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Welcome to South Makirikiri School!

Starting school is an exciting part of your child growing up and we are looking forward to having your child begin their school journey with us.

School Visits:

We offer school visits to smooth the transition from pre-school to school. We will contact you before your child turns five to discuss with you how many visits you think your child will need. We usually start with a couple of morning visits and extend these as your child becomes more comfortable at school. Between three and six visits is a guideline. You are welcome to stay for these visits until your child is comfortable with being left for some or all of the day.

There are a lot of differences between early childhood centres and school and it usually takes a few weeks for a child to settle into the school routines. We will support your child as they learn to become independent learners at school.

Being ready for school:

To be ready for school, it would be great if your child can

- Go to the toilet unassisted
- Manage their own school bag and pack it independently
- Manage their own lunch box and drink bottle
- Manage their own clothing ie; dress themselves after swimming or take off a jumper or jacket
- Manage their own shoes
- Recognise their name and be learning to write it
- Hold a pencil correctly
- Use scissors correctly
- Tidy-up after themselves

Some Early Foundation Skills that can be worked on prior to starting school:

We encourage you to give your child lots of opportunities to

- Develop oral language through conversations and reading books together
- Climb, crawl and balance to develop coordination, core strength and motor skills
- Draw, colour in, cut and paste
- Use a pencil, pen or crayons
- Recognise and write their own name
- Count objects and learn their numbers up to 10
- Listen and follow instructions
- Ask for what they need and communicate their feelings
- Play, share and make friends with other children

If you have any questions or concerns please come and talk to us. Our goal is to make 'starting school' a positive and happy experience. We are looking forward to getting to know you, your child and your whanau as you become part of the South Makirikiri school community.

Regards

Rowena Coleman

New Entrant Teacher