



Starting School and School Visits

Welcome to Te Ara Hono

Te Ara Hono is our wonderful transition-to-school programme, lovingly run by our teachers.

To give your child the best possible start, visits run every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm during the eight to ten school weeks before their start date. Consistent attendance helps children familiarise themselves with school life, ensuring a smooth and happy transition.

During Te Ara Hono, we focus on:

- **Emotional readiness:** Helping your child feel safe, confident, and excited about school.
- **Social routines:** Making new friends and understanding classroom rhythms.
- **Hands-on & organisational skills:** Learning to pack bags, look after belongings, and use school resources.
- **Physical coordination:** Developing the motor skills needed for active school days.
- **Early language & maths:** Building a fun, gentle foundation for reading, writing, and numbers.

Your First Visit We ask that a parent stays with their child for their first visit. Once your child is settled, we'll take you on a school tour and have a quick chat about school expectations and how to support their transition.

Future Visits For any visits after that, we encourage you to help your child settle into the classroom and then head off. This is a wonderful way to help them build independence and get used to the school routine.

At Wānaka Primary School, we use a [cohort entry system](#) and welcome our new entrants in two intakes each term. Your child can start at the first intake date after their fifth birthday.

Starting children in small groups helps them settle in beautifully. It allows our teachers to introduce classroom routines and programmes smoothly, ensuring no child misses out on vital information while keeping classroom disruptions to a minimum.