

# STARTING SCHOOL AT EAST TAIERI

**East Taieri School**



## INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR NEW ENTRANT PARENTS



*Participate in and celebrate your child's journey  
of learning.*

Kia ora!

Welcome to East Taieri School and the beginning of your child's learning Journey. We look forward to having you as part of our community. This booklet/website will give you and your child all the information you will need to have a successful transition to school.

Click on the headings/look at the pages and you will find all the information you will need.

Kā mihi nui,  
Natalie King (Junior Dean)

## OUR VISION



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# OUR STAFF

## JUNIOR TEAM

In the Junior Team we have 3 New Entrant/Year 1 classes. Room 9/Rata and Room 10/Rimu. Room 13/Kauri which usually starts during Term 1.

Room 9 and 10 are collaborative teaching spaces and the children regularly engage in learning together.



**Room 9 - Teacher Mel Cruickshank.**  
Katey Baxter teaches in Room 9 on a Thursday.



**Room 10 - Teacher Anna Devereux.**



**Room 13 (The Nest).** Sarah Esplin is the class Teacher. Children may start in here and then progress into Room 9 and 10 later in the year.



**Natalie King (Junior Dean/SENCO/Transition to School).** I am not based in a class but regularly take part in transition to school activities.



**Room 11/12 - Year 1 and 2. Jo Hackfath and Jess Hall.**



# COMMUNICATION

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH WHĀNAU AT EAST TAIERI SCHOOL

At East Taieri School we aim to provide as much information to our families and whānau as possible. To help you, we have listed all of the different forms of communication that we use. We encourage you to sign up for as many of these as possible.

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

[www.easttaieri.school.nz](http://www.easttaieri.school.nz)

Here you can find copies of the most current and previous newsletters, staff contact details, enrolment, and general information, and upcoming school events on the Calendar.

### EAST TAIERI SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/easttaierischool>

Information about upcoming school events, Home and School fundraisers, the newsletter, requests, and emergency/weather-related news are all posted on Facebook.

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Each week a newsletter is sent out to parents using Hail (an online newsletter format). This is sent via email and also uploaded to Facebook and the school website. There is a lot of important information in the newsletter and we advise that you read this each week.

The newsletter can be opened on any device.

**To subscribe to the mailing list**, please visit the Newsletter section on the school website - <http://easttaieri.school.nz/blog/newsletters/>

### TEACHER/ CLASS EMAILS

Teachers send out weekly class newsletter and notifications. If you are not receiving these, please contact your child's teacher so that you can be added to their email list.

### PHONE

You can always contact the school office on: 03 4896737 or email: [etaieri@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:etaieri@east-taieri.school.nz)

### RADIO (IN EMERGENCIES OR WEATHER RELATED EVENTS)

In the event of an emergency, we notify local radio stations. These are: More FM, Radio Dunedin, and The Breeze.

### UPDATING OF DETAILS

If your contact details (e.g. address, phone number or email) change, please contact the office to let us know.



# Hero

## HERO

Hero is designed to reduce the number of places that parents need to check for information about the school. Parents and caregivers can log in to their Hero account (even if they have students at multiple schools) and see all their learning stories; assessments; progress data; school notices; pay their school account online ... all through one app, Hero. By clicking on the [LINK](#) you will be taken to a page that supports you to set up, log into and use some of the features of HERO.

**Important – you MUST log in using the email address that you have provided to Annette in the office. If you haven't provided an email address or cannot remember the email address you have provided, contact Annette MacRae – [annette@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:annette@east-taieri.school.nz) or 034896737 to check this.**

**Each parent must use their own email address.**

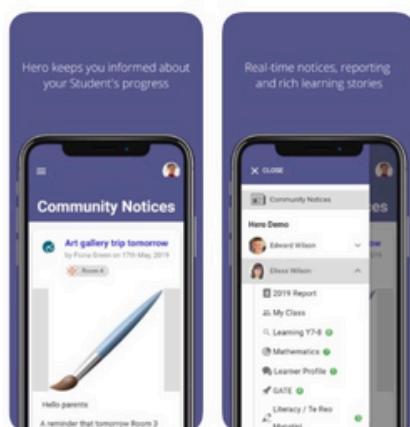
**Downloading HERO**



Hero by LINC-ED

Making Education Heroic

★★★★★ 1



For information about how to log in and view your child's learning, go to the Hero for Families website page.

