



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 school holidays** 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*). To determine the correct term for starting school, a mid-term date is used and this is the cut off point for each term. A child’s 5th birthday must fall **BEFORE** this date in order to start in that Term.

New Entrant children who move in-zone/enrol once a term has commenced must wait for the next intake date, before starting, to meet with Ministry of Education rules of cohort entry.

The mid-term dates for 2023 have been set by the Ministry of Education and are as follows. Pre-visit dates are outlined below:

2023 Terms	Start Date	Cut off date for enrolment <i>(turning 5 no later than)</i>	Pre Visit and Parent Information Meeting 10.30am - 11.30am
Term One	31st January	6th March, 2023	25th January, 2023
Term Two	26th April	29th May, 2023	20th April, 2023
Term Three	17th July	21st August, 2023	13th July, 2023
Term Four	9th October	13th November	5th October, 2023
Term One, 2024	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed