



Hoon Hay

SCHOOL

learning today • leading tomorrow

Our Principal

Welcome to Hoon Hay School.

I am proud to be the Principal at Hoon Hay School because it is a friendly school where there are high expectations for learning and behaviour.

The children are the heart of our school and they are fortunate to be offered a wealth of opportunities to spark their interests, feed their enthusiasm and extend their creativity. We want them to find their passion and go for it!

You are most welcome to visit Hoon Hay School and see this very special school in action.

I would love to show you around.

Lee McArthur
Principal



Our History

Hoon Hay School is situated in South Christchurch. Set in spacious park like grounds, it has 18 classrooms, a library, a hall and 4 adventure playgrounds. The school also has netball courts, a basketball court, a large sports field, an artificial cricket pitch and a confidence course for older students.

A feature of the school is the high staff morale that exists and we see the ability to work as a team as being essential in our school.

The school has a strong family atmosphere with parents and community members providing assistance in sport coaching, transport for trips and assisting in extra curricular activities.

Together we can, and do, make a difference to the children of Hoon Hay School.



CURRICULUM CHART



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Eighteen classes, three teams, one school

We work within teams to achieve one vision for all Hoon Hay children to be active learners for life. We progress from the sea where the Mighty Minnows are like little fish in the big pond of learning to the land where Team Koru nurture and grow to enable the tamariki to flourish. Building on the skills, attitudes and knowledge they have attained the children will strive to reach their individual goals, reach for the sky and become 'Legends' in their own right.

We believe

- children's work is their play
- school needs to be fun
- children need choice
- learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. It should be ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

The People



Lee McArthur

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Wendy Dent

Deputy Principal

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Di Stayt

Assistant Principal

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Penny Rule

New Entrant Teacher

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New Entrant Teacher

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Yvonne Stills

Office Manager

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A typical day:

8.30 am **Bell rings/school grounds are open**

8.55 am Oral language/Newsboard
Writing
Handwriting
Reading/Literacy

11.00 am **Morning Tea Break**

11.20 am Reading/Literacy
Fitness activities

12.30pm **Lunch**

1.30pm Maths
P.E./Music
Integrated topic studies

3.00 pm **School finishes**

Oral Language

Our focus is on developing good listening skills, speaking clearly and loudly for others to hear.

You can help your child to become a better speaker and listener by:

- Giving your child time to answer questions
- Encouraging them to ask questions
- Encouraging them to join in family discussions
- Encouraging them to listen to others
- Showing them how to talk on the phone
- Showing them how to ask for help
- Telling them stories

Reading

Our focus for reading is to develop a love of books and establish good reading skills and strategies.

You can help your child become a better reader by:

- Making reading part of your regular routine
- Ensuring reading is enjoyable
- Providing opportunities to practice
- Talking about the book with your child
- Encouraging them to retell the story
- Encouraging the child to use the pictures to help with meaning



The books that your child brings home should be easy for them to read. We do this to make sure that re-reading is always enjoyable.

Please ensure the books are returned to school.

Alphabet and high frequency words

As part of developing early reading skills children need to be able to recognise the letters of the alphabet, the sounds they make and recognise some key words.

These skills are pre-requisites for reading and writing to occur.

You can help your child at home by:

- Looking for letters in the environment
- Playing 'eye spy'
- Reading letters in your family names



Written Language

Our focus in writing is to encourage children to record their ideas on paper.

You can help your child at home by:

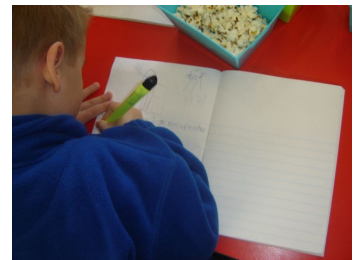
- Encouraging them to write
- Talking about their message
- Not writing for them
- Writing letters and notes to friends and relations

Handwriting

The main focus of our new entrant hand writing programme is to ensure that children learn and then maintain the correct pencil grip, we call it 'pinch and tuck'.

You can help your child at home by:

- Making sure they use the correct pencil grip
- Using correct letter formation
- Using capital letters only when appropriate



Your class teacher will give you a copy of the verbalisation we use when teaching the correct formation of letters.

Maths

Our main focus in Maths is on developing children's understanding of Number concepts. Other mathematical areas that we cover are algebra, geometry, measurement and statistics.

You can help your child at home by:

- Encouraging your child to do lots of counting
- Looking for numbers in the environment (on letter boxes, telephone numbers etc)
- Solving simple real life problems; e.g. if Grandma and Grandad come for tea how many people will we have altogether?
- Encouraging them to play board games
- Asking your child to tell you how they 'figured it out'

Class Placement

If your child starts school in January or February or March they are classified as year 1. Children starting from June to December are classified as year 0. Children who have birthdays in April and May will be closely monitored before making a decision as to their classification for the following year.

We make decisions based on both academic and social maturity in consultation with parents. Please note this should not be seen as a repeat year as children continue to work at their individual instructional level.

Self-Managed Learners

These are children who make sensible choices and are able to select learning activities from across the curriculum. The children are required to complete "Must Do" activities and then they are able to choose from a variety of "Can Do" activities. This is giving the children some responsibility for choosing activities that interest them.

