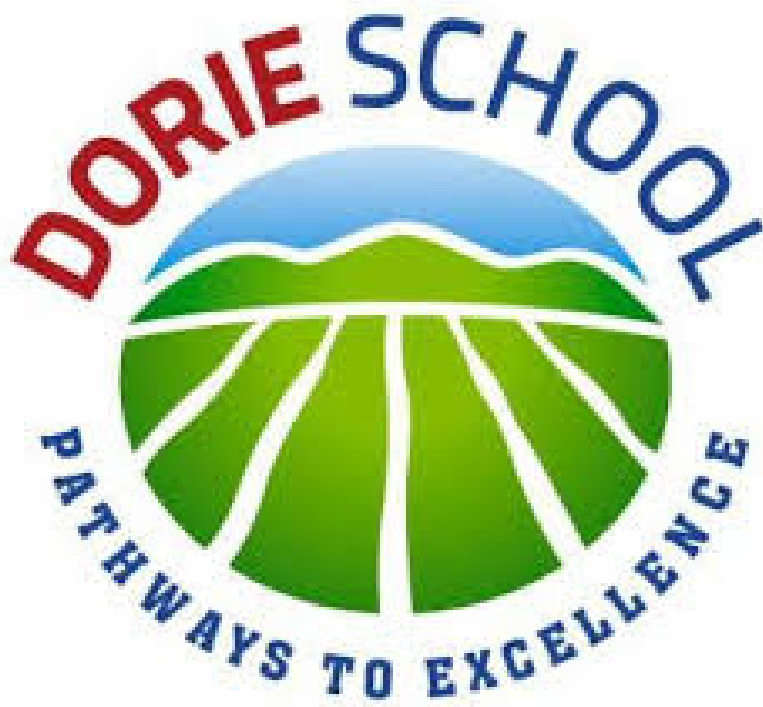




# ***Welcome to Dorie School***



**Information Booklet for  
Parents of New Entrants**

# **Dorie School - Te Kura o Tahu a Tao**

## **Pathways to Excellence Nga Huarahi ki te Kairangi**

### **Contact details:**

Office Administrator email: [office@dorie.school.nz](mailto:office@dorie.school.nz)

Donna Donnelly Principal email: [principal@dorie.school.nz](mailto:principal@dorie.school.nz)

### **Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,**

Starting school is a big milestone for both children and their whānau. It's an exciting time filled with new experiences, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

We're looking forward to getting to know you and your child, and working together to ensure their transition from preschool to Dorie School is smooth, happy, and positive.

This booklet contains information about settling into school life and ways you can support your child's learning journey during their first year.

# Enrolling

When enrolling your child at Dorie School, you will need to bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and a copy of their immunisation certificate. The office administrator will provide you with an enrolment form to complete, or you can access the one on our website. If you have arrived from overseas, you need to have a copy of your child's current student visa or new resident papers. This information is a requirement from the Ministry of Education. If you are enrolling your child from another school in New Zealand, you will only need to complete the enrolment form. All information is treated in strict confidence.

## **Bus Transport**

Our school bus service is managed by the Mid Canterbury School Transport Service (MCSTS), with two bus routes currently in operation. Details about enrolment, guidelines, and conditions are available at [www.mcsts.co.nz](http://www.mcsts.co.nz). For safety reasons, it is our policy that students who usually travel home by bus must not use alternative transport unless the school has been informed by a parent or caregiver via note or phone call. This rule is strictly enforced to ensure the safety of all students. Each child will be given their own bus vest. Staff will ensure all children wear their vests when leaving school. At home, please check that your child is wearing their vest before leaving for school each morning.

# Dorie School Uniform Policy

At Dorie School, students are expected to wear the correct school uniform with pride. We encourage all students to take pride in their appearance and follow the uniform guidelines.

Uniform items are available for purchase online or at The Warehouse. We recommend buying uniform items from Schooltex (available at The Warehouse) to ensure consistency in colour and shade. Please note that if a student wears items in the same colour as the vendor's uniform, but the items are not specifically from the vendor, they will still be considered in uniform.

It is preferred that students wear uniform items with the Dorie School logo embroidered on the left chest. However, students who do not have the current logo will still be considered to be in uniform.

We also offer second-hand uniforms at school. Please contact the office for more information.

