



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Carlton School is the place for your child. There are many new and innovative changes happening in 2011. We are a Habit of Mind school and therefore we focus on thinking and inquiring as a learning approach across all curriculum areas. To support this approach we are extending our ICT technologies and skills.

At Carlton, each class is developing a blog site to develop your child's ability to share and link their learning with the wider world. We have Junior school open mornings in Term One and Three so that prospective and current parents can get a picture of the Junior school. We also suggest you come to any of the events on our school calendar to see the rest of the school in action.

We currently have two New Entrant rooms, with a third starting Term 3. This enables us to provide small learning groups. Prior to starting school your child has 6 weekly visits. These take place on Thursdays from 11:00 to 12:30. During this time your child will have opportunities to explore the computer technologies we offer, classroom programs and take part in the junior school Kapa Haka session in the school hall at 12:00. This enables your child to get familiar with their learning environment, class mates, teacher and school life.

Our junior team is friendly, approachable and passionate about student learning and aim to provide an exciting challenging and supportive environment for your child. Any time is a good time to visit and we look forward to you and your family joining our learning community.



Is your Child turning 5?

Sending a child to school (even if it is not their first one) is a very special moment for all parents. The experience is different every time, because children are all different. We trust your child will be very happy at Carlton School and that you will enjoy being part of the Carlton School Community.

Take a Tour

Prospective parents and their children are welcome to come to look around our exciting learning environments. If you are interested in a tour of Carlton School please call to arrange a time to meet our Principal and take a tour of the school.

Preparing for school

To assist with your child's integration into full time schooling, we offer :

School Visits: Pre-schoolers attend their school visits the 6 weeks before they turn 5. School visits are normally on Thursday mornings from 11:00 - 12:30.

Enrolment

If you have not already done so, try to enrol your child before their starting day remembering to bring copies of birth and immunisation certificates. All enrolment forms can be found on school web site ([Link to school website](#))

Stationery

Stationery can be purchased through the School Office. It is helpful to purchase this during pre-school visits so as your child can use the same exercise books as the other children when visiting. ([Can link to web site](#))

Lunches

We do not insist on children eating all their lunch but do insist that uneaten food goes home and not in the bin, so as you can discuss appetite and preferences with them. In accordance with our Health policy, we encourage the drinking of water.

Children are supervised for fifteen minutes while eating their lunches before being dismissed for play.

Lunch can be ordered before school in the hall. (price list available at office [and link to web page](#)) and at various times throughout the year sausages sizzles etc as PTA fundraiser. Weekly newsletters will keep you informed of this.

Arriving at school

Try to arrive 10-15 minutes before the 9.00am bell to give your child time to greet the teacher and friends and to put things away. Arriving right on 9.00am or later is unsettling for both the child and the class and establishes poor attitudes to punctuality. ([Can link to web site](#))

What you can do to help your child?

Things you can do to help your child prior to starting school (and after)

- Talk to your child about starting school where he / she will meet new friends, play games, sing and make things...
- Help him / her to learn to put on their own shoes and do them up.
- Buy clothes and shoes that are easy to manage.
- Label all possessions.
- Give them tasks to perform around the home which will require simple directions - this will help with confidence.
- Teach your child to put things away after using them.
- Read to them regularly in order to develop their attention span.
- Encourage them when home work is brought home.
- Encourage your child to talk about their day at school.
- Send them to school on time each and every day.
- Select stories to share.
- Discourage your child from bringing toys (or any other valuable items) to school - we cannot take responsibility for it.
- Model the correct use of upper case and lower case letters when writing for or with your child
- Discuss any concerns with the classroom teacher.

What happens day to day in the class?

Literacy:

- Phonics
- Word power
- Writing
- Visual language
- Reading
- Handwriting - directionality, correct letter formation.

Your child will be given a reading book on their first day at school. A homework book will also come home where you can enter the name of the book the child has read and also communicate any queries or concerns to the teacher.

Numeracy:

- Number
- Basic facts
- Counting, numbers before, after, forwards, backwards, ordering,
- shapes
- colours
- patterns

Classroom programs also included Te- reo, P.E, the arts, inquiry learning. We also intergarte ICT and the habits of mind into all learning areas.

(Link to web page)

Taking Responsibility

After the first week or two, your child should know the school routines of hanging up bags and jackets, putting away readers and taking responsibility for his/her own belongings. Let your child perform these tasks for him/herself. Demonstrate, but don't do it for them. Build independence.

Communication

Open communication between home and school is important and is achieved through:

- School Newsletters come home with the eldest/only child in the family every second Friday
- Junior and class newsletters-sent out each term to inform you of intended areas of learning and specific junior issues.
- Parent/Teacher interviews-Term 1
- Reports-a New Entrant report is written after four weeks at school. This is followed up with a progress or achievement report in June and December, dependant on your childs birth date.

We are happy to meet with you at other times to answer queries or discuss progress but we have professional requirements to meet, we would appreciate appointments being made to discuss your child.

Parent Helpers

Parents help out in many ways around the school:

- in classrooms
- coaching and organising sports teams
- serving on the PTA ([can Link to website](#))

If you wish to be involved in any way or have skills or interests you would be prepared to share, please let us know. We value your support.

We look forward to a happy start to school life for your child and a pleasant association with you and your family

The Junior School Team