

Transition to School Programme



From the Headmaster

Starting school is a big step for your son. Children who make a positive start to school will feel comfortable in their new surroundings, and develop a sense of belonging within the school community.

They will feel excited to be at school, and motivated to learn. Preparation for your son's first day at school is paramount, and we are delighted to offer the Medbury 'Transition to School Programme', which assists with this important stage of your son's development.

About the programme

The Medbury 'Transition to School Programme' is designed to ensure that your son begins his school journey with confidence and a sense of belonging, as Junior School Dean Jane McGarry explains.

"Starting in the term before his official start date, your son is invited to participate in the Programme every Wednesday from 8:45 am to 11:00 am.

This tailored programme builds upon the skills and knowledge gained at preschool, while

also familiarising your son with Medbury's larger and more dynamic environment, which may differ significantly from the smaller, more intimate settings of preschool. Each session includes experiences in Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, Digital Technologies, Science, Literacy and Numeracy, providing a taste of the rich learning opportunities at Medbury.

Your son will meet the specialist teachers of these subjects, fostering early relationships and



A positive start

Making a positive start to school helps your son to develop his social, emotional, learning and independence skills, which all contribute to his well-being and happiness.

Children who are happy in themselves and in their surroundings, are better able to meet life's challenges. They are also better learners and have stronger relationships with their peers.

The Medbury 'Transition to School Programme' will enable your son to move seamlessly from preschool to primary school.



helping him feel confident in his new surroundings. He will also explore and acclimate to the school's new and larger spaces, ensuring a smooth transition into the broader Medbury environment.

To ease the transition, your son will be paired with a buddy from the current Year 1 class. This buddy will guide him in navigating the routines and expectations that embody the 'Medbury Way,' ensuring he feels comfortable and supported.

Throughout the programme, your son's learning journey will be documented in a personalised 'Transition to School Book.' This booklet serves as a keepsake of his experiences, which he can proudly share with his preschool teachers and friends, bridging his transition from preschool to school.

The programme complements the two familiarisation days that your son will spend with his new entrant teacher and peers. Together, these experiences are designed to



provide a seamless and supportive start to his schooling at Medbury.

To further aid this transition, we often visit your son's preschool or connect directly with his preschool teacher to better understand his unique strengths and areas where additional support might be beneficial. This collaborative approach ensures that we tailor his transition to school effectively. Additionally, preschool teachers are invited to visit the boys at Medbury, fostering continuity between the two environments and helping to 'bridge the gap'.

Research has shown that strong connections between preschool and school significantly improve children's adjustment, engagement and academic success. According to the New Zealand Ministry of Education, effective transitions help children feel secure and confident as they adapt to new routines and expectations. By focusing on this critical period, we aim to set a strong foundation for your son's journey at Medbury."



Parents play a vital role in this transition. You can support your son by:

- **Establishing Routines:** Begin implementing consistent morning and bedtime routines that mirror the school schedule to help your son adjust.
- **Encouraging Independence:** Involve your son in preparing his school bag, dressing himself or managing small tasks to build confidence.
- **Familiarising him with Medbury:** Talk positively about school, visit the grounds if possible and discuss the exciting activities he will experience.
- **Reinforcing Skills:** Practice basic skills such as recognising his name, holding a pencil and using lunchbox items independently.
- **Collaborating with Teachers:** Stay in regular communication with your son's teacher to address any concerns and celebrate his milestones.

For further details and to enquire about a place in the next Medbury 'Transition to School Programme', please contact the Registrar on 351 6169 or registrar@medbury.school.nz.

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