Tips for Settling in

Your child's transition to school will be more enjoyable and successful if you put some of these suggestions into place. Feel free to talk to the classroom teachers or the leadership team if you have any questions before your child begins at Hillsborough.

Before Starting:

School visits are a great opportunity for your child to become familiar with the junior school teachers, the classrooms in the junior block, and some of the children they will be starting school with. Please ask the office for a list of visit dates.

On one of the visit dates there will be Welcome Hui for you to hear about our school and where you can ask questions. We will also have a mihi whakatau, a welcome ceremony run by kapa haka.

Establish a school day routine.

• have a morning tea and lunchtime. Practice eating out of a lunch box.
• help your child get organised with their belongings, e.g. book bag, lunch box, school bag, hat, shoes.

- Practice packing a school bag
- talk to your child about learning times and eating times at school.
- Become familiar with the school environment. Maybe walk around the school on a weekend before your child starts. Look in the classrooms, play on the playground so they are comfortable with the school environment before starting.

After Starting:

- Set your child up for a positive day at school by asking them what they are going to be doing.
- Try to be at school by the 8:45 bell, so the children can be happy and settled before class begins.
- Introduce yourself to your child's teacher. Let them know if your child has been ill or upset. Send an email to the teacher if you can't meet at school.
- Be ready to leave your child if they are upset at your going. They settle more quickly without you there.
- Name all your child's belongings.
- Ensure the school bag is large enough to cope with all your child's belongings and doesn't need to be packed in a special way in order to fit everything in it.
- Send along some spare clothes in case of accidents.
- Pack a healthy lunch and morning tea and tell them what's for each time. Make it manageable. Small portions, cut it up, can they open it? Can they peel the fruit? Send along a drink in a bottle.

Support learning at home.

- Any learning that comes home from school is practice. Let the teacher know how home learning is going. It shouldn't be a battle.
- Provide opportunities for your child to talk about school. Ask about their day – their learning, their achievements. Try: "what was the best thing that happened at school today?"
- Keep your expectations realistic. Allow your child to develop uniquely. Children learn at different rates. If you feel there is a real problem, talk to your child's teacher.