



Dear Parents,

The Gardens School follows a “cohort entry” procedure for children starting school as New Entrants.

Cohort entry is about helping children settle more easily into school. There is evidence that starting school alongside other children helps build relationships and supports a smoother entry to school life. It can also mean less disruption for new entrant teachers who are able to prepare for groups of children arriving on a specific date, rather than on an individual and ad hoc basis throughout the year.

Pre-visits and parent information sessions will be scheduled for the end of the term prior to a child starting and we encourage attendance at these.

Children will be able to start school at the beginning of the term **closest to** their fifth birthday, or at the beginning of a later term, if parents wish to wait longer before starting their child at school (*all children must be enrolled to start school by their sixth birthday*). This means that some children, depending on when in the term their birthday falls, will be able to start school up to eight weeks before they turn five, while other children will have to wait up to eight weeks after their fifth birthday before they can start school.

The cut-off dates for 2018 have been set by the Ministry of Education and are as follows:

| <b>2018 Terms</b> | <b>Start Date</b>        | <b>Cut off date for enrolment</b><br><i>(turning 5 no later than)</i> | <b>Pre Visit Dates</b><br><b>8.50am – 11am</b><br><i>(morning tea 10.40 - 11)</i> | <b>Parent information session</b><br><b>9.00am</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| Term One          | 7 <sup>th</sup> February | 20 <sup>th</sup> March  | November 22nd, 2017<br>November 29th , 2017                                       | November 22nd, 2017                                |
| Term Two          | 30 <sup>th</sup> April   | 11 <sup>th</sup> June   | Tuesday 27th March<br>Tuesday 10th April  | Tuesday 27th March                                 |
| Term Three        | 23 <sup>rd</sup> July    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> September   | Tuesday 19th June<br>Tuesday 26th June  | Tuesday 19th June                                  |
| Term Four         | 15 <sup>th</sup> October | 12 <sup>th</sup> December   | Tuesday 11th September<br>Tuesday 18th September                                  | Tuesday 11th September                             |

For more information about cohort enrolment, please see the Ministry of Education Website.

<https://education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Legislation/Ed-Act-Update-Factsheets/Ed-Act-Update-FS-8-Enabling-schools-to-introduce-cohort-entry.pdf>