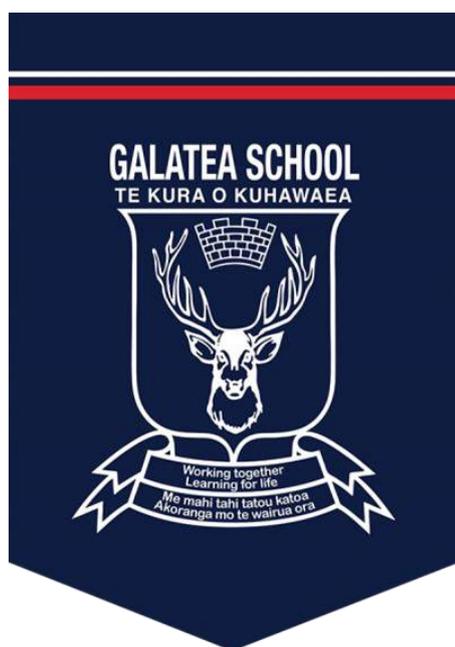


Galatea School New Entrant Information Booklet





INTRODUCTION

Here at Galatea School we are totally committed to providing the best learning and teaching opportunities for our students. We work collaboratively to ensure our children receive quality teaching and learning programs specific to their individual needs. We are a team of professional and passionate teachers who work hard to ensure there is a safe and cohesive environment where learning is paramount.

At Galatea School we endeavour to make the educational journey of each student a partnership between home and school to develop independent lifelong learning skills. For us, parents and whanau play a vital role in children's educational progress. We value parents as the first teacher, who will continue to be a major factor in the educational growth of our students. Having a good school and home relationship with shared understandings of where each child is at, helps our students to do their best, educationally, socially and emotionally.

Environmental Education is important at Galatea School as we journey together to develop improved understandings of the Enviro Schools philosophies, beliefs and practices, along with the weaving of those from Te Ao Maori, the Maori World.

At Galatea school, we practise and encourage our School Core Values ...



Kindness Responsibility Perseverance
Tolerance Honesty Integrity Respect

SCHOOL CHARTER

Our Galatea School Charter has been developed in response to the aspirations of our Board of Trustees, staff, community and our learners. At the forefront of our charter is our mission statement: *Working together, learning for life.*

This can be further described as...

Working Together

- ◇ Staff and students collaborating for best outcomes.
- ◇ **The idea that it takes a village to raise a child.**
- ◇ Strong communication and relationships fostered between children, staff and whanau.
- ◇ The sense of belonging.
- ◇ Leadership is distributed based upon strengths and passion.
- ◇ Diversity is recognised and celebrated.
- ◇ Tolerance is learnt and practiced.

Learning for life

- ◇ We never stop learning.
- ◇ We see learning as a positive experience.
- ◇ Mistakes are learning experiences.
- ◇ Our School Core Values are qualities required to be productive citizens now and in the future.
- ◇ The knowledge that an opportunity we provide today may spark a passion for life.



Our Mission Statement

Working Together – Learning for Life

Me mahi tahi tatou katoa - Akoranga mo te wairua ora

Our Vision

1. Galatea School empowers learners by aiming for individual excellence in all that we do.
2. Galatea School and its community regards learning as a powerful tool for achieving personal excellence.
3. Galatea School and its community strive to create students that are confident, connected and caring participants in today's society.
4. Galatea school values the partnership with our whanau to bring about the best learning outcomes for our learners.
5. Galatea School values Respect, Kindness, Tolerance, Honesty, Responsibility, Integrity and Perseverance.
6. Galatea School embraces innovative, inquiring and curious minds and produces self-motivated students, engaged in their own learning.
7. Galatea School encourages students to be confident and positive in their own identity through celebrating and recognising each and every individual's talents.



Pre- School Visits

Three weeks out from your child's 5th birthday school visits can start. Phone the school or email the new entrant teacher to arrange this.

You are required to stay on school grounds for these visits due to Health and Safety and Insurance regulations.

After a settling in time you may leave the classroom for short periods of time to help your child gain confidence in the classroom. All children vary in how they adapt to school life, some need longer periods of time than others.

Pre-School visits are held on a Thursday.

First Visit Block 1	8.50 - 10.20 am	Bring morning tea.
Second Visit Block 1 & 2	8.50 - 11.20 am	Bring morning tea.
Third Visit Block 1, 2 & 3	8.50 - 12.35 pm	Bring morning tea. Lunch break is 12.35 pm -1.20 pm. Children eat at 1.00 pm. You are more than welcome to stay for the lunch break.

Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow for introductions and settling. Children find it difficult to walk into a class of children all sitting on the mat looking at them. Try to avoid this by coming early.

Please allow your child plenty of time to settle into the class. New learners are taking in a lot of new information so be patient, as they are having to process so many new experiences. Help your child by working through classroom routines, showing them where things go and where the toilets, playground and other school areas are located.

Please sign yourself and your child in at the school office, and sign out when you leave the school grounds.

Setting your child up for Success at school!

Is your child prepared for school?

The following will help them get off to a fantastic start.

