

A flying start at Selwyn Ridge



SELWYNRIDGE
soaring high

We hope that the information and advice that follows will be of assistance to you and your child in accomplishing a happy and smooth transition to school routines and experiences at Selwyn Ridge Primary School.

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Curriculum Areas

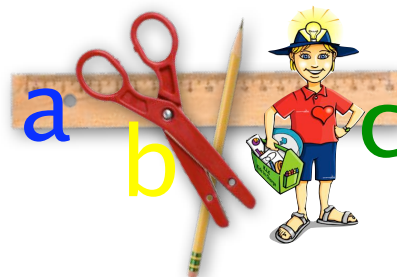
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the Kid on the Ridge

A symbol of what we value in our learners



The Toolbox

Skills and Strategies for Life

Interaction with others

- communication
- social

Thinking

- creative
- critical
- problem solving
- rational

Personal management

- goal setting
- learning to learn
- metacognition
- organisational skills
- wise choices
- work and study skills

Physical skills

The Mind

Knowledge and Awareness

- knowing about self
- knowing about others
- knowing about values and morals
- knowing about the environment
- knowing about our world (global awareness)

The Heart

Attributes, Attitudes and Values

- to be co-operative
- to be resilient
- to be a risk taker
- to be interdependent
- to be caring
- to be positive
- to be creative
- to work toward self improvement
- to have a sense of humour
- to persevere
- to be flexible
- to be independent

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A Map of Selwyn Ridge School



TEAMS

A Team - Rooms 1,2,3,17,18 and 19

High Flyers - Rooms 8,13,14,15 and 16

Busy Bees - Rooms 4,5,6 and 7

Small World - Rooms 9,10,11,12, 20 and 21

Pre-School Preparation

Enrolment Procedure

When enrolling your child at the office, the school requires proof of age and citizenship from a Birth Certificate or Passport. These must be sighted by the staff. Details of medical information, allergies etc which may affect learning or require specific attention need to be noted, as well as parental / caregiver or custody arrangements. This may be done prior to their 5th birthday. You may also purchase uniform and stationery items and attend to school costs at this time.



Pre-School Visits

Children begin school after they have had two visits with their pre-school teachers or parents on alternative Thursdays between 9.00am and 10.00am prior to their 5th birthday. Pre-schoolers are notified of the dates that are set for a visit to Room 11 or Room 12 which are our Reception Rooms.

Children will begin school the first Wednesday following their 5th birthday.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Each term there will be an opportunity for parents to come to school and meet with the teachers in the Reception Rooms. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions and familiarise yourself with the school environment and routines. You are invited to attend the meeting in the term your child starts school, details on these dates will be announced closer to the time.

Reception Rooms

Children start school in Room 11 or 12 which are our Reception rooms. During their time in these rooms, we focus on teaching and learning the routines of school, socialisation and developing a solid base of knowledge from which to build on. The amount of time your child spends in our reception rooms depend on a number of factors, including their readiness socially, academically and our enrolment numbers. We make our decisions about moving children through on a term by term basis and working through a process, considering the needs of each child carefully. When they move through to a new room it does not change their classified year level.

School Classification

At SRP children will begin school on the first Wednesday following their 5th birthday and are classified as Year 0. Students who start school after 30 April are classified as Year 1 the following year. All others will be classified as Year 2 the following year.

e.g.. Diana's birthday is 16.02.2005

She can start school on the Wednesday following 16.02.2010

She will be a Year 1 on 1.05.2010

She will be a Year 2 starting the 2011 school year.



Cory's birthday is 16.05.2005

He can start school on the Wednesday following 16.05.2010

He will be a Year 1 starting the 2011 school year.

School Structure

At Selwyn Ridge the classes are split up into four levelled teams.

Small World	Year 0 - Year 1
Busy Bees	Year 2 - Year 3
High Flyers	Year 3 - Year 4
A Team	Year 5 - Year 6

Stationery

Stationery packs are available to purchase from the school office. These include all stationery items needed for your child's first year at school. (Alternatively you may request a stationery list where you can purchase the items from other stationery shops of your choice.)



This stationery pack includes exercise books, a book bag, pens, pencils and glue sticks. Your child's teacher will name the books for you if you wish. Pens and pencils do not need to be named as these are communal tools. (This saves the problem of not being able to work if your child can't find their pencil etc) Any unused items will be forwarded with your child as they move to another room.

School Uniform

All children must be in uniform to attend Selwyn Ridge and these can be purchased through the school. Details of costs are available from the school office or in the prospectus you may have received. We appreciate your ongoing support with ensuring that your child is wearing the correct and tidy uniform to school. In Terms 1 & 4 school uniform hats are compulsory.

Personal Belongings

Please make sure that your child has a school bag large enough to hold lunch box, drink bottle, book bag and sweatshirt etc. Make sure that it can be easily opened by the child. Names on the inside (avoid stranger danger) with some other form of identification or tag on the outside is best.



