

Starting School with Confidence

Leeston Consolidated School

He Puna Karumata



Starting School with Confidence

Welcome to Leeston Consolidated School

Starting school is an exciting time for you and your child. It is also an exciting time for our school as we welcome you and your child to Leeston School.

We hope the information in this 'Starting School with Confidence' booklet will be of assistance to you and your child in achieving a happy and smooth transition.

If you have any questions, problems or concerns please let us know. We look forward to you being part of our school community at Leeston Consolidated School.

How to Enrol

Children may be enrolled on the fifth birthday and must be enrolled by their sixth birthday. The earlier you enrol your child the better.

Please make contact with the school office to arrange the necessary enrolment application forms, (also available on our website) and arrange a time to meet with our Principal, Lynda Taylor. What is required at the time of enrolment?

- School enrolment form completed
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Immunisation Certificate



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Transition Programme

We offer 2+ visits to school before your child starts school. Please call the school office to arrange these visits, they are generally held on Tuesday mornings between 9 - 11am. Parents / caregivers are required to stay with their child during the visit.

These visit times are flexible because we recognise that every child is an individual; however, to minimise disruption, transition is managed with the whole class's learning and well-being in mind. We are happy to do as many visits as you feel your child may need.

Please sign in at the school office on your arrival. Your child will visit with Room 1 and 2. The purpose of these visits is to introduce your child to our school environment and enable them to develop an understanding of what happens during the school day. Please bring a lunchbox and water bottle so they can have morning tea with their class. Wearing the school uniform is optional to wear during these visits.

While in class your child will also participate in normal classroom activities. Your child will be shown:

- Where to hang their bag
- Where to put their lunchbox and drink bottle
- Where to sit during class time
- Where the toilets are
- What happens during 'Read and Feed' time
- Where to play at playtime
- Where to have a drink



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Meet the Waitātari Team



Mrs Garriock, Whaea Rebekah, Mrs Breathing, Whaea Tash, Whaea Sari (standing)
Whaea Caitlin and Whaea Jan (Team Leader) (kneeling)



Learning Assistant - Mrs Coomer (Mrs C)

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Preparing for School

How can I prepare my child for school?

At Leeston we encourage self-management skills. Can your child:

- Carry their own bag?
- Put shoes on and take them off?
- Put on and take off their jackets?
- Independently toileting and hand washing?
- Blow their nose?
- Recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water?
- Ask for things they need?
- Be comfortable being away from you?
- Be responsible for their belongings - packing and unpacking their bag?
- Share equipment?
- Eat their lunch independently (opening packets)?

You can help your child practice sitting quietly and listening - reading to them is one of the best ways to do this.

Help them to get ready to learn

They may find it easier to participate in the class if they:

- Can sit on a chair at a table for a short time to complete an activity
- Know how to take turns, and wait for things
- Can read and write their first name
- Can hold a pencil correctly
- Can count and read the numbers 1-10
- Know the names of some alphabet letters and their sounds
- Know the names of basic shapes and colours
- Can hold and use scissors correctly
- Are able to hold a picture book and turn the pages carefully
- Knowing what 'no' and 'stop' means – put boundaries in place and reinforce them, so they understand about rules and when adults might be guiding them to stay safe

These things listed are helpful for children who are beginning school. If your child is working towards some of these skills, we are here to help.

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First Day

Your child may experience a variety of emotions on their first actual day at school. These may include excitement, enjoyment, confusion, anxiety and tiredness. Keep expectations realistic and encourage confidence. Your positive attitude will help your child's transition to school.

On your child's first day, please ensure that you arrive at school in plenty of time to help your child put his/her belongings away in the right places and to say hello to the teacher and the other members of the class. Children can come on the school grounds from 8.30am, with classes starting at 9am.

We value independence at school - please encourage your child to take responsibility for organising their belongings, and give them plenty of praise and encouragement for doing so. Often it is best to leave just before the bell rings. Your child will be at school for the whole day 9am - 3pm unless organised with Mrs Bromley prior to starting.

Whaea Jan is the Room 1 teacher and she can be contacted via email j.bromley@leeston.school.nz

Whaea Rebekah is the Room 2 teacher and she can be contacted via email r.gilmour@leeston.school.nz

You can also ring the school office (03)324-3493 and talk to Megan Scott. She will forward any messages.