To set your password and log into Hero for the first time:

1. Download the Hero by LINC-ED app from the app store

Note: use the keywords Hero LINC-ED when searching for the app

# EAST TAIERI EXPLORERS AND SCHOOL VISITS

**In the term before your child is due to start school you will be contacted and given information about Transition to School.**



Your child is then welcome to attend the 'East Taieri Explorers' afternoon sessions.

These sessions are on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.35pm - 2.30pm. allowing the children to explore the school environment. Parents are most welcome to come along. During this time there will be some information sessions about how things work at East Taieri School and a chance to ask any questions you might have.

Following from this the children will have 2 'more formal' classroom visits on a TUESDAY morning with the class they are going to join.

These visits will be as follows:

1st visit - 8.50- 11.20 (morning tea)

2nd visit - 8.50 - 1.30 (over lunch)

Children visiting will need a snack (fruit, vegetable or nuts) and a drink bottle for snack and track at 10.00am. If children are staying until 11.20 they will also need morning tea.

If children are staying over lunch they will also need lunch.

Additional visit times may be made with the classroom teacher/Junior Dean if needed to ensure a smooth transition to school. If your child has been involved in special intervention programmes eg speech at pre-school, please let us know.



**Any questions please contact:**

Natalie - [natalie@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:natalie@east-taieri.school.nz)

Sarah - [sarahesplin@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:sarahesplin@east-taieri.school.nz)

Michelle - [michelleday@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:michelleday@east-taieri.school.nz)

Annette - [etaieri@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:etaieri@east-taieri.school.nz)

It is important that your child begins school relaxed and excited about entering school. If they are able to have some self-management skills it is very helpful and reassuring for them. Below is a list of ideas to help with the transition from pre-school to school.

# WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

## STATIONERY PACKS

Stationery packs can be purchased from our school office. Annette and Michelle can help you with this. The packs contain everything your child will need to start school. Reading folders are purchased separately so children can choose the colour they like!

## UNIFORM

The school uniform can be purchased from the school office. We also have a second-hand uniform shop. Michelle and Annette will help you with this.

## SPARE CLOTHING

When children first start school and they are getting used to new routines etc, it is helpful to have a spare change of clothes in their bag. Please ensure all clothing is named.

## LUNCHBOX/DRINK BOTTLE

Children will need a named lunchbox and drink bottle. It is helpful if children can open packets etc themselves. We have 'Snack and track' at 10.00 am. Children have a snack (fruit, vegetables, or nuts). These are usually placed in a container in the classroom. If your child has their snack in a small container, please ensure it is named.

## SCHOOLBAGS

If you are thinking about purchasing a school bag for your child, we recommend that it is large enough to carry their lunchbox, book bag, library books and spare clothing. It is easier for the children if they can fit all of these items in their bags.





# READY FOR SCHOOL

There are many skills that will assist your child in being ready for school. Some of these skills include:

## **INDEPENDENCE:**

- Clearly and appropriately expressing their wants and needs
- Caring for their own belongings
- Confidently using the toilet
- Washing and drying their hands
- Removing and putting on their own clothing



## **LEARNING:**

- Knowing letters of the alphabet
- Counting and recognising numbers
- Holding a pencil
- Using scissors
- Following simple directions
- Interacting positively with others

*Please do not worry if your child is still developing some of these skills. Please discuss any concerns you have with us during your child's transition to school. - We are happy to help!*

# HINTS TO HELP YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCE A POSITIVE FIRST DAY

As your child will already be familiar with the New Entrant class he/she is entering – go to that class about 8.40am so your child feels settled before the bell.

Have belongings – sun hat - Terms 1 and 4, (it can be purchased at the office and it stays in the classroom), lunch box and drink bottle named.

Have food they enjoy and wrappings that can be opened easily and independently.

We have a snack attack at 10.00 am. This is fruit, vegetables or nuts. It is a good idea that your child knows what she/he is having at this time. If the fruit or veges are in a container from home, please name these. The snacks are then put into specific containers in the classroom.

