



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 2027 have been set by the Ministry of Education and are as follows. Pre-visit dates are outlined below:

2027 Terms	Start Date	Cut off date for enrolment (turning 5 no later than)	Pre Visit and Parent Information Meeting
Term One	28th January, 2027	8th March, 2027	Tuesday 26th January, 9.00am - 10.00am
Term Two	27th April, 2027	31st May, 2027	Thursday 22nd April, 9.00am - 10.00am
Term Three	19th July, 2027	23rd August, 2027	Thursday 15th July, 9.00am - 10.00am
Term Four	11th October, 2027	15th November, 2027	Thursday 7th October, 9.00am - 10.00am
Term One, 2028	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed