Haere mai, welcome to

AWAHONO SCHOOL
GREY VALLEY



New Entrant Information Pack for Families

What happens before my child turns 5?

We encourage you and your child to attend transition visits at least 6 weeks before your child is due to start school.
These visits normally involve three morning visits and three full day visits during the weeks before starting school.
These visits are flexible depending on your child's needs, and can be confirmed with the new entrant teacher. If you have any concerns about your child settling into school, more visits can be arranged.

The school insurance policy does not cover accidents for children who are not fully enrolled with us so we are legally unable to take any responsibility should an accident occur while your child is on a transition visit. Therefore it is important that you stay on sight for these transition visits.

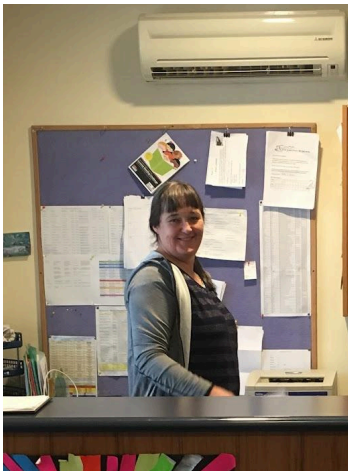
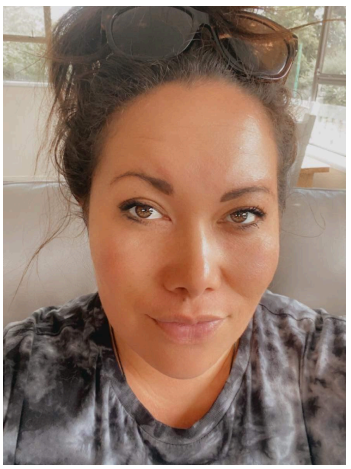
Classification

Your child is classified as a Year 1 if their birthday (not start date to school) is between the 1st January and the 30th June.
Your child is classified as a Year 0 if their birthday (not start date to school) is between the 1st of July and the 31st December.



Staff

These are the following staff you are likely to be in direct contact with when your child begins school.

Mrs Vanessa Wallace -Principal principal@awahono.school.nz 	Mrs Joanne Matthews - Office Administrator admin@awahono.school.nz 
Mrs Wendy Hahn - New Entrant Teacher wendyhahn@awahono.school.nz 	Jess Liddell - New Entrant Teacher Aide 

Our 3 R's - Respectful, Responsible and Resilient

At Awahono School - Grey Valley we strive to be Respectful, Responsible and Resilient learners. Within our junior class we learn what these mean and how we can show these qualities.



One of the first ways your child can demonstrate responsibility is by following our before school routine. A copy of this routine is in your child's welcome book. After the first week please encourage your child to do this independently.

Homework

Children in the new entrant class will bring home a book every night. It is likely to be a library book of high interest to your child. We ask that you either read the library book or look through it and talk about the content together. As your child's skills develop they will begin bringing home decodable books.
They may also have a set of letter sounds to learn. The teacher will have more information for you on Structured Literacy.



Decodable Text

Discovery

We want the students of Awahono to be lifelong learners, that continue to wonder and explore the world around them and we believe that a play based curriculum helps provide this.





When they begin school we believe the focus needs to be how they feel about themselves as a learner. We want them to build positive experiences and a strong self confidence that they can learn.

The junior level focuses on social and emotional skills through the use of exploratory play, rather than the cognitive skills.

"Create the thinker before you try and add the facts."
Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

While the play based learning model is child centred and interest-driven there are many intentional acts of teaching that go alongside play where the teacher works with small groups of children on Literacy and Numeracy.



Brain Development Research by Nathan Wallis and the Brainwave Trust

- According to Wallis (2017), research also shows that reaching cognitive milestones faster is not a sign that a child goes on to higher learning (university) or to be happier as an adult.
- What determines success is the number of protective factors that a child experiences in their life as well as their disposition as a learner (how they see themselves as a learner by the time they are 7 years old).
- Your brain is designed to focus on negative feedback way more than positive feedback. Therefore a child who sees themself as someone who is not good at school work (maybe because they have not reached certain cognitive stages yet) will grow to an adult with the attitude that they can't learn.



Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are held twice a term, weeks 5 and 10, on a Friday at 9:15am. Reminders are in the newsletter and on Facebook.

Swimming

During Terms one and four we are fortunate to be able to swim in our heated pool most days. Please ensure your child has their togs and towel each day. Room 6 usually swims after lunch. If they are unable to swim we ask that you please send a note.

It is important to clearly name all clothing to reduce the chance of items going missing. It is helpful if your child can independently get changed, however adults are available to support them.



School Events

Each year we have a Pet Day in early term 4. Prior to pet day children complete projects at school about their pets, or pets they'd love to have. On Pet Day children are invited to bring their pets to school and have them judged. The judging process is non-threatening, consisting of a chat about how they care for their pet.



