







Welcome to the Rutherford Primary community. We are so excited that your whanau will be joining our community.

Whakaawhitanga - Transition to school

At Rutherford Primary, we believe that it is important to transition the whole whanau/family and so have designed a transition program which includes a range of activities which are aimed at welcoming all of your whanau into our school community and ensure that you have the best start possible.

The whakaawhitanga program consists of the following components;

<p>Whakaawhitanga information pack Booklet</p> 	<p>School visits</p> 
<p>Whakaawhitanga whanau information evening</p> 	<p>Powhiri</p> 

Information Pack

In this pack you will find some helpful information sheets which will give you some tips of the ways you can support your child when they start school. Some activities that you can do with your child to help them prepare for school.

School Visits

Your child will have three visits. Visits are held on a Tuesday from 9.30am - 11.30am. The first two visits are to familiarise you and your child with the school and they will complete activities to get to know the school. For the first visit you may want to stay in the classroom with your child. For the second visit we invite you to make yourself at home in our staffroom and have a cup of tea or coffee. We recommend these visits are scheduled in the few weeks before your child starts school. At Rutherford, we schedule our visits twice a term, so children have the opportunity to visit with other children who will be starting around the same time as they are. The visit dates are as follows;

<p>Term 1 Visits Visit 1 - 26 February Visit 2 - 5 March or Visit 1 - 26 March Visit 2 - 2 April</p>	<p>Term 2 Visits Visit 1 - 21 May Visit 2 - 28 May Or Visit 1 - 18 June Visit 2 - 25 June</p>
<p>Term 3 Visits Visit 1 - 13 August Visit 2 - 20 August Or Visit 1 - 10 September Visit 2 - 17 September</p>	<p>Term 4 Visits Visit 1 - 5 November Visit 2 - 12 November Or Visit 1 - 26 November Visit 2 - 3 December</p>

For the third visit your child will have the opportunity to spend some time in the class they will be going into with their new teacher. These visits will be individually scheduled, but will likely be on a Tuesday. If your child is going into a class which is newly opening, this may not be possible.

Whakaawhitanga whanau information evening

We have designed a series of information modules which are aimed to provide you with all the information you need to support your child to have the best start possible at school.

The evenings will start with introductions and then our junior team will present individual modules covering a range of topics. These modules are more suited to adults, but we can make arrangements for children. These evenings are held once per term and we recommend you attend the evening scheduled the term before your child starts.

The whakaawhitanga whanau information evenings will be held on the following dates;

20 February - 6.30-8.30pm

15 May - 6.30-8.30pm

7 August - 6.30-8.30pm
23 October- 6.30-8.30pm

Powhiri

On the first week of each term we hold a Powhiri on the Friday to welcome new families to our school. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to officially welcome your whanau to our school.

Included in your pack is a Powhiri Kawa or guide to help you feel at home with the process. We will also send you an invitation to the powhiri closer to the time of your child starting.

Nga mihi nui
Rutherford Primary team

