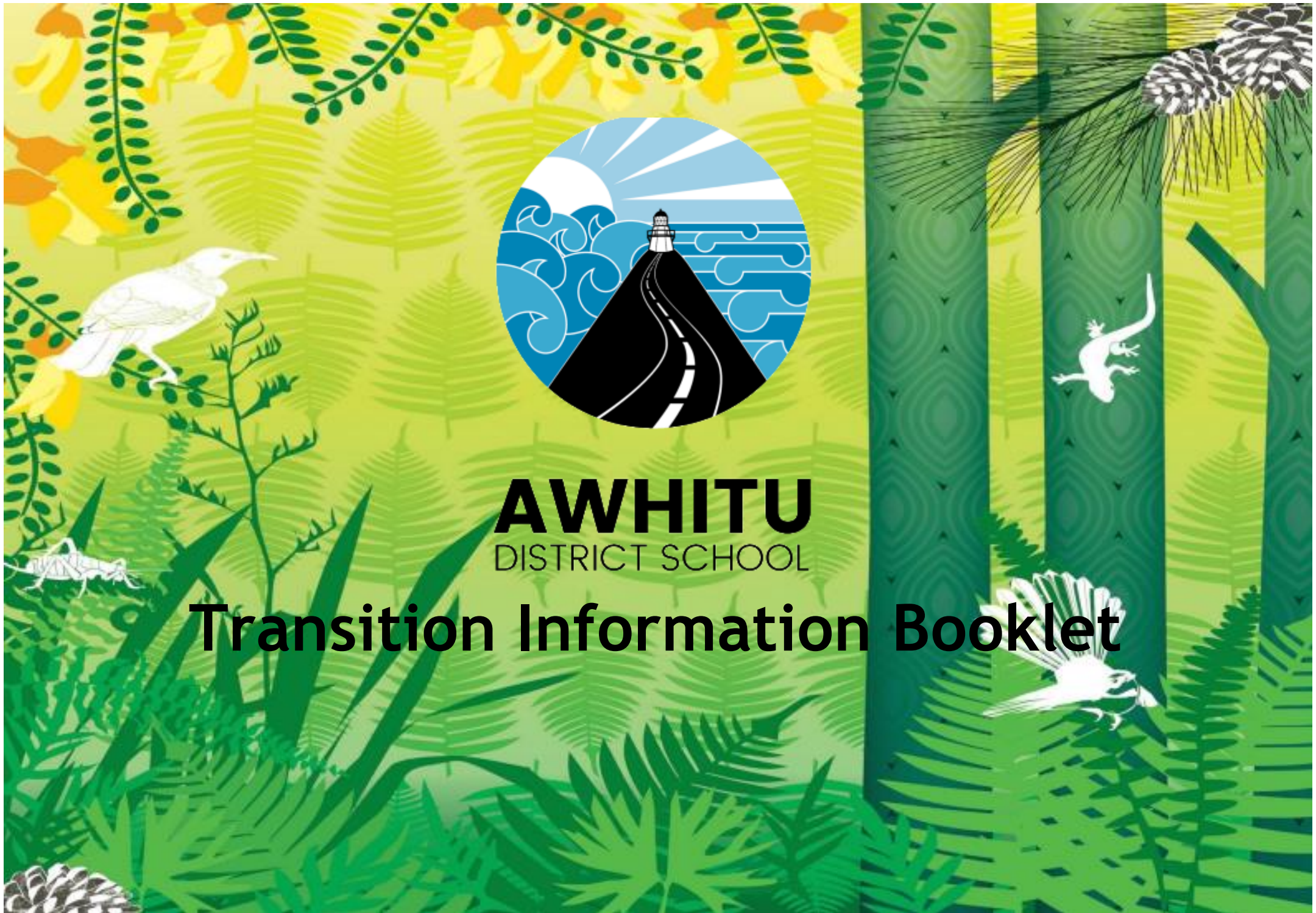




AWHITU
DISTRICT SCHOOL

Transition Information Booklet





WELCOME TO AWHITU DISTRICT SCHOOL

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a five-year-old, and for parents. There will be many new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that your child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience.

Awhitu District School is a well-established rural, full primary school catering for students from New Entrants to Year 8. We are a country school, with country values and a family atmosphere.

We pride ourselves on working together in partnership with our parents and families, to provide a quality education in a caring and stimulating environment. We enjoy all the benefits of rural living and the best of innovative teaching and learning through a blended eLearning approach and personalised learning pathways. Each classroom is equipped with either Chromebooks or iPads and interactive whiteboards.

Our school is well supported by an active Board of Trustees and PTA who are dedicated to help provide wonderful resources to enhance students learning and experiences.

We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle into school quickly and seamlessly.



OUR PRIDE PANELS

*Our PRIDE values are very important at Awhitu District School
as they form the basis of our school vision;
'Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE'*

Our amazing PRIDE panels are proudly displayed in the heart of our school. These started with development of the school Vision by the school community as a whole. The PRIDE Values (Personal Best, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Exploration) have been embedded within our curriculum and everything we do here at Awhitu. The students and staff have developed a PRIDE Matrix, which explains what is expected of each of us within each value, in each school setting. This Matrix provides the basis for our class Values lessons each week.





PARENTS AS PARTNERS

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages. As the primary caregiver, you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress. To support this, we produce a Learning Pathway Folder within the classroom that records your child's learning, goals, progress and achievements at school.

Twice a year we hold 3 Way Conferences. This is where the students, teacher and parent/caregiver meet to discuss individual learning goals, progress and your child's achievements. The new entrant teacher will also be available daily to discuss how your child is settling into school.

At Awhitu District Primary School we provide a secure, welcoming environment. We encourage parents to take an active role in school life. This could be through assisting with team or school trips, helping with the annual Easter Auction or Calf Club, or joining the PTA. We have School Assemblies every second Friday, with school Newsletters displayed on our school website and sent to families via our Skool Loop App.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

To help your child enjoy and succeed at school, it is important that they become independent. It will make starting school an easier and happier experience if they are able to do as many things as possible for themselves.

You can help your child by encouraging them to:

- Dress and undress themselves. Use the toilet independently and ask to go there. Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise and write their own name. Hold a pencil correctly and trace correctly. Use scissors correctly and safely.
- Share toys and equipment with others. Listen well and follow simple instructions.
- Sing nursery rhymes and the alphabet song.
- Count everyday objects.

You can also help by:

- Establishing sensible bedtime routines which get your child ready for sleep, e.g. sharing a bedtime story.
- Allowing time in the morning to make sure your child arrives promptly and is ready to learn.
- Giving your child as many varied experiences as possible: drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models, playing games, jigsaws, etc.
 - Talking about the basic shapes and naming different colours.



A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY

8.20am

Fitness, Roll, Karakia, Calendar (Monday Morning Karakia in the Pavilion)

8.45am-9.55am

1st Block – MATHS

10am-10.20am – Snack & Play break

10.25am-11.55am

2nd Block – LITERACY

12-12.55pm – Lunch Break

1pm-2.20pm

3rd Block – FITNESS

TOPIC

ART

SWIMMING

FRIDAYS

Art, Assemblies, Whare Whanau Time, Singing, Library

WHAT TO BRING

- Suitable clothing (a spare set of clothing is recommended) Please make sure all clothing is named.
- Sun hat (compulsory in summer Term 1 and 4).
- Lunch, morning tea and a water bottle (please note we encourage healthy food and are a water only school). Please refrain from including chocolates in lunchboxes
- A bought lunch from our local shop can be ordered at the school office on a Monday and Friday only.
- Homework and library books. Homework is learning our apple sight words and weekly spelling words.
- New reading books are sent home Monday and Wednesdays and are written up in students Home links books each day after they have been read.
- Book bags and reading books (chosen by the teacher) are returned each day.
- Library books are for you to read to your child and are chosen by the children.
- Please discourage your child from bringing toys to school as they can get lost or become a distraction in the classroom.
- Arriving 10 to 15 minutes before school starts allows your child to put their bag, book bag and lunchbox away and socialise with their friends before the bell goes.



PREPARING FOR LEARNING

Here at Awhitu District School, we go to great lengths to help your child be prepared for each stage of their learning, as well as developing the confidence and skills to be an independent learner.

In preparation for school, here are some things you can do with your child to help them develop the basic skills to help them achieve their learning goals.

Speaking *Speak clearly and confidently * Model using grammatically correct words *Speak in full sentences *Use clear, simple directions for tasks and behaviours *Engage in discussions with your child and allow them the time to speak without being interrupted *Ask for their opinions *Tell them about your day and ask about theirs.

Listening *Show your child how to be a good listener by listening to them and others *Be patient-don't interrupt or finish their sentences for them *Give them your full attention when they are speaking, showing them eye contact and good body language *Respond to what they are saying by asking questions * Listen to your child's reading attempts.

Number Skills *Count daily with your child, counting objects, actions, numbers and a range of everyday things * Identify numbers wherever you go - a neighbour's house number or the number on a bus * Help your child to order *Let children help with the tidying and sorting objects and toys *Identify shapes around the home



PREPARING FOR LEARNING

Writing Behaviour Organisation • Encourage your child to draw and write • Get your children colourful pens, gel pens and exciting new tools to encourage them to draw or write • Let your child write their name on cards or letters • If your child is already writing with a pen or pencil, support their pencil grip so they do not develop a bad habit • Have your child practice writing their name and the alphabet as often as possible • Being able to write their name and some of the alphabet and know the names of the letters will give them a great start.

Developing Positive Learning Behaviours: Decide clear and realistic rules—and stick to them • Give your child boundaries so they know what is expected of them • Encourage your child to always say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’

- Support the school rules • If your child’s behaviour is proving difficult we can work on a home and school reward system together • Children like routine—so set regular times for bed, getting up, meals and family time
- Under 5’s need a good night’s sleep to help them to learn • Check your child has their name in everything before they bring it, this helps them be organised themselves at school • Help your child remember to bring everything—book bag, drink bottle, reading book etc. • Ensure your child has all the equipment they need for learning (your class teacher will give you a Stationery List) • Encourage your child to carry their own things to class and put them in the correct place when they get there • Link your child’s learning to family activities • Go to local museums, parks, wildlife reserves and into nature • Talk about the world around them and encourage them to ask questions • Get to know what your child is learning—we will send home a Junior Team Newsletter each term that outlines all of the subjects and topics they will be learning about.



TRANSITION PROCEDURE

- Ideally, students who are starting at Awhitu District School will have two to three visits to the classroom to meet the teacher and other students and to learn the morning routines in the classroom. However, this could differ depending on the individual needs of the student.
- Parents are to get in touch with the school office, or New Entrant teacher directly, to organise the dates and times of these visitations.
- Depending on the child and their individual needs, they will start on or just after their 5th birthday.
- The visits will be from the start of school at 8.30am and go until 1st morning tea interval at 9.45am.
- Children are able to spend morning tea at school with their new class friends but their parent must actively supervise them in the playground.
- Parents must stay on the school premises for the duration of their child's visit. You can either stay in the classroom, or are welcome to have a cup of tea in the Staffroom.
- Parents need to complete all the necessary enrolment forms and return them to the school office with a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunisation form.
- Stationery can be purchased through OfficeMax at <https://www.myschool.co.nz/awhitu>

We welcome you to Awhitu District School and look forward to meeting your child and your family.

Megan Allen

Principal