**Winter uniform – boys:**

- Navy blue cargo shorts or cargo pants
- Grey school sock with navy and red stripe or navy ankle socks
- Red skivvy or red long sleeved polo shirt or
- Red short sleeved polo shirt\*
- Navy polar fleece top\* or navy sweatshirt\*
- Black shoes – black sneakers are recommended

**Winter uniform – girls:**

- Tartan box pleat pinafore or culottes
- Navy under the knee socks or navy stockings/tights
- Red skivvy or red long sleeved polo shirt or
- Red short sleeved polo shirt\*
- Navy polar fleece top or navy sweatshirt\*
- Black shoes – black sneakers are recommended

**Summer uniform – boys:**

- Navy blue cargo shorts
- Red short sleeved polo shirt \*
- Navy polar fleece top\* or navy sweatshirt\*
- Black sandals or black shoes with navy blue ankle socks or grey school sock
- with navy and red stripe if cold
- Red Dorie School sunhat

## **Summer uniform – girls:**

- Royal blue/white gingham culottes
- Red short sleeved polo shirt \*
- Navy polar fleece top\* or navy sweatshirt\*
- Black sandals or black shoes with white or navy ankle socks
- Red Dorie School sunhat

A unisex navy polar fleece vest is available for year round use\*

A merino long sleeve top is available \*

\*has the Dorie School logo embroidered on it

## **PE/Sports uniforms:**

- Tops: Red and Navy dry sports T-shirts for sporting events such as athletics day, cross
- country or red short sleeved polo shirt.
- Shorts: Plain navy blue dry sports shorts are the preferred shorts. Plain black or navy
- shorts may also be worn. Any fabric is acceptable.
- Shoes: Sneakers are the preferred footwear for sporting events.

# OTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION

## **Absences**

Regular attendance, combined with quality teaching, has the biggest impact on student engagement and achievement. It's important that children attend school consistently so they can take part in learning, build strong relationships, and feel safe and supported in their environment.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. You can report their absence through our school app Hero, email the office at [office@dorie.school.nz](mailto:office@dorie.school.nz), or call us at 03 302 0862. If your child is late to school they need to sign in at the office because the class teacher will have already taken the roll.

## **Health and Safety**

To help keep our school community healthy, please follow these guidelines: If your child is unwell in the morning, for example, has a fever, rash, vomiting, or diarrhoea, please keep them at home. Children can return to school once their temperature is back to normal and they have been free from vomiting or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours. Our staff are not equipped to care for unwell children for extended periods, so if your child becomes sick during the day, they will need to be picked up.

If your child requires medication during school hours, please visit the office to complete an 'Administration of Medicine at School' form. Medication cannot be given at school without this form. If your child has a high-risk medical condition or severe allergies (e.g., to peanuts, dairy, or bee stings), please inform both the office staff and your child's teacher so we can ensure their safety.

## **Lost Property**

Please make sure all your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. Unnamed items are placed in the Lost Property Box, located in the school's sick bay, and can be checked at any time for missing belongings. Valuable items should not be brought to school unless for a special occasion. In such cases, they should be handed to the teacher for safekeeping. While the school takes all reasonable care, it cannot accept responsibility for lost property.

## **Healthy Lunches**

At our school, we love seeing children come with lunches that give them the energy to play, learn, and grow. A healthy lunch helps kids stay focused in class and feel their best throughout the day.

Here are some easy ideas to try:

- Fruits and veggies – crunchy carrot sticks, apple slices, grapes, or cherry tomatoes.
- Sandwiches or wraps – filled with cheese, lean meat, hummus, or salad.
- Tasty snacks – plain popcorn, rice cakes, yoghurt, or wholegrain crackers.
- Drinks – water is the best way to keep brains and bodies hydrated.

We kindly ask that lollies, chocolate, and fizzy drinks be left at home, as they don't provide kids with the long-lasting energy they need for school.

Thank you for helping us make healthy choices part of every school day!



# HERO Student Management System

Our reporting system is supported by HERO, our student management platform, which allows you to follow your child's learning journey anytime, anywhere, from any device.

Through HERO, teachers regularly share updates on your child's progress in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Over time, your child's HERO account becomes a rich record of their learning, building year by year with comments, assessments, images, videos, and helpful resources—all in one convenient place.

HERO is also used to communicate important school information, such as notices, reminders, and upcoming events, so it's a great way to stay connected and informed.