Mrs Lynda Taylor, Principal (principal@leeston.school.nz), Phone (03) 324-3493



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Uniform

We have a uniform, and this can be purchased from 'Little Boutique' in High Street, Leeston, The Warehouse, Postie Plus and Kmart.

Please name **all** of your child's clothing. Please ensure that your child has a spare pair of underwear in a plastic bag in their school bag at all times. If your child does have an accident at school, we can provide a change of shorts or pants, but it's nicer for the children to change into their own underwear instead of borrowing a pair.

A high vis safety vest is a compulsory item of our school uniform to be worn to and from school every day. In terms 1 and 4, the children at Leeston Consolidated School all need to wear a navy or red wide brimmed bucket hat.

If your child can not yet tie shoelaces, please look at buying shoes with velcro or getting spring laces. This would make it much easier for your child to remove and put on shoes.

Bus Pupils

Please talk with Megan Scott in the school office regarding bus arrangements. She will be able to discuss buses with you and answer all your questions.

Stationery

New Entrant stationery packs can be purchased through the school office. The packs cost \$51.00 and include the high vis safety vest.

In the classroom your child's named books are put into containers to use for poetry, handwriting, writing and inquiry. Pencils, whiteboard markers etc go into a class pool of equipment for everyone rather than trying to look after individually.

Accidents / Illness

The good health of your child is important to your child, their peers, you at home and the school staff. We know children will often insist on attending school, but we ask you to be firm and make adult decisions that are in the best interests of your child and the other children in the class. Ask yourself the following questions when your child is sick / ill ...

- **Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, please keep your child at home.**
- **Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, please keep your child at home.**

Each day a child is absent, it is the responsibility of caregivers to contact the school prior to 8.30am. Either report the absence via our SchoolApp or leave a message on the school answering phone (03 3243493). Record the name of your child and the reason for their absence.

If you have not reported the absence, the office staff will text you and then attempt to contact parents to seek an explanation. We would appreciate parent co-operation and assistance with this procedure so we can ensure the safety of all our pupils as they travel to and from school each day.



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Eating at school

The children eat their morning tea at 10.30am as part of 'Read and Feed'.

They have lunch at 12.00. On fine days this is eaten on the seating outside and on wet or cold days it is eaten inside.

The children have another snack at 2.00pm. They do get hungry during the day.

The children are required to remain seated for these eating times.

Large apples and oranges are better cut into smaller pieces - it can take a long time to eat a whole apple or to peel an orange.

If the children are bringing yoghurt or jelly to school, please make sure they have a spoon to eat this with.

Packaged food is sometimes a problem for little children to open. It would be good if parents could snip the ends so these items can be opened easily and independently.

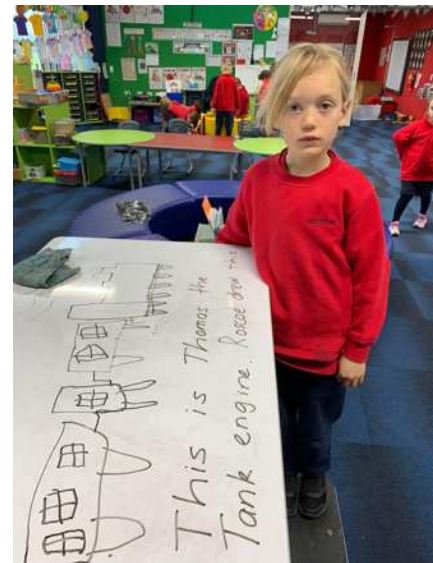
You can order school lunches. Lunch orders are available Monday to Friday. Please see our school website for the lunch order menu and instructions on how to order.

Playtimes

Playtimes are after 'Read and Feed' from 10.40-11am, after lunch from 12.15-12.30pm and at 1.30-2pm.

The Waitātari children generally play on the junior playground and the court between Room 6, 7 and 8.

They are able to play anywhere around the school grounds but not the senior playground.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Routine in Room 1 and 2

Monday - Thursday's learning in Room 1 and 2 follows the same routine. Friday is different to the other days, as it is more of a fun day. Children feel safe and secure when they know what to expect from their day at school and when they can organise themselves for learning. Each morning the children need to bring their lunch box, water bottle and reading folder into the classroom and put them in the appropriate places. We do ask that you encourage your child to organise their own belongings, as this helps them to get into the routine of organising themselves for learning each day.

