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# SHAMROCK STARTERS



## TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME



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# SHAMROCK STARTERS

St Patrick's Catholic School - Faith in Action

Shamrock Starters is a transition-to-school programme that aims to be informative, educational and enjoyable for you and your child. The programme endeavours to create a sense of belonging and well-being for all participants and families.

Your child will be given an opportunity to interact with our New Entrant School children as well as teachers and other staff.

This programme is intended for children with a genuine intention to enrol at St Patrick's School. Children may attend as often as they like from the age of 4 1/2 onwards. Please note that attending Shamrock Starters does not constitute enrolment at St Patrick's School. That is a separate process which needs to be initiated through the school office.

The benefits of the Shamrock Starters Programme at our school are:

- A smooth transition to school for all students
- Familiarity and security with and within the surroundings
- Create a sense of belonging for both children and families
- Create a sense of themselves as a learner in a school environment
- Create a positive relationship with the teacher
- Become orientated with the layout of the school, and meet staff
- Become familiar with other new entrant children
- Have an inclusive programme that caters to differing abilities
- Early detection of children with learning difficulties or talents



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## SESSION TIMES

Shamrock Starters operates every Friday morning from 8.55am to 10am

## WHO CAN ATTEND?

Children enrolled at St Patrick's Catholic School, from 4 1/2 years of age

## WHAT TO BRING TO SHAMROCK STARTERS

- A brimmed hat (this is school policy in the summer months)
- A drink bottle
- A good sized school bag that will fit a book bag (this helps the children feel part of the school routines)

## DELIVERING AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

The school day starts at 8.55am. Please bring your child through the school office and sign both yourself and your child in.

They will need supervising in the playground until they are delivered into the class at 8.55am.

Our Health and Safety requirements state that a parent or caregiver must bring and collect their child from the New Entrants room.

Parents are most welcome to stay for the first couple of sessions, in the classroom, while your child settles, but to enable a successful transition we ask that you leave your child to develop independence with the school setting. You must stay on site, and are welcome to use the staffroom and have a cuppa with other parents.



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## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

(Activities will vary from week to week)

- 8.55am - Arrive and settle
- Mat Time
- Story
- Play based learning



## WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD START SCHOOL

Traditionally children start school at the age of 5 in NZ in schools. However, legally they must start school before they turn 6. For professional advice on the right start time for your child, please discuss this with Mrs Hanford and your early childhood provider. You can review the information for parents on [parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school](http://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school) website.

A stationery list will be given to you before your child starts school.



## NEW ENTRANTS TEACHER

Elaine Hanford - [elaineh@stpatstaupo.school.nz](mailto:elaineh@stpatstaupo.school.nz)

Ph: 378 0205

Check out our school website

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