

## WELCOME

### **Variable Space Schooling**

Vauxhall School is a variable space school. Our classes are grouped together within year levels so that children move between spaces and work with more than one teacher during their day.

We use variable spaces:

- To create the best possible learning situation for all children.
- To cater for individual educational needs.
- For children to develop a sense of belonging (whanaungatanga), responsibility, respect and resilience.

### **Team Teaching**

Teachers learn from each other's strengths and children are able to bond with more than one teacher a year.

Teachers work co-operatively to identify children's learning needs and then teach groups of children accordingly. Teachers may move children between groups as their learning needs change.

This has several advantages:

- Ability groupings mean children progress at their own rate, build confidence, are taught more effectively and special needs and abilities can be better catered for.
- Curriculum delivery is enhanced through the utilisation of teacher strengths.
- Each child has a home group and home group teacher (a social grouping within the syndicate) which provides a consistent contact person for parents.

Teachers interact closely and support each other to add value to children's learning.

### **Curriculum**

The Vauxhall School curriculum has been designed to operate over a two year cycle with each student covering the essential learning areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Technology, The Arts, Physical Education and Health at the appropriate level.

Numeracy is a focus in our Mathematics Programme while the Literacy Programme underpins our core curriculum.

### **Vision Statement**

To provide a secure, caring environment where the unique potential of each student is fostered so that they will develop into confident, openminded thinkers with a positive attitude to life-long learning.

### **Values:**

*Whanaungatanga, Responsibility, Respect, Resilience*

In partnership with families, we will develop a range of personal attributes considered important and crucial for success in life.

## **Our school is a caring community school which aims to:**

- Teach a balanced programme based on **high expectations for achievement.**
- Provide a **challenging environment** for children to take risks with learning.
- Foster the development of children who are **self-motivated, secure and responsible.**
- Develop an appreciation of the unique nature of **New Zealand's heritage.**
- Promote a **partnership** between home, school and community.
- Empower children to become **independent, life-long learners.**

**Family Atmosphere  
Supportive Parents  
Keen students**

**Beautiful Grounds  
Professional Teachers  
Modern Resources**

## STAFFING

### **Leadership**

Gary Lawrence

Principal

Sue Roberts

Deputy Principal

Melanie Bell

Assistant Principal

[garyl@vauxhall.school.nz](mailto:garyl@vauxhall.school.nz)

[suer@vauxhall.school.nz](mailto:suer@vauxhall.school.nz)

[melb@vauxhall.school.nz](mailto:melb@vauxhall.school.nz)

All other teacher email addresses can be found at [vauxhall.school.nz/about/staff](http://vauxhall.school.nz/about/staff).



## **SCHOOL HOURS**

The school hours are:

- 8.55am – 3.00pm
- Morning break is from 10.30 – 11.00am
- Lunch break from 12.40 – 1.30pm.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Enrolment Process**

Vauxhall School welcomes new entrants at school for pre-school visits. The process starts gradually six weeks before the child's fifth birthday. The visits are important for the child to make a secure transition to school. The enrolment process is:

Within the month preceeding your child's start date, Sue Roberts our Junior team leader will make contact to organise induction visits.

2 weeks prior: Two Friday morning visits from 10 – 11am with parents/caregivers present.

Birthday: Child welcomed to school.

The visits prior to the child's fifth birthday take place on Fridays (to limit disruption to the classroom programme).

Before your child's fifth birthday you will need to complete the Enrolment form. Please bring your child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE and IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE. You are welcome to make an appointment to meet the Principal and have a tour of the school at anytime.

### **6 week visit**

After your child's first month at school there will be an opportunity for you to come in and discuss your child's progress with the Miro Teachers.

### **Hints for Parents of 5 Year Olds**

Give your children a variety of experiences and talk about them. Read to your children daily.

Teach your children their address, phone number, how to write their name, recognise colours and count to 10.

Become familiar with the school grounds.

### **Home Reading**

As children learn to read by reading, material will come home most days for them to share with you. This home reading session should be short and enjoyable. Your child will be affected by your attitude to their reading so always be positive. Value the reading that is done and praise the effort. Good feelings about reading lead to success.

### **Syndicates**

The classrooms are divided into syndicates which are named after the native trees of New Zealand. The syndicates are:

<b>Miro</b>	New Entrants to Year 1
<b>Rimu</b>	Year 2
<b>Nikau</b>	Year 3
<b>Kauri</b>	Year 4
<b>Totara</b>	Year 5 to 6

**“ONWARD – MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER”**



# VAUXHALL SCHOOL



## Reporting to Parents

Term 1: Meet the Teachers – Week 1 and parent interviews later in the term.

Term 3: parent interviews

Learning progress is reported online, in real time, through 'Hero', our online reporting programme.

## Communication

Communication is kept up to date though the newsletter every second Wednesday outlining events or information about the school. Each syndicate sends home a newsletter at the start of each term advising of special syndicate events and curriculum topics being covered for the term.

If you wish to communicate to the school by email the address is [office@vauxhall.school.nz](mailto:office@vauxhall.school.nz). The school's website is [www.vauxhall.school.nz](http://www.vauxhall.school.nz).

## Activity Charges

The activity fee covers outofschool trips and programmes within the school that offer opportunities to extend the curriculum for our children. This fee is charged at the beginning of each term with a breakdown of the activities planned. It will vary from term to term and from syndicate to syndicate.

## School Donations

School donations are an essential revenue component for the school and we request you to please pay this donation before March 31. We would not be able to offer the level of education we currently do without the school donation.

## Class Lists

At the beginning of each year we request permission from each parent to make available your child's name, parents' names, address, email address and phone number. The class lists are then made available to the wider school community.

## Swimming

Swimming is a compulsory part of the Physical Education programme. We are lucky enough to have our own pool to help our children learn to swim. If your child is unwell and unable to swim, a note must be written to the teacher. Our senior children enjoy learning beach safety and sailing skills (Waterwise) when they walk down to Narrow Neck beach each week during the summer.

## Sun Smart

During Term 1 and 4 every child must wear a hat outside of the classroom. Children without hats will only be permitted to play in the shade.

## Absentees

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please phone the school before 9am to ensure the whereabouts of each child can be checked. The office staff will contact parents of children absent without notification before 10am.

## Homework

Children in the first two years at school will, on most days, bring home their 'reader' plus weekly interest books, poems or stories to share.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children, as they are ready, will have spelling and mathematics homework on an as needs basis. Occasionally they may bring unfinished work from class home to be completed.

## Library

All children have the opportunity to borrow books from the school library during school time and at lunchtime. Parents will appreciate that books are an expensive resource and a charge may be made if a book is lost or damaged.

## The Fundraising Team

The fundraising team works extremely hard and contributes a high level of funding towards the operation of the school with projects that directly benefit the students and their learning.

We encourage all parents to support our fundraisers.



Morrison Avenue  
Devonport  
Auckland 0624

Phone: (09) 446 0818  
[office@vauxhall.school.nz](mailto:office@vauxhall.school.nz)  
[www.vauxhall.school.nz](http://www.vauxhall.school.nz)

## INFORMATION BOOKLET

Welcome to Vauxhall School.

With such a strong, supportive community and dedicated, passionate staff, we are a very fortunate school. We continue to innovate and strive for excellence.

Our vision is to provide a secure, caring environment where the unique potential of each student is fostered so that they will develop into confident, open-minded thinkers with a positive attitude to lifelong learning.

Please come along and visit us and discuss your child's schooling. The relationship we have together is vital to our success.

Kind regards

Gary Lawrence  
Principal