What happens at break and lunch time?

Teachers supervise the children during breaks in the playground. If an accident occurs a staff member trained in first aid will treat your child at school for minor injuries and you will be contacted if there are any concerns.



Children need to sit together at the beginning of lunch for 15 minutes while they eat. Their lunch boxes are checked before they leave to play, to ensure the children are eating enough.

We do promote healthy eating and encourage all our families to provide healthy food for their children. We only allow water at school in your child's drink bottle.



Snack and Fruit Breaks

Within the junior class we also have two additional breaks; snack and fruit breaks. These breaks happen within the class and allow the children to 're-fuel' before going onto the next activity.



What happens if my child has a toileting accident at school?

It is not unusual for new entrants to have a toileting accident. Often they are too busy playing with their friends or too shy to ask to go to the toilet during class time. Some young children are also apprehensive about using the school toilet.



If children wet themself the teacher will discreetly remove them from the class to be changed. It is always a good idea to pack a change of clothes for new entrant children. Even those children who always use the toilet at home may have the occasional mishap when they start school.

If your child comes home in spare clothing we ask that you please wash these and return to school as soon as possible.

How my child is achieving

The first month of school is a settling in time for your child and an observation time for the teachers.
Assessment of your child is ongoing, with decisions constantly being made about next learning steps in these areas. If the teacher identifies an area of concern they will contact you to discuss how best to meet these needs.

It is important to remember that all children develop at different rates and it is not a good idea to compare your child's progress with other children you know. There are broad 'average' levels of achievement for children of a particular age and these are used as a rough guide when assessing children.

You are always welcome to chat to your child's teacher on an informal basis.
If you have any concerns please let your child's teacher know and they can deal with it or arrange a time for you both to have a talk about it.
We have formal parent/teacher interviews and two written reports throughout the year.



Communication with Families

We have fortnightly newsletters that go out on a Thursday. A hard copy will be sent home with your child. They are also available on our school website or the 'Edge' app.
https://www.awahono.school.nz/home

Room 6 uses an app called SeeSaw to communicate with families. Your child will be added to the class and an invitation will be sent out to your contact number or email address.

Absence or Late Arrival



If your child is away from school, please telephone or text the school office and leave a message stating your child's name and reason.
Phone 7323 713, Text 027 750 3516

If your child arrives late at school please let the office know when they arrive.

What will I need to buy or pay for?

A Stationery Pack is available from the school office. These are around $25 each.
You can choose to pay for this in cash at the office or online. Direct credits can be set up to pay in instalments too, if you wish.
Our bank details are as follows:02 0844 0021522 00
Account statements are usually sent out each term.



Uniform

Our uniform is:

- Royal blue polo top; short or long sleeve
- Royal blue polar fleece
- Plain black bottoms; shorts/skort/skirt/pants/leggings
- Black socks or tights
- Sun hat with a wide brim (school policy is "no hat, no play" Term 1 & 4)

You are able to purchase our uniform from 'The Warehouse'.
We do have some second hand pieces available through the office too.

All clothing and personal belongings need to be **clearly named**.









Buses

Most of our children travel via school buses. If you require your child to travel on a bus please check with the office about eligibility and pick-up and drop-off times.
Our primary focus and intent is that the students travelling on the bus do so in a safe and orderly manner. For this to happen everyone needs to be aware of the school's expectations.

- Bus vests will be worn when travelling to and from school on the bus.
- Students will sit where the bus monitors ask them to.
- Students will follow requests made of them by staff, the bus driver and the bus monitors.
- Students will remain seated until they reach their stop.



Parents need to:

- Inform the school office if you are collecting your child. This is vital as we need to account for every child on the bus roll.
- Meet the bus with your child in the morning and be waiting for your child to be dropped off.

To ensure the system runs smoothly...

- It is very important that you inform the office of any temporary or permanent changes to bus requirements.
- If changes are required, the office must be notified before 2:30pm, otherwise students will be sent home on the bus as usual.



ICT Agreement

With the prevalence of devices in school and the use of the Internet, the Ministry of Education requires that all students must have a signed ICT Agreement on file.
This document outlines the school rules for using the computers and Internet.
It is signed by the pupil to state that they are aware of the rules and will abide by them, and then by the parents/caregivers who give permission for their child to use the computers and information systems in use at school.
We do realise that this agreement is beyond the understanding of a five year old, but it is still a requirement of the Ministry of Education that we have one in place for each student.



For new entrants we ask that you sign the agreement to show that you are aware of, and agree to the rules for computer usage within the school, and if your child can sign their name that they also sign at this point.
As your child progresses, these rules will be explained to them in depth when they are of an age to understand them better.

Support Committee

Awahono School Grey Valley has a group of parents who organise and run many fundraising events to help support our school. This is a great way to meet other families and be involved in your child's school. They hold monthly meetings in the school library. Ask at the school office to find out when the next meeting is.

