



# New Entrant Information



This booklet is to help answer and clarify the things that crop up along the way during your 1<sup>st</sup> year at our school.

Please feel welcome to ask any questions as our door is always open.

## WELCOME

We are excited to welcome you and your family, as your child's educational journey starts with us at Beaconsfield School. We are proudly a small rural school that treats and expects children to be children. At Beaconsfield, no child is a "Number" or a "Who is that?". Beaconsfield is a place where "Everybody knows your name". This ensures that all the staff and children are part of the team, helping your child start, settle in and thrive at Beaconsfield.

Starting can be "stepping into the unknown" for both you and your child. Please, there are no "small" questions. If you are worried, confused or have missed something our wonderful Mrs Bell or any other staff are here to help.

Once again, welcome to Beaconsfield School and the incredible adventure that awaits your child.

Hamish Brown  
Principal



## WELCOME FROM MRS BELL

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the wonderful world of the Junior Room! Starting school is a big milestone for your child and a significant moment for your family. We are delighted to have you join the Beaconsfield community.

Our goal is to ensure your child starts their education in the most positive way possible. We want them to arrive each morning feeling enthusiastic, happy, and safe. By creating a fun and engaging environment, we help them transition into confident, competent learners who are curious about the world around them.

I understand that starting school can bring a mix of excitement and anxiety for both children and parents. Please know that I have your child's best interests at heart. I will take the time to connect with your child and learn what works best for them. I want their introduction to school life to be gentle, rewarding, and full of success.

Open communication is very important to us. I am only a phone call or an email away; please don't hesitate to reach out if you want to check on how your child is settling in or any other questions that you have.

Emma Bell  
New entrant teacher



## WHAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD KNOW WHEN THEY START SCHOOL

Your child will start from where they are at with no expectations to 'know' things. The best thing you can do as parents is to provide them with a wide range of experiences to draw on and regularly read stories to them. Children will get a better start to their learning if they have already learnt to:

- communicate their needs
- manage their belongings
- toilet themselves
- dress themselves
- follow instructions
- hold their pencil correctly
- increasingly stay on task
- share and take turns



I look forward to meeting you and your child and working together.

## PRE-ENTRY VISIT

Your 'first impressions' visit to our school is vitally important to your child and to you as parents. Please make contact with us by phoning the school office – 03 686 4819 to make an appointment to meet our principal and/or myself and be given a guided tour of our school.

We will usually set up 2 pre-school morning or afternoon visits prior to your child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, for him or her to become acquainted with their new classroom and teacher. You and your child will stay for the initial session/s during these pre-school visits.

Please note: School Uniform is NOT compulsory to wear, while attending their pre - school visits.

On your initial visit please bring with you:

- \* Your child's Birth Certificate
- \* Their Immunisation Certificate which we will take a copy.  
(This is a Health Department requirement)

During this time we will give you a link to the online enrolment form to complete regarding:

- \* Emergency contact phone numbers
- \* Medical factors that are important, e.g., allergies, diet, medication, etc.
- \* Any personal factors that you feel that the school should be made aware



## WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD BRING TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY START

- \* Colouring pencils, felts or jovi crayons in a pencil case - all named please. A stationery list will also be provided.
- \* A named pair of headphones to use with our ipads. Over the ear headphones are best (and you can also buy noise controlled headphones if you would like to).
- \* For those little minor accidents a CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR and school REGULATION SHORTS, TROUSERS to preferably be kept in your child's backpack at all times, just in case.
- \* Morning tea and lunch. Preferably separated for your child to identify. Drink bottle (named) is optional; there are plenty of drinking water fountains around the school for your child to use.
- \* To be wearing the standard regulation uniform. These can be purchased online at [Mainland Uniforms](#) There are some second hand items available from the school office too.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

In Term 1 & 4 your child needs their togs, towels and goggles for swimming and a blue bucket hat to wear at morning tea and lunch.

Beaconsfield School has a specific sports shirt. These are loaned to all pupils at a cost of \$5 a year.

The children take off their shoes every time they enter their classrooms, school library etc. up to 10 times a day. So unless your child knows how to tie shoelaces, the velcro pull and press do ups/or buckle shoes are probably more suited for their actual school days. It will take a lot of stress away for your wee one.

## NAMES ON THINGS

Name all belongings, backpack, school clothing, shoes, etc.. as this will make life so much easier to find articles in the Lost Property.



## SCHOOL TIMETABLE

8.30am	School opens
8.30 – 8.55am	School buses arrive at school
9.00am	Classes start. Roll, calendar, oral language, movement and mindfulness.
9:30am	Maths
10.30am	Morning tea time break for children and staff We have morning tea in class or outside.
11.00am	Literacy time and play based learning.
12.30pm	Lunch time Children have a 'sit down' for 10 minutes to eat their lunch. Lunch boxes are checked by teachers to ensure children have eaten a sufficient amount of food before they are released for play.
1.15pm	Classes recommence Storytime, handwriting, swimming and topic.
2.45pm	School finishes

New Entrant Pupils (Year 0 / 1) stay every day until 2.45pm.

Children on school buses put vests on and line up in appropriate bus lines where their names are ticked by staff to show they are present. Once all children are accounted for the children file onto buses in an orderly manner ready for home. On the buses there are senior students who are bus monitors. Their job is to ensure the bus ride is safe and comfortable for everyone.

We make sure our new entrant children are in the right line!

**If you make alternative arrangements for transport on a day your child is usually on a bus, it is very important that you advise us. You can do this either by emailing, or phoning the office by 2pm that day, or you can mark them off the bus list located in the office. The phone messages are checked regularly throughout the day, so please leave a voice message if your call goes to voicemail.**

## LIBRARY

A library session held every week. In this time, children can borrow books, learn about the library and have stories read to them.

## STRUCTURED LITERACY

We use the structured literacy approach to teaching reading and spelling. This is an evidence based, sequential and structured approach that integrates reading, handwriting, spelling and writing. Children will have recommended nightly homework (5 – 10 minutes only) provided to reinforce their learning for the day on Mondays to Thursdays.

## MUSIC

We have music with 'Mrs A' on Thursdays. This is a great fun session from our music specialist, Jannette Aldridge.

## CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

We have many opportunities for your child to explore their creative side. We currently have students taking lessons in:

- Drums
- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Speech and Drama
- Ukulele

Other opportunities for enjoying the Arts is through our class music programme and:

- Musical (Bi annual- Full school)
- Choir
- Kapa Haka
- Jump Jam



## SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

Sport and physical activity is important to us.

Swimming	Junior School Lessons Term 1 in our pool, Term 3 or 4 at C Bay
Cross Country	Whole school event held in Term 2
Athletics	Whole school event held in Term 4
Kiwisport	Every Thursday
Ski/Skate Day	Whole School Term 2 or 3 <b>(Families take own children to skiing or skating)</b>
Triathlon	Whole School in Term 1
Wheels Week	Wheels week is an opportunity each term for all children to bring their wheels (bikes, scooters, skateboards etc) - please remember a helmet.
Camp	Junior School. Room 1 have a day of fun activities with the other junior class.



## **Parents make their own arrangements to take children to and from Cross Country and Athletics.**

We come together as a rural cluster for these events, with other schools including St Andrews, Barton Rural, St Josephs Pleasant Point and Timaru Christian.

We wear our school sports tops to Cross Country and Athletics. These will be handed out at the start of each year and a \$5 yearly hireage fee will be put on your school account.

There are opportunities for your child to join sports clubs such as Basketball, Netball & Touch Rugby throughout the year.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

All parents / caregivers, grandparents and friends are always WELCOME. Assemblies are held in the hall. These are advised in our newsletter. Normally they are held every second week, on Friday afternoons, starting at 2.15pm. If in doubt – phone school and double check.

Please feel free to come and sit in on some assemblies before your New Entrant child starts school. This will give you and your child an insight of what and how it happens.

Our end of year prizegiving is run near the end of Term 4 **in the evening**.

## **LUNCH BOXES**

We do not have a ruling to exempt certain foods, for example peanuts, etc in lunch boxes. However, we do stress that you advise your child not to share any part of his/her morning tea or lunch food.

## **NEWSLETTERS AND COMMUNICATION**

We use the HERO App to communicate with parents so please download this from Apple or Playstore once your child starts school. We share learning from each class and individual children with families so you will be able to see your child's photos and videos and make comments. School reports, community notices and your finances are all available to view on the HERO APP.

This tool is a great way to stay connected and up to date with all the goings on over the school year.

We also use email, telephone calls, regular interviews and informal conversation to keep in contact. The school maintains a Facebook page and text messages may also be sent out occasionally to inform families of last minute changes eg. cancellation of sports events.



## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Our school office manager is Lisa Clarke. She works five days a week 8.30am – 3.00pm. Lisa has a wealth of knowledge regarding our school so if you have any questions, please ring the school office on 03-686-4819. If the office is un-manned there will be an answer phone on, this is cleared regularly so please do leave a message.

## DENTAL CLINIC

All our school children see members of Timaru's dental team. The dental clinic bus visits school annually and any follow ups take place in town at the dental clinic.

Normally if any clinical work must be done on your child, you will receive a note home from the team, asking to ring for an appointment and he will do his work from his main dental clinic in town.

## BUSES

If your child is eligible for bus pick ups, you will be advised and be told which bus run your child will be on and the time of pick up and drop off. Preschoolers are not allowed on school buses.

All children need a bus vest, which is compulsory to be worn to and from school, every day for safety. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 2PM IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT ON THE BUS** (phone messages are checked if Lisa is not in the office).

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Tinks Arcscott is our Public Health Nurse for Beaconsfield School.

She is a very approachable nurse. If you have any queries regarding your child's health, you can contact her during office hours on (03) 687 2323 or 027 246 6017 to either speak to her or make an appointment. Alternatively you can email her [TArcott@scdhb.health.nz](mailto:TArcott@scdhb.health.nz)

## LUNCH OPTIONS

In Terms 2 and 3, a pie warmer is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children to bring "Heat Ups", i.e. cheese toasties, pies, savouries, pizza, etc (no soups or noodles please). These must be wrapped in foil or baking paper with the child's NAME and ROOM NUMBER on it.

Food must be thawed – NOT FROZEN.

On Fridays we have Subway delivered to school. \$6 for a six-inch roll, plus apple and cookie, \$10 for a foot-long etc. Order bags are available at the office, please hand in on **Friday morning**.

## UNIFORMS

The school uses online purchasing. Please visit [www.mainlanduniforms.co.nz](http://www.mainlanduniforms.co.nz) and search Beaconsfield School. Orders will be delivered within days.

## PET DAY

This day is a great day out at school, normally held early Term 4. All children participate on this day and there are usually other competitions held also eg. cake making, photography. **Families bring pets to school.**

The children can bring most kinds of pets, whether their own or kindly loaned for a day from a neighbour, friend, grandparent e.g. lambs, cats, chickens, lizards, turtles, goats, dogs, hedgehogs, birds, horses, donkeys, guinea pigs. Again, it is a school day, so children need to wear their school uniform.



## WHEELS WEEK

Once a term we have Wheels Week. This is advertised in our school newsletter. Children are allowed to bring their wheels (bikes, scooters, skateboards, roller skates etc) to school for the week. All children must wear helmets and we ask the children to ride their own wheels only.

We look forward to working with you, your child and your whānau.

**Emma Bell: New Entrant Teacher, [emma@beaconsfield.school.nz](mailto:emma@beaconsfield.school.nz)**