



# Petone Central School New Entrant Booklet

We welcome you and your child to Petone Central School. We are committed to making your child's transition to school as smooth as possible. We hope the following information will help you in this process.

## How to enrol

- Enrol your child before their fifth birthday (preferably a month or more before your child starts so that visits can be arranged) by contacting the school office. Ph. 568 7974 or e-mail: [office@petone-central.school.nz](mailto:office@petone-central.school.nz) or come in and visit us 16 Britannia Street, Petone.
- You will receive an enrolment pack containing school information and be put on our pre-enrolment list. The new entrant teacher will contact you about school visits.
- The enrolment process requires the child's birth certificate to be sighted and copied. We are also required to sight and copy vaccination certificates.

## School Visits

- To help your child with their transition to school, 2-5 classroom visits are recommended before your child's first official day of school.
- These visits will be arranged between you (the parents/caregiver) and the new entrant teacher so that visits can take place around work and other commitments.
- It is also a good idea to visit the school outside of school hours. The playground can be a bit daunting for New Entrants and familiarity with the environment can help to settle your child.

## Introduction to school

Starting school should be an exciting experience for 5 year olds.

We recognise that for many children the change from preschool to school is significant and we try to make the transition to school as smooth as possible.

Some of the changes your child will face are:

- Mixing with a larger group of children, much bigger and older than themselves.
- Sharing the teacher's time with a much larger group of other children.
- Learning to find their way around a new larger environment.
- Getting used to set times for working, eating and playing.
- Adjusting to the toilets being located down the hall rather than close to their main space.

## The First Day as a New Entrant

- The most important thing you can do for your child is to be positive about school; that way your child will feel more relaxed about starting school.
- Children settle better in the morning if they arrive at school early enough to get themselves 'organised' before the first bell goes for the school day to begin at 9:00am.
- Consistency helps children adjust to new situations by increasing their sense of security. Try to develop a morning routine that will help your child get ready on time and allow the journey from home to school to be stress free and unhurried. Our classrooms are open from 8:30am. Please arrive before the bell goes at 9:00am to allow your child to hang up their bag and get settled in. Children learn best when they arrive at school in a calm state and feel part of everything that is happening, right from the morning register.
- If your child appears reluctant for you to leave in the morning, rather than prolong the inevitable, it really is best to leave your child in the care of the class teacher – your child will then settle more quickly into school routines. Use the bell as a cue to leave. We will phone you if there is a problem with your child settling.

## Bell Times

Start of the day: 9:00am

Morning Tea: 11:00 – 11:30am

Lunch: 1:00 – 1:45pm

End of the day: 3:00pm

## What your child needs to start school

- A 'big' school bag
- It is important that you name all clothing items.
- Shoes need to be practical for their daily exercise routines. Velcro instead of laces is ideal for young children.
- A coat for cold days.
- Spare clothes. Accidents can happen from time to time so it is a good idea to pack some spare clothes.
- Stationery (A stationery list will be provided by the class teacher. Items can be purchased from any stationery/book store).
- A sunhat during Term 1 and Term 4.
- A packed morning tea and lunch.
  - It is helpful if fruit is cut into quarters or the peel has been started.
  - All students are supervised for the first 10 minutes of lunchtime and we endeavour to ensure your child has eaten sufficient food.
  - We also encourage students to take home any leftover food.
  - Please note that we encourage healthy foods at our school. Lollies, chocolate and fizzy drinks are banned.
  - Please note that we are unable to heat foods for your child. Packed, ready to eat foods are essential.
- A water bottle. These can be refilled at school throughout the day if necessary.

### Encourage/support independence at the beginning of the day

- Children are required to take care of their personal belongings. Children should hand sanitise on their way in the door in the morning. Children are allocated their own hook to hang their belongings and bag on, so asking them to hang up their bag in the morning is a good routine. They need to unpack their homework folders on a Friday.

### Encourage/support independence at the end of the day

- Teachers will assist children to gather up their belongings and pack their bags. Please let the children do this job as we try to encourage independence and a level of responsibility to look after their own belongings. We do encourage them to leave the classroom with their own bag on their back.

### Encourage/support independence at home

- Encourage your child to pack their own bags at home before school. This helps them remember what is in their bags and helps them be more accountable for their belongings.

