



## **Start Dates for Children Beginning School for the Very First Time in 2024**

With Cohort entry we use set dates for all children who are starting school for the first time. As a parent, you can choose which date suits your child best to start. It is important that they are equipped to start school so that they are happy and content.

Starting school is a big change and an exciting time in a child's and your family's life. To have the best possible start to school, we have some guidelines that would be beneficial for them to be able to do independently, before starting school.

### **Oral Language and Communication:**

Communicate needs, interests and wants using full sentences and follow 2 - 3 simple instructions.

### **Social Skills**

Share, take turns, wait patiently and use manners such as Please and Thank you.

### **Manage Self-Care**

Independently dress themselves and look after their belongings.

Manage all food in their lunchbox eg opening food packages like yoghurt, and open and close their lunchbox and school bag.

Go to the toilet, wash their hands and blow their nose.

Walk into school carrying their own bag.

### **Persevere at Tasks**

Sit and listen to a story or finish an activity.

### **Fine Motor Skills**

Correctly hold a pencil, use scissors and read and write their own name.

### **Basic Maths Skills**

Know a variety of basic colours and shapes and can count forwards to 10.

Children in New Zealand can start school anytime until they are 6 years old. They are at school for 12-13 years so it is important they get off to a positive start. There is some useful background information available from Dr. Nathan Wallis who talks about cognitive development in our young children and starting school.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/201844291/does-nz-education-policy-align-with-recognised-research>

Please look carefully at the dates and make your decision based on the above guidelines and if any of your child's friends might be starting school in the same cohort. Your current Early Childhood Centre teachers may also have some helpful input into your decision.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>
T1 Week 2	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	Cohort 1-24
T1 Week 6	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Cohort 2-24
T2 Week 1	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Cohort 3-24
T2 Week 6	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Cohort 4-24
T3 Week 1	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Cohort 5-24
T3 Week 6	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2024	Cohort 6-24
T4 Week 1	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	Cohort 7-24
T4 Week 6	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024	Cohort 8-24

Please sign and complete the attached form, to ensure that your child will have a successful start to school.

Best wishes,

Lorraine Taylor  
Principal



**Silverstream School - Te Kura o Māwaihākona**  
*'Together We Inspire a Passion for Learning'*

**Please return this form to the Silverstream School Office at least one term before your child is due to start school.**

***Please tick*** to confirm that your child is independently able to complete the following tasks:

- Oral Language and Communication:**  
Communicate needs, interests and wants using full sentences and follow 2 - 3 simple instructions.
- Social Skills**  
Share, take turns, wait patiently, and use manners such as Please and Thank you.
- Manage Self-Care**  
Independently dress themselves and look after their belongings.  
Manage all food in their lunchbox eg opening food packages like yoghurt, and open and close their lunchbox and school bag.  
Go to the toilet, wash their hands, and blow their nose.  
Walk into school carrying their own bag.
- Persevere at Tasks**  
Sit and listen to a story or finish an activity.
- Fine Motor Skills**  
Correctly hold a pencil, use scissors, and read and write their own name.
- Basic Maths Skills**  
Know a variety of basic colours and shapes and can count forwards to 10.

***Please tick*** to confirm:

- My child is ready to start at Silverstream School
- I wish to further discuss how to support my child's start at school.

I have considered all the options and believe that cohort entry group \_\_\_\_\_

is the best date for my child (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_  
to start school for the first time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_