OFF to SCHOOL

Haere mai
Welcome to Spreydon School

We look forward to working in partnership with you to provide for your child’s education and well-being.

Our vision is:

We strive to be the best we can. We want our students to be proud achievers, who are Respectful, successful, team players, self-managers, communicators and thinkers.
Learning
To learn and let others learn

Success
To be the best we can

Relationships
To have the best connections with people & places

Responsibility
To be in the right place at the right time doing the right thing
Organisation for the first day at School

It is important to arrive at school in good time. School is open for the children from 8.30 am. Arriving at school by 8.45 p.m., ensures plenty of time for your child to settle into class. Hanging bags and coats on the named peg together at first helps children to gain the confidence to become independent. After a day or two they will be encouraged to hang up their bag on their own and to bring their reading folder into the class by themselves. There will be a named desk ready for your child. It is a good idea to have stationery pre-named and ready. All stationery can be purchased from the school office.

Once the morning session has started, please leave as discreetly as possible. This is in the best interests of both you and your child as the separation of parent and child affects folk in different ways. It is advisable not to delay the inevitable break. You will, of course, be most welcome as a parent help, once your child has adjusted.

Name everything! Little children lose things and can become stressed by this. Our uniform is something that gives us pride in our school, but it also means that everything looks the same.

Your child will go home at 2 o’clock for the first two weeks of schooling. You must collect your child from their classroom at 2 o’clock each day. The transition to school is different for each individual. Many children find the change to a more structured day difficult, even though they may have spent long hours at a pre-school. Please feel free to discuss this issue with us.

Children may begin their school career in either Room 1, Room 2, or Room 3, depending on the number of enrolments we have at the beginning of the year. Again, owing to numbers, it may be necessary
for your child to have a change of class during the first year at school, but we try to keep the classes as stable as possible. The children who begin school in the early part of the year [up to 31st March], are called Year One until the end of that year, regardless of the classroom they are in. The children who begin school from 1st April through until the end of the year, are called Year 0. These children become Year 1 at the start of the following year.

**Interchanges**

From time to time your child will join with other Junior children for interchange, assemblies or special programmes. In this way, new children meet the other teachers in the school, making any change in class as easy as possible.

**Ways for you to help your pre-schooler**

School will be easier for your child if s/he:
- Can dress independently
- Can put on shoes
- Knows the safest way from home to school
- Knows basic road safety rules
- Talks with you about going to school

**But most important of all:**

Read, read, read and read to your child, and talk, talk, talk with your child. These two activities are the key to your child’s progress at school. The more reading and talking, the better the start for your child. We are happy to advise you on the best ways of doing this, and have material to give you.
Reading Routines

Some of the routines operating within the classroom can be reinforced by parents at home. This is a great help when children are striving towards becoming independent learners.

Readers will come home from Monday to Thursday. Encourage your child to share this book with you at a time when it is quiet and he/she is not too tired. Also your child will receive two sets of basic sight words and some ideas of how to use these. Please practice these words regularly. Each morning the reading folder should be returned to the classroom and into the appropriate container. It is good if children can do this for themselves as part of the unpacking process in the mornings.

Reading At Home

Here are some positive ways you can help your child when reading at home.

- Most nights your child will bring home a book to share with you. If your child is tired, read the book to them and talk about it.
- At this emergent stage of reading some of the books your child will bring home maybe too difficult for them to read without your help. Sometimes they will need you to read the first sentence to remind them what it says. Look at the pictures with them and talk about them. They will need to use the pictures to help them read so please don’t cover them up.
- Encourage them to point to the words as they read. At first they will move their finger from left to right – then they will point to each word as they realize that each word says something.
- When your child is reading and comes to a word he / she does not know encourage them to:
  1. look at the pictures for clues.
  2. try and say the first sound of the word.
- Please ……..

  Take time to read with your child everyday
  Make reading an enjoyable experience
  Praise your child constantly for all their attempts
**Library**

We visit the library each week. All children must have a library bag to take books to and from school. The children can have three books out at a time. Please take the time to read them with your child.

**Parent Helping**

We do appreciate help in the classroom. Teachers may send a note home asking for specific help where it is needed, or may approach people individually if they have indicated they are available.

Teachers will give guidance regarding the kind of help needed and will discuss your role carefully before you start.

It is necessary that you can help without the distraction of preschoolers.

There will be occasions when teachers will also seek help for supervision of children on trips and for transport.

You may not be in a position to parent help at school. However, you can discuss what has happened during the day at school with your child and share their reading book with them.

We look forward to working with you as a part of the Home / School team.
School Hours

School starts 9.00am daily
Gobble and Go 10.40 – 11.00am
Kai Time 12.00 – 12.30pm
Push Play 1.30 – 2.00pm
School Ends 3.00pm

Terms and Holidays 2012

Term 1: Tuesday 31 January to Thursday 5 April
Term 2: Monday 23 April to Friday 29 June
Term 3: Monday 16 July to Friday 28 September
Term 4: Tuesday 15 October to Thursday 18 December

Holidays
Schools must be closed in 2011 on Saturdays, Sundays and on the following holidays:

Waitangi Day 6 February
Good Friday 6 April (holidays)
Easter Monday 9 April (holidays)
Day after Easter 10 April (holidays)
Anzac Day 25 April
Queens’ Birthday 4 June
Labour Day 22 October
Anniversary Day 16 November

Terms 2013

Term 1: Monday 4 February to Friday 19 April
Term 2: Monday 6 May to Friday 12 July
Term 3: Monday 29 July to Friday 27 September
Term 4: Monday 14 October to Friday 20 December