There will also be notice and newsletters that come home, so please check book bags and school bags on a daily basis.

Transition to school can be a big step for some children. It can be hard for them to concentrate, sit still, follow instructions, and make new friends. Please keep this quote in mind and do not compare your child with siblings or other children in the class. 'All children learn but not in the same way and on the same day.'

Our aim is to provide a happy, secure environment, with each child being actively involved in the learning process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to know more about the transitions process.

Jeannie Phillips

New Entrant Teacher

E-mail: [jeannie@petone-central.school.nz](mailto:jeannie@petone-central.school.nz)



# Readiness Skills

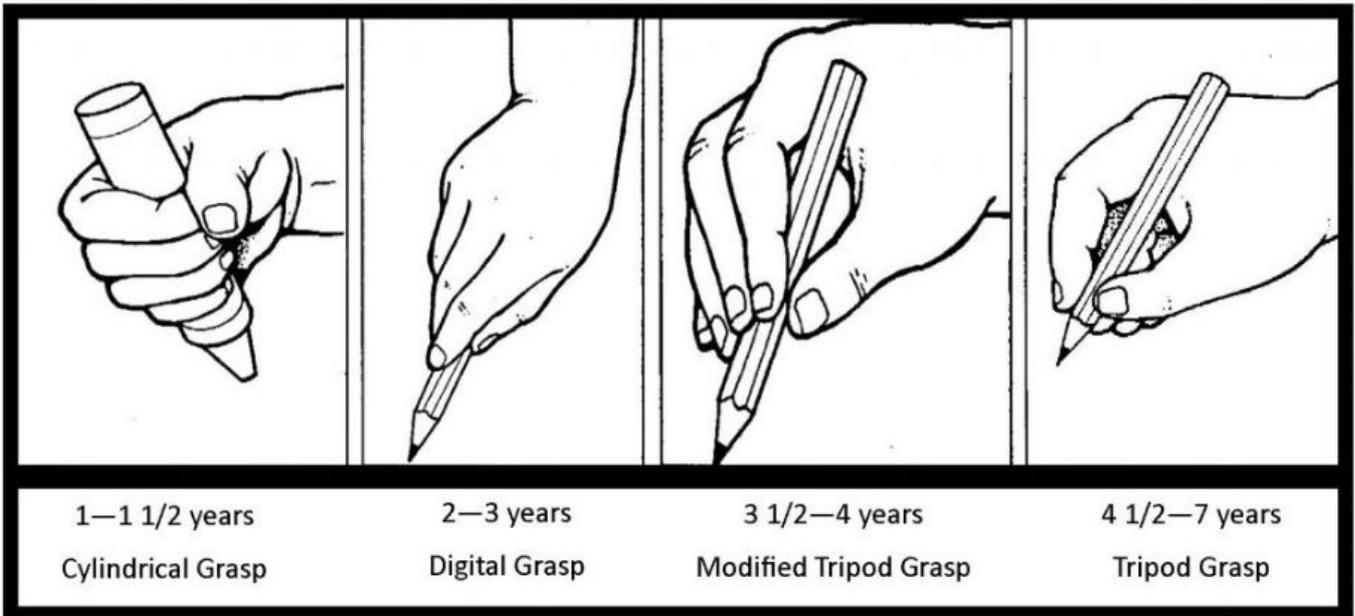
Note: These are suggestions/guidelines only – not requirements. Children all learn at different times and at different rates and are gifted in different areas of the curriculum. We accept children with whatever skills they bring and build on those skills in a secure environment. We want children to have positive learning experiences as they learn best this way.

## Suggested Readiness Skills

Reading	Writing	Oral	Maths	General
Is able to sit and listen to a story.	Can hold a pencil correctly.	Can speak clearly.	Knows basic shapes and colours.	Can be responsible for own belongings.
Knows we read from front to back and left to right.	Can recognise and write their own name using lower case letters.	Can tell you about a personal experience.	Can use some positional words e.g., above, below, under, over, front, back.	Can dress/undress independently.
Knows the names and/or sounds of some alphabet letters.	Can draw pictures about their experiences.	Can initiate some conversations e.g., “Good morning.”	Can count to ten or beyond.	Can manage to use the toilet unassisted.
Can retell a story using pictures.	Can write some alphabet letters correctly (lower case preferred).	Can listen to and respond to instructions.	Can count a small group of objects	Can share and take turns.
		Is able to answer a question with a relevant sentence.	Can make or finish a basic pattern e.g., red, blue, red, blue, red, blue.	Is willing to ‘have a go.’
		Is able to ask for help when needed.	Can recognise numbers to 10.	Can use words and language to solve conflict.

