

New Entrants and Year 1

Information for parents

2025

Welcome to our school community.

Here is some information which we trust will be helpful for you as new parents in our school community.

School times: 8:25am – 2:45pm

When you drop your child off, please do so at the front door and pick him/her up there also. School starts at 8:25am. Please try to be on time as the primary students have Bible story / assembly every morning and it can be quite disruptive if they come in late.

You are welcome to come into the classroom if you need to speak to the teacher or when the child is keen to show you their work. But we would like to see the child become more independent. If you have a matter that will take longer than five minutes to discuss, please email the classroom teacher or make an appointment.

Year Designation

Generally speaking, children who start school in terms 1 or 2 will be regarded as Yr 1s and will be a Yr 2 the following year. Children who start school in terms 3 or 4 will be regarded as a Yr 0 and will be a Yr 1 the following year. However, individual decisions for children, for whom deviation from this general guide may be appropriate, can be made in consultation with parents and management.

Start of School

While children have the legal right to start school on their fifth birthday, the following procedure is requested and recommended as it greatly assists the teacher with classroom management:

- Children who turn 5 during term one are welcome to start at the beginning of the term.
- For terms two, three, and four:
 - Children who turn five in the first half of the term are welcome to start at the beginning of the term;
 - Children who turn five in the second half of the term are requested to wait till the start of the following term.

Mid-week Break

It is customary for new-entrants to have Wednesday free for the first term. This allows them to have a break and freshen up for the second half of the week. But this is not mandatory, and communication between the teacher is encouraged to determine how necessary it is. Extending this beyond the first term is not advised as it will impact the child's learning.

Classroom Structure

Generally speaking, the children who start school in term 3 or 4, (hence a Yr 0) will move to the classroom of the Yr Twos at the beginning of term 3 of the following year. They will remain a Year 1 – just form a separate group in the new room. This has the following benefits:

- It prevents the NE/ Yr 1 class from becoming too big in the second half of the year;
- It ensures that these children, who by then have been at school for a full year, will continue to receive focused teaching and learning time without their teacher having to spend time with more groups of new entrants.

Transport

- The school bus is available for children living in Masterton to travel to and from school each day.
- For those who live outside the Carterton urban area, the GO Bus service may be available.
- For those for whom none of this applies, a conveyance allowance may be available.

Please contact Mr Ronald Bertram, the school bus co-ordinator, for further details.

Bible and Assembly

We have a full school assembly on Monday mornings.

Tuesday to Friday mornings the lower primary join in Room 2 to listen to the Bible-story by Mrs. Geuze. If you want the list of Bible-stories per term, please ask Mrs. Kotze.

After Bible story the children will sing and learn psalters which are sung during the church services in the Carterton Reformed Congregation.

Uniform / mufti days

Ponatahi has a school uniform. The uniform expectations can be found on the school website under the Prospectus link. Contact the school office to arrange purchases.

There will be a few occasions during the year the children can wear mufti. This is often connected with a fundraiser for which the children can bring a gold coin. Rules for mufti are also in the handbook. Please read these carefully.

Sunhats are now compulsory in terms 1 and 4. These will be handed out on the first day and will be marked and kept at school.

If your child does get "accidents" from time to time, it might be a good idea to keep an extra pair of underwear and uniform in a plastic bag in their schoolbag.

Sick / absent

If your child is sick, please let the school know before 8.25am. Contact Miss Nelly in the office by using the school app (the preferred method) or by sending her a text on 0272390755 Please also send a text to Mrs. Kotze 0275885676. *See the included form for information about the parental website and app. Please note that the financial section of the app has not been activated for PCS.*

Morning tea/ lunch/ water

Please make sure that you children know what they can eat for morning tea and what is for their lunch.

Sometimes it happens that all the food is eaten at morning tea, so there is nothing left for lunch.

Please do not pack sugary treats/ confectionary or fizzy drinks. Please provide a water bottle (with a lid/cap) to keep at school. *For further information and guidance please refer to the relevant document in the brochure.*

Library / Bible Text / Music

Bible Text will be on Thursdays

Library will be on Thursdays

Music will be on Tuesday

School newsletter

Three times a term you will receive a school newsletter. Please read those carefully for important notices and to enjoy updates and photos about the work of the students.

Swimming

Swimming for the children in room 2 will be in term 1 only. It is usually on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, weather permitting. Please send their togs and a towel to school in a separate bag.

Learning Program

Numeracy and Literacy are the mutual bedrocks of New Zealand Curriculum. As such we carefully follow the structured scope and sequence that the curriculum provides. For numeracy we follow the Oxford math program and supplement it as needed; for literacy use the Little Learners Love Literacy program. *Further information on all of these is provided.*

Reading Books

In the first few weeks at school, your child will start to learn the sounds letters make. Your child will

Have a workbook for each stage of the literacy programme up to Stage 4. These workbooks are kept at school, but you are welcome to come in and view their work in class.

Once your child starts reading, they will take a reader home when they have finished reading it. Please listen to your child reading and discuss it with him or her. This is important for developing reading fluency.

Reading at home

It is so important that children have opportunities to read and be read to at home. Your child will get a few readers per week to read at home, please make some time during the afternoon or early evening to let your child read to you. It is also very beneficial for children to listen to stories and look at picture books. Your child will have the opportunity to get books from the school library every week, or you could take them to the local library too. It might be a good idea to have a little book basket in their room.

Bible Text Book

Each week on Thursday the children will get a Bible text to learn. They will be tested on it by saying it On the next Thursday. The Bible texts are all taken from the King James Version. Please make sure the Bible textbook is in your child's book bag to bring back to school on Thursday so a new one can be pasted in the book.

Stationery

The school supplies the stationery for each child. This is billed to parents each term.

Special days

About 4 times during the year, we have some special days. School picnic day, Heritage, or grandparents' day. Etc. You will be informed about those days in the school newsletter. For any other dates or event, please refer to the school calendar.

Allergies / medical needs

Please notify the office and the classroom teacher of any allergies or medical needs your child might have.

We look forward to working with you in the important task of educating your child in the Lord. If you have any other questions or need more information, feel free to contact me or the office.

Contacts

Classroom Teacher

danomiek@ponatahi.school.nz 0275885676

Head or Primary/ Transport Coordinator

ronaldb@ponatahi.school.nz 027 6740281

School Office

office@ponatahi.school.nz 06 379 8840

Kindest regards,
Danomie (Mrs. Kotze)