Uniform items need to be named inside with permanent markers or sewn name tags. If second hand items are purchased please remove previous names to save confusion. It makes life easier for everyone. School uniform is worn as part of our school's policy and therefore is expected that your child is dressed accordingly. A list of uniform items, sizes and prices are available from the school office. All removable items need to be named, including shoes.

Children are permitted to wear watches and one pair of stud earrings. Jewellery for religious or cultural reasons is to be worn underneath their uniform. All other items of jewellery are not to be worn in case of loss, theft or personal safety. Please limit hair ties and headbands to plain blue, navy or black.

We do not encourage the children to bring toys or collectable cards to school. They can get broken or lost and cause disruption when they appear in the classroom. We hope that you support us in not allowing these things to come to school. If the children wish to bring something to share, we prefer that they bring something that they have found or made.

A "Lost Property" box can be accessed through communication with the office personnel.

Parents as First Teachers

Children learn by example. They need to be involved and converse with adults who are interested and prepared to share ideas and experiences with them. Everyday happenings can provide an invaluable basis for learning at home and in the wider community. We encourage you to do this with your child to prepare them for a lifetime of learning.

Transition from Home to School

The purpose of pre-school visits is for both child and parental familiarisation. They give your child the opportunity to become used to the environment, socialise with peers and learn some of our school routines. It is a good time to become familiar with where the classroom is located, the room number, teacher name, bag hooks, toilets, bells ringing, office and playground.

We realise that all children are different - some needing more parent support than others. Your child may experience a variety of emotions when starting school. These could be: excitement.... enjoyment confusion tiredness..... etc
Keep expectations realistic and encourage confidence. Your positive attitude helps your child's adjustment.

Tips for helping your child's readiness for school

Does your child know their first name and surname?

Can they write their own name?

Can they cope with independent toileting and hygiene? (such as nose blowing)

Are they responsible for their belongings?

Can they follow instructions and directions?

Can they dress / undress themselves - including footwear (velcro or slip on shoes are great!)

Do they know their numbers from 1 -10?

Do they know the difference between numbers and letters?

Can they identify and write some / all letters of the alphabet?



Curriculum Areas

Reading

Books help to enrich children's thinking. Quality time and experiences sharing books at home becomes very rewarding. We use different approaches in teaching and learning to read, shared reading as a class, guided reading in groups and individually.

Time spent reading should be enjoyable, relaxing and positive. Help your child by encouraging them to point to each word and look for the initial sounds to give them clues to the words. Children often seem to have memorised the text to begin with, so asking them a few related questions are a good way of making sure they have understood the story.



Think of us as the coaches and yourselves as the cheerleaders in helping your child to learn to read.

School reading is sent home in their book bag Monday to Thursday along with the yellow Home Reader book. Each night please record the date and name of the book and any comments. Listen to your child 10 - 15 minutes per day. Select a time when your child is not hungry or tired and you can give your child your undivided attention. On Fridays, children will bring home a poem or piece of writing to share with you. This reading time should be enjoyable for all, not a chore. If it does become a stressful time, put the reading away and discuss with the teacher.

Alphabet / Word Knowledge

At school the children sing the alphabet song and then begin to say it in sequence with confidence. From here they recognise letters out of sequence. It becomes vitally important for your child to know the letters of the alphabet for literacy progress. Before reading and writing can become an independent learning experience for children, they need to have good alphabet and sound knowledge. First of all recognising letters by name and then saying the sound the letter represents.

A copy of the alphabet song and "Humpty's wall" of first words at school is included in your child's yellow reading record book which is in their book bags. It can be very beneficial to spend a few minutes each night learning these.

Printing / Handwriting

When teaching your child to print their name, please use a capital letter for the first letter and small letters for the remainder of their name. E.g. Kylie and Jack. Encourage the correct formation of the letters as incorrect habits are hard to correct later on. A copy of this is available from your child's teacher if you wish.



Maths

The core of our maths programme is numeracy and children will work their way through stages and levels on a continuum. The emergent stage, as seen here, is a starting point for number knowledge.

Read numbers to 5 first and then to 10	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Count forwards to 5 first and then to 10	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Count backwards from 5 first and then from 10	5, 4, 3, 2, 1
Say the number after a number (in the 1-5)	1, 2, 3, 4, __
Say the number before a number (in the 1-5)	__, 3, 4, 5,
Order numbers to 5 first and then to 10	5, 3, 1, 2, 4,



We also explore other areas such as Measurement, Algebra, and Statistics.

Maths can be introduced and practised as part of everyday conversations with your child, "How many blue cars can you see? What shape is that Give Way sign?"

Integrated Units - Topics

At Selwyn Ridge we have an integrated curriculum approach to topics. Themes are often school wide although context may be different in various syndicates according to the needs of the children. There are always some particular areas of curriculum focus which are assessed by classes and syndicates to inform teachers of next steps in learning for your children.

Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP)

The junior children take part twice weekly (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) for half hour sessions in the hall using specific equipment. This helps to develop fine and gross motor skills and co-ordination which assists their learning abilities. Parent helpers are always needed and if you wish to offer your assistance, please approach your teacher or the teacher aide, Carol Gallagher, in charge of the programme.



Library

Junior children visit the school library on Fridays. They are encouraged to take one book home each week. Please return these the next week into the class Library Box. Children are not issued with another book until the previous one has been returned.

Classroom Timetable / Daily Routine

The following is a general outline of our programme. Days and weeks vary according to the time of the year and events with the School or Small World team.

8.30 am	School begins, Rolls are marked, messages given Literacy: Oral and written language, PMP
10.00am	Morning tea
10.25am	Reading and Handwriting activities
12.00 pm	Lunch 15 minutes supervised and seated, 45 mins play.
1.00 pm	Numeracy
1.45 pm	Topic - ie Science, Social Studies, Health or Integrated Units
2.30 pm	Home Time



School Routines

School Hours

School begins: 8:30 a.m.
Morning Tea: 10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.
Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.
School ends: 2:30 p.m.



Morning Tea and Lunch Eating

All the children sit in the “lunch eating area” on the grass and cobbled area outside the Library. There are always four teachers on duty to help and supervise the children. At morning tea times the children are encouraged to eat one or two things. Once they have finished eating their morning tea they can leave and play where they want. At lunchtime all the children have to sit from 12.00 -12.15 to eat their lunch. After this time the bell will sound and teachers will let children go. It is helpful to the children if they have food in their lunch boxes



that they can open and eat easily without adult help. Please ensure that lunch boxes and drink bottles are clearly named. If it is a wet lunchtime, the students will eat lunch / morning tea inside the classroom. The teachers will supervise their own class during eating and then an indoor activity will be arranged for the students.

Arriving at School

We suggest that you arrive approximately 15 minutes before the school day begins. (Children shouldn't arrive before 8.15 as teachers are busy in the classroom organising activities for the day) Let your child organise their own belongings. Depart on a positive note just prior to the bell ringing. Occasionally, children become very tearful when parents depart from the room. Experience has taught us that the longer parents stay to try and settle the child the worse it can become. A swift exit is best. Usually they do settle within minutes and have a great day. If you are anxious please feel free to phone the school to ease any concerns.

School Routines

Independence

We aim to foster independence at school and we ask that you support your child by encouraging them to be independent in emptying and putting away their own school bags and book bags. Let your child show you how to do it rather than you doing it for them.

Picking up After School

We ask that you wait away from the classroom doors and windows when you come to collect your children as classes can easily be distracted by the sight and sound of parents gathering and greeting each other! It is important for children to be focussed at this time as many important items and reflections are discussed.



Children need to know their 'home time' arrangements. i.e. how they are getting home, and it is helpful for us to know as well. If these differ, then please call the office early to get a message to your child and the class teacher.

Communication

During your child's time at school, please don't hesitate to share any positives or concerns with us. It is important to let us know of any changes your child may be experiencing (whether that be behaviour, home or family) that may impact them at school.

Teachers are usually available before and after school for a quick chat, but keep in mind they are usually preparing for the day and have many children to greet and support. (There are also road patrol duties and meetings to attend.) If the matter is likely to take some time, please make an appointment.

Parent Involvement

School Assemblies

Every second Friday we have a celebration assembly from approximately 8.30 - 9.30, during which we celebrate the fortnight's events. Awards are presented and students take pleasure in performing. Each team takes turn sharing their learning. We welcome all parents/care givers and visitors.

Newsletters

The school's fortnightly newsletter is sent home to parents on Fridays with the eldest or only child in the family. Other class or Small World notices are sent out when appropriate. It is important that you check your child's book bag each day for any newsletters or notices. You can also download our newsletter and find additional school information on our website.




School Website

The school has a very good website with lots of interesting and up to date information on it. www.selwynridge.school.nz

The site is split into three areas 1. About us (eg events coming up, term focuses, current and past school newsletters) 2. Teaching and Learning (Curriculum information and Professional Development) 3. Kids Zone (where students can look in their team folders, play educational games and visit other relevant websites).

School Radio Station - "Kids on the Ridge FM"

Selwyn Ridge has its own radio station which broadcasts on the FM frequency about 5 km from the school, so depending on where you live you can tune in at home. The frequency is 106.7 FM. This is student run and the students are selected and trained up as Dj's and technicians. The radio station comes on at 8am in the morning until about 3.30pm. Students are live on air from 8 - 8.35 and 12 noon - 1.00pm. (During the other times music continuously plays) At 8.30, when the bell goes at school, important notices for the day are read out, birthday calls and student recordings are played. Parents are most welcomed to tune in and keep up to date with things happening in and around Selwyn Ridge.



Notes for Parents