learners will explore a range of topics, with teacher guidance, across all the areas of the curriculum - Science, History, Social Science, The Arts, Technology and Digital Technology. Each approach to learning within an area of inquiry will help develop different skills for the learners.

Project Based Learning is where a project is undertaken in response to a problem. This project will usually start with identifying and problem and working with a group of learners to find a solution.

Problem Based Learning is where learners are working to solve a real world problem. This problem is often developed out of learners own interests. Learners work through specific steps in the Wonder, Explore, Navigate and Seek process.

Design is where learners are thinking outside the box to work on solving or improving an issue. Learners will work through the process guiding them to design or innovate a solution.

Experiential Learning

During Experiential Learning, learners are given provocations which relate to the inquiry topic for the term. These provocations allow them to work on hands on experiences to develop fine motor skills, collaboration skills and new learning about the topic area. For example, learners have been exploring strategies to play board games.

Learners were provided some experiences of hands on activities, to help guide their learning. This skill was then picked up in their inquiry learning.