Can your child:

- * Put on and take off his/her own shoes and clothing? Which shoes? Whatever they can take off, put on, and do up by themselves!
- * Carry and manage their school bag and belongings? It is important he/she can do this as it fosters early self-management skills.
- * Hold a pen and write their name? Knowing the letters in their name is also helpful.
- * Count to 10 and talk about numbers? Cooking together is great for this, talking, measuring and discussing everything as you go.
- * Share equipment co-operatively and take turns?
- * Catch and throw a large ball?
- * Put their head under the water in a pool?

Read, read, read to your child and discuss the ideas in stories in depth. Comment on what is happening in the story and the pictures.

Involve your child in as many early experiences as you can. They do not have to be expensive or exciting all the time, the important thing is that you talk to your child and engage them in conversations about what you are doing together.



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the current New Entrant teacher, Christine Wakefield, who will be glad to help you.

Ten reasons to read to your child

- 1. Because when you share a book and hold them, they'll know you love them.*
- 2. Because sharing books brings you closer together and builds for the future.*
- 3. Because it gives you something to talk about with your child.*
- 4. Because it will expand their vocabulary and encourage them to talk.*
- 5. Because reading to them will encourage them to become readers.*
- 6. Because children's books are such fun and you will both enjoy them.*
- 7. Because through books they will learn about the world around them.*
- 8. Because it will give them a head start.*
- 9. Because they will think you are magic.*
- 10. Because if you do they might let you read in peace.*



Oral Language Development

Early Oral Language is the foundation of successful reading and writing learning.

By 5 years of age, your child should:

- ✦ use complete sentences.
- ✦ have an understanding of concepts related to number, size, weight, colour, texture, distance, position and time - understand the concepts of tallest, biggest, same, more, on, in, under.
- ✦ understand the order of daily routines e.g. breakfast before lunch.
- ✦ ask and answer who, what, when, why and where questions.
- ✦ follow two unrelated directions e.g. put the milk on the table and put your coat on.
- ✦ talk about what has happened in the past and link that to the present.
- ✦ ask the meanings of words and try to use new words (not always successfully).

Ideas to help with Language Development:

- ✦ Commenting - focus on what your child is doing, as they are doing it, and talk about what you are doing as you do it.
- ✦ Open ended questions - try asking questions that require children to tell you more. What, who, where, why, when and how? E.g. What will happen next? Why will that happen?
- ✦ Cooking, shopping, holidays, visits, family activities, games, sharing stories etc are all great opportunities for talking.
- ✦ Follow your child's lead and comment about activities he/she is focusing on at the time. Language is learned best when it is interesting and relevant.
- ✦ Use specific vocabulary. Make instructions clear and succinct. Your child is more likely to respond appropriately if you tell them "put your cup on the bench" rather than "put it over there".

Have fun talking and discussing things with your child.



HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN THE ALPHABET

*THE FASTER YOUR CHILD CAN LEARN
THE ALPHABET, THE BETTER.
THEY WILL BE ABLE TO READ HARDER
BOOKS, AND WRITE BETTER STORIES.*

- ◇ First, sing the alphabet with your child. Say the letters clearly and separately, especially l, m, n, o and p, as they can run together and cause confusions.
- ◇ Use an ABC chart to start identifying individual letters. Start with the letters of your child's name. Say "find the 'a'", and if they can't find it, ask them to find the corresponding picture, and then say "yes, well done you found 'a'" and point to the letter.
- ◇ When your child can find the letters of their name try some others. Give them the picture clue when needed.
- ◇ When they find the letter, ask them to say the letter, the picture and then start adding in the sound that goes with it, eg, a – apple, aaaaaa.
- ◇ Please don't say "a is for apple", just say "a – apple, a-a-a-a-a".
- ◇ Some children find it really useful to do the following:
 - Talk about the shape of the letter.
 - Make letters out of playdough.
 - Find letters in magazines and books.
 - Talk about letters they see when out shopping, etc.
 - ABC computer games, hand held games, TV programmes where they can hear the sound being said.
 - Write letters in the sand, dirt, bubbles, etc.



DEVELOPING PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Below are some suggestions on how to develop your child's listening awareness, by giving them the opportunity to discriminate sounds in language.

- ♦ Talk about sounds around us. Name them, e.g. "That was a noisy aeroplane," or "Can you hear the rain?"
- ♦ Play games and read stories with sound effects, e.g. be a train, "choo, choo."
- ♦ Sing or chant nursery rhymes, talk about the rhyming words.
- ♦ Clap rhymes of familiar nursery rhymes.
- ♦ Ask questions about sounds your child can hear, "Was that sound a car or truck/cat or dog?" "Was it loud or quiet?"
- ♦ Teach letter names and letter sounds.
- ♦ Play "I spy" - use sounds at first and then progress onto letters.
- ♦ Create opportunities for children to explore other sounds that they can make with their voices;
- ♦ Make your voice go down a slide: wheee!
- ♦ Make your voice bounce like a ball: boing, boing!
- ♦ Be a steam train coming to a stop: ch-ch-ch-ch!
- ♦ Keep everyone quiet: shshshshsh!

It is very important to continue to share stories, poems, rhymes and songs with your child every day. 😊

