Starting school for the first time

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Starting school for the first time is an exciting event for children. School will mean some big changes in your child's life, including the first real separation from home and family, first steps to independence, new feelings, new friends and new experiences. Getting off to a good start is most important and this is a joint effort between home and school. It is quite natural for children to experience jitters about starting school as well as excitement. Teachers are trained to deal sensitively with every eventuality regarding new entrant admissions. If you have any queries or concerns please come and discuss them with me as soon as possible.

The following is some information about organisational routines that will help new parents of children in Ruma Kiwi.

1. Your child will usually bring home a reading book 4 days a week, Monday-Thursday. This is a book that would have been read at school that day and is required back the next day for follow up work. Home reading is a vital component of the junior programme and your help and involvement with your child's reading development is much appreciated. Please sign it each night and return it to school the next day.
2. Wednesday is Library day and children may take home two books for the week. We hope you enjoy sharing them with your child.
3. On Friday, the poems and publishing book comes home. This contains learning from topic studies, a poem and a piece of published writing from your child's own draft story. This is a good opportunity to talk with your child about topic studies and their writing. This book needs to be returned the following Monday.
4. Every third Friday is 'Special Toy' day in Ruma Kiwi. Children may bring along a favourite toy/ book/item of interest from home (except toy guns) for the day. This is a part of the oral language programme. Please discourage children bringing toys on other days as their safe keeping cannot be guaranteed.
5. Water only in drink bottles, please. We would also like to encourage you to make your child's lunch box packet free. This will help with rubbish at school and also be great for the environment.

A very warm welcome to Ōmata School.

Ngā mihi,
Julie Herbert