



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 2024 have been set by the Ministry of Education and are as follows. Pre-visit dates are outlined below:

| <b>2024 Terms</b> | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>Cut off date for enrolment</b><br><i>(turning 5 no later than)</i> | <b>Pre Visit and Parent Information Meeting</b><br><b>10.30am - 11.30am</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Term One          | 30th January      | 11th March, 2024  | 24th January, 2024 - 9.00am - 10.00am (note earlier time)                   |
| Term Two          | 29th April        | 4th June, 2024  | Tuesday 16th April, 2024  |
| Term Three        | 22nd July         | 26th August, 2024   | Thursday 18th July, 2024  |
| Term Four         | 14th October      | 18th November, 2024   | Thursday 10th October, 2024   |
| Term One, 2025    | To be confirmed   | To be confirmed   | To be confirmed   |