Weekly Timetable

	Monday to Thursday	Friday
9am	Roll, Day, Date etc	Roll, Day, Date
9.15am	Learning through Play Literacy activities and teaching BSLA reading groups.	Jump Jam Friday Funday - Cooking, Art, Outside play, Science/Technology
10.30am	Read and Feed - Vocab Book	Read and Feed
11am	Learning through Play Maths - Number knowledge, group work	Buddy class Whole School or Waitātari Assembly
12.00	Lunch	Lunch
12.30pm 1.00pm	Phonological Awareness Skill building Writing Heggerty Shared book / Poem Handwriting Oral Language	Class activities, i.e. Library, P.E., Poetry, Shared Book activity
1.30pm	Play	Play
2pm	Roll / Read and Feed Inquiry work, Kapa Haka, Te Reo Māori, Library, P.E., The Arts Interchange	Golden Time
3pm	Home	Home

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Library Day - Wednesday 2-3pm. You are asked to help by ensuring that your child returns books regularly and that they are encouraged to respect the books that they borrow.

Kapa Haka - Your child can opt into Kapa Haka on a Thursday 2-3pm. Those children not doing Kapa Haka will be in class doing Te reo Māori work.

Will my child have homework?

Reading Book: Each night your child will bring home their reading bag with a Literacy activity to share or read with you. This will include a browsing box reading book, alphabet letter learning, poem to share and their current reading book. Under the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) the children have the same book for the whole week. They will bring home the book they have been reading in class at the end of the week on a Thursday.

Alphabet letters: Your child will have a set of alphabet letters made from milk bottle tops. Please read the letter with them to give you ideas on how to use these letters to help your child.

Sight Words: Each Ready to Read Phonics Plus book has a set of high frequency non-decodable words commonly found in these books. Your child will be given these words on cards to practise with you each night.

Is there a school assembly I can come to?

On Friday there is either a whole school assembly or a Waitātari assembly at 11.30am. Each week a different class convenes the assembly. Your child's teacher will let you know when their class is convening assembly, so you can attend.

Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)

Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) is a new approach to reading that we are implementing across our whole junior team. We will be playing games that develop your child's phonological awareness knowledge – or their awareness of the sounds within words. This area is particularly important to help your child learn to read and spell.

We are also making some changes to our reading groups. You may notice a change in the kind of books coming home in your child's reading folder. The Better Start Literacy Approach uses carefully chosen texts to provide opportunities to practice reading. The words in the books are closely related to the letters and sounds we are teaching in class. There will be lots of opportunities to practice sounding out words made from letters and sounds that they know or are learning – building their confidence and skill as readers.

It would be great if you could help your child reading these books by helping them sound out words, i.e. bat becomes b-a-t.

Please contact your child's teacher if you would like more information on how reading is being taught. You are very welcome to watch a BSLA lesson so you can see exactly what your child is learning.



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Communication

Newsletter - Emailed home fortnightly on a Thursday and sent on our SchoolApp and uploaded on our school website..

School App - Please download SchoolAppNZ from the App Store or Google Play Store, then subscribe to Leeston School. This is our main method of communication with whānau, parents and caregivers. All newsletters, school updates, notices and reminders are sent via text through this platform. **Most importantly however, all communication in the event of an emergency will also be sent via our school app.**

Seesaw - Communication with parents and children in the Waitātari Team (Y0-2). Your child's teacher will provide login details.

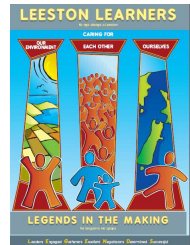
The Edge - Parent Portal / App - Our cloud based student management system allows access to the caregivers portal and mobile app using the existing email address that you supplied us with. The portal gives you quick and easy access to information for students in your household including Attendance, Student Reports and School Payments. Further login instructions and information is on our school website www.leeston.school.nz under Communication.



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Other References

- Leeston Consolidated School Prospectus
- Fortnightly School Newsletter
- School Website www.leeston.school.nz
- Our School App - Search Leeston
- <https://manaake.health.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/starting-school> - download the booklet as there is lots of helpful information to help assist your child with starting school.



Any problems, questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask.



Leeston Consolidated School / He Puna Karumata

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