Please help by checking at home that your child is holding their pencil correctly and forming letters correctly. A guide sheet is provided overleaf.

## Pencil Grip Development:



The correct method of holding a pen or pencil:

### Pencil Grasp

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Make a fist (keep your wrist up).
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Make a round circle by bending your pointer finger and thumb.
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Pinch your pencil close to the end.
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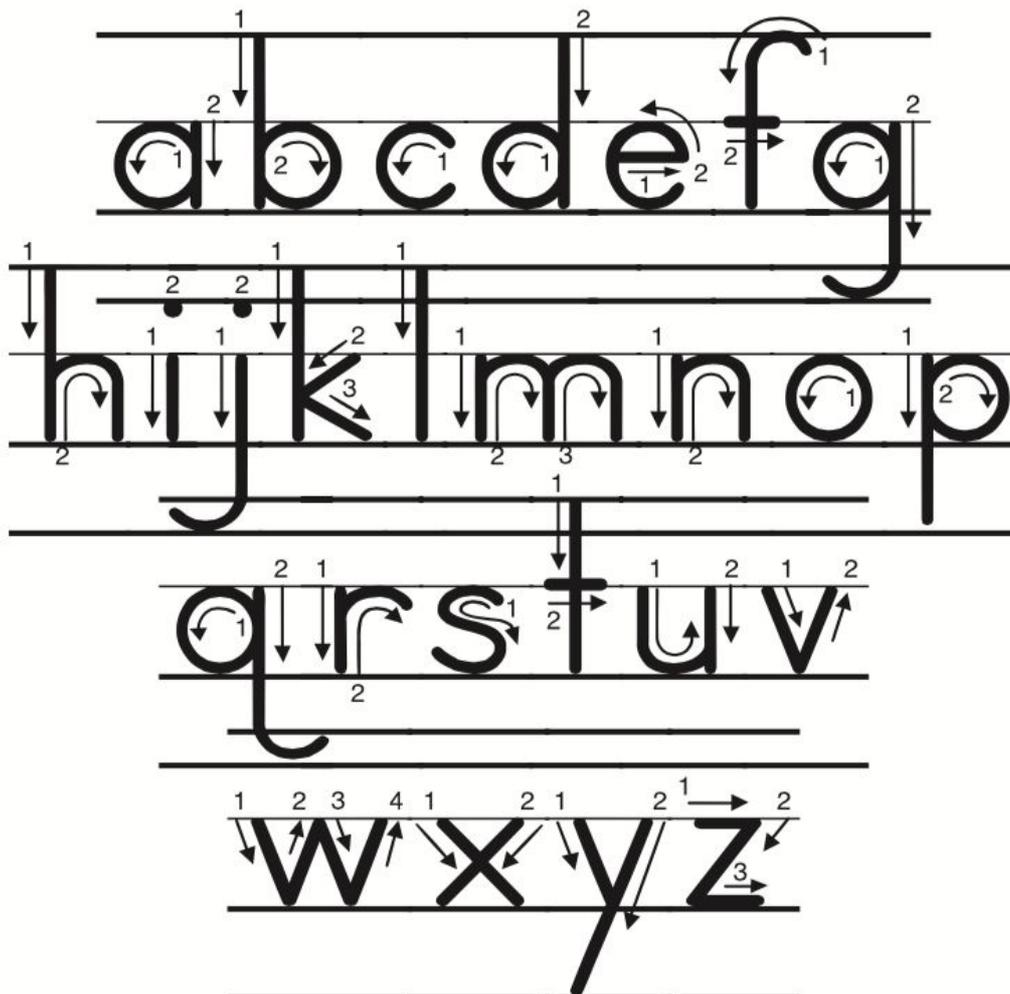
Bring your middle finger under the pencil to hold it in place.

*Move ONLY your fingers when writing, drawing, and coloring.*



For more information/ideas visit: [www.getreadyforschool.com](http://www.getreadyforschool.com)

Letter formation – Lower case:



Letter formation - Upper case:

