

Churton Park Kindergarten

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The team at Churton Park Kindergarten –

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Information for parents about Churton Park Kindergarten

Welcome to Churton Park Kindergarten. We've put some information together to provide a snapshot of our programme, day and opportunities for whānau/parents and caregivers' involvement, so that you know what to expect and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

1. What is unique about our programme?

Our extensive playground and the equipment we use, have an emphasis on providing learning opportunities for children to explore, challenge and build confidence within themselves. These challenges enable them to develop their physical skills. "Our Children are Healthy in Body, Spirit and Mind".

Our older group of children (4 – 5 years of age) participate in Kapa Haka classes. Our aim is for our children and our families to have the opportunity to embrace a bicultural understanding.

2. What is a 'portfolio'? (prepared for each child while at kindergarten)

Your child's portfolio is a collection of documentation about the significant learning that they are experiencing. We value your thoughts on your child's learning and invite you to contribute to their portfolio. The information from you, your child and from us is used to plan how we can support children's learning.

3. What food do parents need to provide?

Children need to bring a lunch box and named drink bottle with sufficient food for their morning tea and lunch. We also have water available for the children. We encourage healthy eating and our kindergarten has been involved with the New Zealand Heart Foundation Healthy Heart Award for 10 years. At times we bake with the children and we encourage parents who really enjoy baking to come and share their passions and skills with the children. If your child has any allergies, intolerances or religious preferences, please let us know. Our kindergarten has a healthy food policy and the details of this are in the attached *Food and Drink Procedure*.

We have a special food/diet list that is displayed to ensure that those with food allergies etc are still encouraged to participate in baking or cooking.

4. What is our routine around food?

During the morning, children can have morning tea whenever they chose after Music Mat is finished. We remind them to wash their hands and they sit at the kai tables near the kitchen. On fine days the children are able to sit outside either at the BBQ table or on the ledge of the playground.

Usually ,most of the children have eaten by 11.30am and that is when they gather together for a quiet/ rest time. After this, they are reminded that they can sit down and have more to eat after 11.45am if they are still hungry.

The children **at the longer sessions** have a short mat time at 11-45am. After quiet time all the children wash their hands, get their lunch boxes and sit down at the prepared tables to have their lunch together.

5. How do we start the session/day at the kindergarten?

Approximately 35 minutes after the start of the session, we gather the children together for Music and Movement Time. This is a time when any new children and their family are welcomed.

After music and movement, the children choose where they would like to work and play. Some choose to eat their morning tea and others move to the different curriculum areas.

The teachers assess which activities the children are engaged in and work with the different groups. There are two teachers on outside duty and two inside.

On fine days the outside area is always the most popular.

6. How are parents involved in our kindergarten?

Along with engaging with us about your child's learning, we invite you to become involved in our kindergarten community. You are welcome to stay during our sessions and spend time with the children. There is always tea and coffee available, so feel free to help yourself. There is a roster for parents to help with tasks to support the programme (e.g. helping to prepare resources).

Along with this, we welcome your ideas and feedback.

We also hold working bees usually bi- annually and the committee always welcome lots of help from parents when large fundraising events are held during the year.

7. What other tasks can parents do to help at kindergarten?

Occasionally during the year we invite parents and whānau to help with our end of term clean ups, maintaining the grounds, supporting fundraising events and accompanying the children on trips away from the kindergarten.

8. Does our kindergarten have a committee or whānau group?

Our committee supports the kindergarten by fundraising, applying for grants, undertaking small maintenance tasks, communicating committee activities to parents and supporting the teaching team. Parents and whānau find that being on the committee is a great way to meet people and to become more involved in our community. New members can join at any time. If you are interested please let us know.

9. Does our kindergarten provide a sunhat and sunscreen and what are our routines around sun safety?

We ask parents to apply sunscreen before your child comes in the morning and for your child to bring a sunhat. We do have some spare hats and during our longer sessions we will reapply sunscreen after lunchtime. Children wear sun hats outside during the summer terms (Term 4 and Term 1), and we actively remind children to keep their hats on.

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