Developmental

On Friday afternoons at 2.00pm Mighty Minnow children participate in a developmental programme. Parents are encouraged to come and join in the fun activities.

Assemblies

Every fortnight a whole school assembly is held in the hall at 9.00am and parents are welcome to attend these. At their first assembly, your child will be introduced to the whole school and given a certificate.

PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme)

PMP is a programme where children are introduced to skills needed for formal learning in reading, writing and maths. All these skills start to develop from birth and continue throughout life. In every equipment session there are fitness, locomotion, eye/hand or eye/foot coordination, balance and eye tracking activities. All children are actively involved at all times. To successfully run this programme we also need parent help. At the beginning of each term notices are sent home seeking helpers.



Hats

The school has a sun safe policy. All children are required to wear a regulation brimmed hat at school in term 1 and 4. Hats are available for purchase from Postie Plus

Lost Property

Please ensure all clothing is named. Lost property is housed in the cloakrooms in a tub.

Toys

Children should not bring toys to school unless specifically requested as these may get lost or damaged.

Children's books

Exercise books are kept in the classroom. You are welcome to look at your child's book.

Absences

Please telephone the school absence line 338-7493 before 8.30 am if your child is going to be absent. You can call at anytime and leave a message on the answer phone.

After school

Please collect your child from the junior area at 3.00 pm. Please notify us if there is to be change in your 'pickup' routine, e.g., Grandma picking up your child that day.

Notices

Notices will be put in your child's reading bag. Please check this every night.

Clearing after school bell

If a child is not picked up after school the child will go to the school office.

Lunch orders

Subway is available and orders must be in by Thursday for subway to be delivered on Friday.

Subway order box is situated in the office.

School Banking

ASB school banking is banked on Friday. Cashin the Elephant is situated in the office together with banking envelopes.

Car Parking

Car parking in the school is for staff and service vehicles only. We ask that you park, pick up or drop off your child using Sparks Road or Maryhill Avenue. Please do not use the car park.

Donations

\$65.00 per year for 1 child, \$130.00 for 2 children, \$165.00 for 3 or more children. Statements are sent throughout the year or you can pay at the office by cash, eftpos or cheque or if you prefer you can pay by internet 12-3148-0131625-00.

Children Leaving School

Please do not take your child from school without making sure that a staff member or office staff know.

Newsletter

Fortnightly newsletters are emailed out on a Monday. We will have paper copies available in the office for those without internet access. We need to know your up-to-date contact details.

School Crossing

A crossing is controlled by trained Year 6 pupils with a teacher or parent supervising from 8.30-8.55am, and 3.00-3.15pm.

Parents are asked not to stop their cars on the yellow lines in front of the school when dropping off or collecting their children. It is impossible for our traffic wardens to see over these cars - our wardens are only child-sized!

Pre-School Visits

Some children choose to wear school uniform when they visit and others prefer mufti - the choice is yours.

You can go straight to your child's classroom or if you are a little confused come to the office and we will point you in the right direction.

Concerns, Complaints or Compliments

We want to hear them all!

From time to time we get things wrong and we need to know when we do, so please tell us.

If your concern is related to your child and their progress, then the teacher is the person you see first. Most concerns are easily sorted. If you are not happy with the response then contact the Team Leader and then if still not resolved contact the Principal.

If your concern is related to the running of the school then contact the Principal. A full complaints policy is located on the website www.hoonhay.school.nz, click on policies.

The big day has arrived at last ...

Although your child is very excited about starting school, no one will be here at 5.00 am when your child is ready for school! It is however, a good idea to arrive with time to settle your child and greet the teacher. Encourage your child to follow the before school routine.

Remember that it's not about what you do for your child but rather what you let your child do for his or herself.

Once your child is settled with the rest of the class you are free to meet your friends for coffee.

When Grandma is asking advice about the purchase of the birthday pack then please tell them it needs to be **big!** The children need to have room to comfortably fit their reading folders, lunch box, sweatshirt, library books and swimming togs.

Think carefully about your child's play lunch and lunch. Ensure they know what they can have to eat. We tell them they can have one or two things from their lunch box to eat at playtime. Help to de-stress the lunch and playtime eating by making sure they can open the box and the wrappers. Children have to sit and eat their lunch for the first fifteen minutes of lunchtime. We encourage them to eat their sandwiches or yoghurt first.

Please provide your child with a named drinking bottle suitable for drinking water in the classroom.

Reporting

Shortly after your child settles at school we like to find out just what you've been doing for the last 5 years!

We look at alphabet knowledge, book skills, number skills, memory, and speech and language development.

When these tests are complete, we invite you in with your child to share the results. You will be informed on the knowledge your child has already gained and what their next learning step will be. We also discuss how your child is settling in socially. This is an opportunity to raise any concerns you or the teacher might have. This is usually 6 weeks after your child has started school.

During the year we continue to test the alphabet knowledge and also the number of words that your child can recognise at sight. We also complete ongoing assessments in reading, writing and maths.

At mid year there is an opportunity for another interview and in term four you receive a written report. You are welcome at any time to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's progress.