



## **Welcome to Little Pioneers**

We welcome you to our whānau.

Here is some important information for you to know about us here at Little Pioneers.

### **Before enrolment we need...**

- Completed enrolment form
- Completed and signed attestation form
- Complete and all about me form so we can help your child settle in with us
- Story Park agreement and payment - \$30.00 per year.
- Child's birth certificate needs to be sighted.

### **Welcome to Little Pioneers - Information About Little Pioneers**

#### **Kaiako Pou:**

Each child is assigned a key teacher to support them and their whānau at Little Pioneers. An introduction of your kaiako pou will be emailed to you separately.

#### **What is a Kaiako Pou?**

The key teacher becomes a pou for the child, a pillar of strength that supports the child and whānau along the child's learning journey.

#### **Kaiako Pou focus:**

To create authentic relationships with the child and whānau, by becoming the bridge between home and the centre, allowing learning to flow between the two places.

#### **Lunchboxes and Drink Bottles:**

Please pack a lunch box with enough food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon teatime.

If you have foods that require heating or refrigeration, please place these foods on the red tray on the bench for refrigeration and any items you'd like us to reheat.

Please send a water bottle with water in it. If you forget to send a water bottle, we have water and cups available.

We must adhere to Ministry of Health guidelines. Under: **Choking Hazard:** we are not allowed to serve the following foods to tamariki

NO .....

Popcorn,

Lollies,

Marshmallows,

Sausages

Dried Fruits

Nuts

Bread with large seeds

While we do not monitor lunchboxes, we ask for your support in helping to keep your child safe by reducing high-risk choking foods.

Nuts spreads/eggs etc are allowed while there are no tamariki with serious allergies, this will be reviewed if it changes.

We provide breakfast until 8:30 am and late snack is provided at 4:30pm.

### **Account**

An administrative fee of \$50 is required upon signing up. This fee covers the cost of two T-shirts and a hat. If you have already paid this fee at Little Settlers, it will not be charged again upon joining Pioneers. However, if you would like to purchase a new T-shirt, they are available for \$15 each.

### **Fees**

Are payable via internet banking, are invoiced weekly and expected to be paid by AP weekly.

### **Operating Hours**

Opening hours 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

We are open every day of the year except stat days. We do charge for these days but you can apply for a holiday rate for them.

Christmas and New Year Holidays – Due to many children being on leave, we may combine with our sister centre, Little Settlers, for the week between Christmas and New Year. You will be notified once all holiday requests have been submitted.

We do charge for sick days, however, where possible we will make swap days happen. Holiday's need to be submitted in 2 weeks of advance to have a 50% rate applied. The 50% holiday rate can be used for up to 4 weeks per year.

**Storypark**

Annual fee of \$30 per year. Storypark is an online platform for documenting the children's learning journey, where we capture and share their progress.

We also utilise Storypark for important notices and reminders. Your child has a physical portfolio available on a shelf attached to the wall to the right of the daily sign-in sheets. To stay connected and informed, please download the Storypark app.

**Clothing:**

PLEASE label everything, including socks if possible. In winter, layered clothing is essential. You will notice that we are slightly colder as we are further up the hill and exposed to the wind.

**Wet Bag:**

Please make sure you bring a wet bag and two spare changes of clothes as in Term 4 and 1. We have water play in the morning and afternoons. Wet bags are available for purchase from the centre for \$20.

**Bag:**

Please send a bag that is big enough for three sets of clothes, your child's lunchbox, and a drink bottle.

**Sunblock:**

During Terms 1 and 4, we apply sunblock to the children. Sunblock is also available by the sign-in area for whānau to apply. Please inform a teacher if your child already has sunscreen applied. If you prefer your child to use their own sunblock or not have any applied, please speak with your Kaiako Pou.

**Playsports**

Playsports is an extracurricular activity held at the Scout Hall and facilitated by Coach Steve from Playsport NZ. There are 8 sessions per term.

Children will attend one session per week, either on Tuesday or Wednesday.

For more information visit <https://www.playsport.co.nz/>

**Stan the Van:**

We have a centre van that we love to use for excursions in the community. You will be informed about these as they occur.

**Special Excursions:**

We go on a class excursion each term and these usually cost around \$30 to \$40. We always require parent helpers to make these happen. We will always consult with you when planning a trip and allow plenty of notice. There will always be forms to sign. We require tamariki to wear a Bombay Preschool T-Shirt on Excursions.

**Regular Excursions:**

On sunny days, we may go for community walks. We also like to utilise the Bombay rugby fields and the Bombay School playground during the school holidays. We also have bike days where tamariki will ride their bikes in the centre's car park. Upon enrolment, you will be required to sign a form consenting to permissions for these regular excursions within our local community.

**Bush Kindy/Ngahere Kura:**

At Little Pioneers, we offer the Bush Kindy/Ngahere Kura program at Schlaepfer Park in Pukekohe. This outdoor experience allows tamariki to learn and connect with nature. The program is for our eldest tamariki or those needing support outside the classroom.

All children will have the opportunity to attend, and we'll notify you when it's time for your child to participate.

**Philosophy:**

At Little Pioneers, we follow a play-based approach to learning. Through careful observations, we provide opportunities for your child to grow and develop holistically, physically, cognitively, socially, and emotionally.

Our core values are Love - Aroha, Learning Together - Ako, Caring and Support - Manākitanga, Guardianship - Kaitiakitanga, and Relationships - Whanaungatanga.

**Te Ara Whanui - Te Whāriki Early Childhood Framework**

Te Whāriki is the early childhood curriculum framework we follow. It is a bi-cultural framework that guides our practice and supports the learning and development of tamariki in a holistic and inclusive way.

**Weekly Newsletters**

Little Pioneers weekly newsletter is emailed out on a Friday

**Birthday celebrations:**

At Little Pioneers, we celebrate birthdays with a ritual called the birthday tray. Your child's Kaiako Pou will organise this for your child.



**Graduation celebrations:**

Your child will graduate from Ngahere Kura and the centre. All whanau members are welcome to attend. Your child's Kaiako Pou will host the graduation event at the centre, and Ngahere Kura Leaders will host the graduation at Ngahere. Graduations are significant milestones and differ from birthday celebrations. If your child wishes to bring a cake, biscuits, or ice blocks for the graduation, please inform your Kaiako Pou.

**Little Pioneers transition to school programme**

We have a well-structured transition-to-school program in collaboration with Bombay School.

If your child will be attending a school other than Bombay, please let us know. We have strong connections with all of our local schools and can help arrange transition visits in addition to those you organise.

**New Entrance Information School Tips**

- Help your child to recognise and write their own name.
- Make writing their name fun and simple: Start with an uppercase letter followed by lowercase letters.
- Encourage independence and let them try things on their own.
- When purchasing a school bag for your child, choose a spacious school bag to fit all their belongings, including lunch, bottle, and spare clothes.
- Pack a healthy lunch box and make it easier for them to open packaged items by making a small cut.
- Talk about shapes in your environment.
- Talk about experiences together.
- Match objects to numbers and shapes for cognitive development.
- Reading and listening to nursery rhymes together.
- Read to your child every day.