

Being Ready to start at Ōtaika Valley School:

We are excited your child is about to start school, and like you we have expectations for your child. We know that 5 year olds are very capable children, and that they have long left being a baby, toddler and preschooler. They are at school, therefore in the first 5 weeks at school, it is essential we all work together on these expectations.

We expect:

<input type="checkbox"/> Your child to carry their bag to school, at least from the gate and place it on the hook by their name.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can complete any morning tasks, such as put their book bag away, hand in a note, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can write their name, neatness is not vital. 4 & 5 year olds can do this well.
<input type="checkbox"/> You to prompt your child on arrival to go and say hello to the teacher.
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask your child to show you around and then say goodbye - <u>adults who delay</u> can create an upset child.
<input type="checkbox"/> As you leave encourage your child to do something: play, puzzle, blocks, books, etc
<input type="checkbox"/> When the bell goes we expect students to come to class - support your child to know this.
<input type="checkbox"/> When asked to come to the mat, your child will come.
<input type="checkbox"/> When your child's name is called, we expect them to respond.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child will listen when someone speaks to them.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child will sit on the mat, on the space allocated.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child will use manners where needed, especially please, pardon and thank you.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child will hold a pencil correctly - excellent YouTube sites to explain correct grip.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can hold and use scissors correctly.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can listen to a story on the mat.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can follow class routines.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can blow their nose, can manage collecting a tissue and disposing of it in the bin.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can put things away when asked.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child will tell an adult they need to use the toilet and can manage themselves at the toilet.
<input type="checkbox"/> Your child can tell us how they are feeling - happy, mad, sad, unwell, etc

Your child can undress and dress for swimming.

Your child can ask a question and ask for help.

Our expectations are all based on setting up your child for success. Five year olds are amazing and capable. We appreciate not all children have the same learning rate, however, if we all support them to gain mastery towards the above expectations in 5 weeks, then we are telling your child they matter. Early mastery of these fundamental expectations for school will lead to continual success.