There is an option for children to be picked up at 2.00 pm when they first start school - as they will be very tired! Just let your class teacher know.

Let the class teacher know who will be picking your child up if there is a change from normal routine. If you are going to be late please let the school secretary know by phoning 489 6737. It is also important that your child has a meeting place in case you are a little late. Tell them where you will meet them after school.



# SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH THEIR LEARNING

## LITERACY

When starting school, your child will begin the exciting journey of learning to read and write. In our new entrant classrooms, we deliver an engaging literacy programme where your child will be developing their phonological awareness, vocabulary, reading simple sentences with fluency and expression and building their confidence to be successful readers and writers.

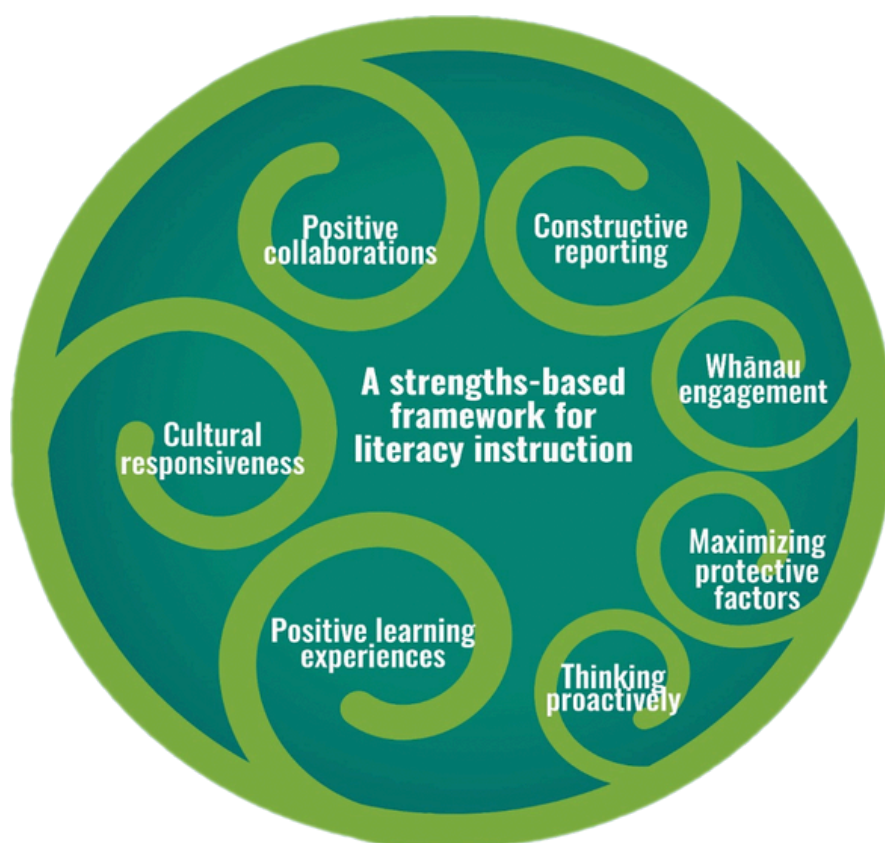


# BSLA (Better Start Literacy Approach)

Our school is implementing an enhancement to our reading curriculum in our Year 0/1 classrooms called the Better Start Literacy Approach. This approach has been developed in New Zealand by a team of experienced researchers from the University of Canterbury, following years of research on the best ways to support children's early reading, writing and oral language success.

In class, we will share exciting storybooks that will help grow the number of new and interesting words that your children can use and understand when talking. We will also 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 have made some changes to our reading groups. You may notice a change in the kinds of books coming home in your child's bookbag. 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.





# MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Each year your child will cover the following mathematics strands:

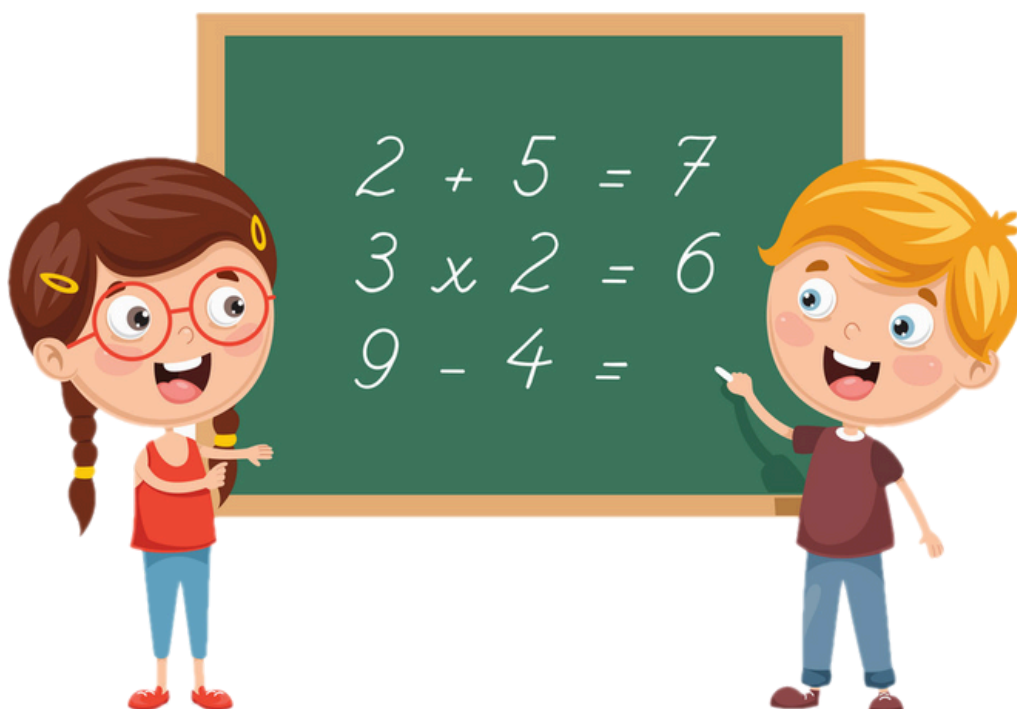
- Number and Algebra
- Geometry and Measurement
- Statistics

About 80% of our Mathematics programme is in the Number, Algebra strand.

You can help your child with number by practising the following aspects of number knowledge:

- identifying numbers to 10, then 20 etc
- say forwards and backwards sequences to and from 10 to 20 etc
- say number before, after and between a given number
- order numbers to 10, to 20 etc
- write numbers correctly
- solve simple addition and subtraction to 10 – orally and written
- there are many opportunities for children to practise daily maths activities in the form of problem solving.

This is a fun, positive way to encourage thinking about number



# FUNKY FRIDAY

On Friday mornings the Junior Syndicate run a programme called 'Funky Friday'. This is an opportunity for the children to lead other children in their passions, and to participate in things that they are passionate about.

This runs from 9.45 - 11.00. The session starts with the whole Syndicate together and the children are encouraged to think about the Key Competencies of 'Managing Self', 'Relating to Others' and 'Participating and Contributing'.

The children are encouraged to lead small groups in activities such as craft, writing, bike riding, scootering, sport skills, baking, colouring in, making and creating, hair do's, dancing, music making etc etc. When a child is a leader, they need to come prepared with the materials etc that they need.



# D.I.P. TIME

In the New Entrant classrooms, we have a daily programme called D.I.P time. The words for the 'DIP' were decided by the children and are as follows:

**D - decision making**

**I - inventing, inquiring and independent**

**P - play**

While the children are involved in this, we work with small groups and individuals on literacy activities. The Key Competencies underly this programme also.

Our purpose for providing this programme is to provide children with a framework to make the transition to school as successful as possible. D.I.P time aims to provide the children with opportunities to:

- develop independence
- develop learner agency
- have time to practice skills
- follow their passions
- develop oral language skills
- question
- develop skills of self management and relating to others
- BECOME CONFIDENT AND ARTICULATE LEARNERS



We look forward to having you and your family as part of our learning community.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact

Natalie King - Junior Dean - [natalie@east-taieri.school.nz](mailto:natalie@east-taieri.school.nz)

Jennifer Horgan - Principal - [jennifer@east-taieri.school](mailto:jennifer@east-taieri.school).

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