## How to Access Your Child's HERO Account

Step 1: Download the Hero by LINC-ED app from your device's app store.

Step 2: Select "New User". Your account is linked to the email address you provided when enrolling your child.

Step 3: Enter your email address and select "Request Password Link".

Step 4: Check your inbox for an email from HERO with a secure link.

Step 5: Follow the link to set your password and log in to your child's account.

# School Timetable

## School Times

- School day starts at 8.50am
- Morning Tea break: 10.00 - 10.20
  - Lunch break: 12.30 - 1.15
- School finishes at 2.50pm for buses to leave by 3.00pm

In general, children should arrive at school no earlier than 8.30am.

# Academic Preparation:

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Many of the skills that help children transition smoothly into school can be nurtured through everyday experiences at home. If your preschooler shows interest, you can support their learning by gently introducing the following areas through play and daily routines. Keep activities short, fun, and pressure-free; your child's level of engagement will guide you. Rather than formal lessons, focus on natural opportunities that arise throughout the day to encourage curiosity and confidence.

## You could work on the following:

- ☀️ Can recognise and write their own name
- ✏️ Holds a pencil comfortably
- 🎨 Has experience with using scissors, crayons, and glue
- 🗣️ Can share their thoughts in a clear way
- 🧘 Can sit on the mat and listen for a little while
- 📖 Has experience with books
- 🤝 Takes turns, shares, and plays kindly with others
- ❤️ Uses kind words like “please” and “thank you”
- 👂 Listens and follows simple instructions
- 👟 Can dress themselves, including putting on and taking off shoes (Velcro is great!)
- 🎒 Can pack and unpack their own bag

- 🍏 Can manage their own morning tea and lunch
- 👛 Takes care of their own belongings
- 🚽 Can go to the toilet and wash hands all by themselves
- 🎵 Can recognise and join in with songs and rhymes
- 🕒 Has some experience with following a routine (e.g., morning and bedtime)
- 🔤 Recognise the letters of the alphabet – the names and sounds
- 📐 Recognise basic shapes and colours
- 📅 Know the days of the week
- 🔢 Find the number and match it to the right group of objects (1–10)
- 📏 Know the difference between over/under, up/down, in/out, in front/behind, beside, big/little, etc.
- 👁️ Recognise some basic high frequency words (but do not be concerned if they cannot by the time they start school)

# Pre Starting School

## Pre- school vsists

Children can have transition visits before they turn five to help them feel comfortable and confident about starting school. They can attend visits at the following times:

1st Visit: 8:50am – 10:00am

2nd Visit: 8:50am – 12:35pm

3rd Visit: 12:35pm – 2:50pm

It is really important for children to attend all their visits, as it helps them feel comfortable and confident about starting school. These visits give them a chance to explore the school environment, get to know their teacher and classmates, and experience what school life is like. We want to make their transition to school as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Together we can gauge how your child is coping with the visits and if necessary, then extra visits can be arranged. During the visits, parents need to stay at school. You are welcome to wait in the staffroom and enjoy a coffee, or use another space in the school. Sometimes children settle better when parents are not in the classroom for the full visit. If your child's birthday is in December or during the summer holidays, they will have two school visits in November instead. We're excited to welcome them and help them feel comfortable at school!

## The First Few Weeks at School

Most children settle into school life smoothly and quickly from their very first day. However, if your child does become upset, it's best to say goodbye and leave the classroom, as most children settle soon after. If you have any concerns, please feel free to speak with the new entrant teacher, we're here to help! After your child has been at school for 4-6 weeks, the new entrant teacher will arrange a meeting with you to discuss their transition. This is a great opportunity to check in on how they are settling in, both socially and emotionally, and to ask any questions you may have. We value this time to connect with you and support your child's learning journey.

# Tips for helping at home

## Literacy:

Learning the alphabet is a key focus in your child's first year at school. To support their reading and writing development, children work on learning:















- Letter names
- Letter sounds (phonics)
- Matching uppercase and lowercase letters

Here are some fun and effective ways to support your child with alphabet learning at home:

- Play "I Spy" using letter sounds or names. E.g., "I spy something that starts with the letter S."
- Use magnetic letters on the fridge. Ask your child to find specific letters:
  - E.g., "Find the letter that starts the word sun."
- For more confident readers: "Make the word cat. Now change it to sat."
- Alphabet card games. Make cards with letters and play games like Snap or Go Fish—focusing on either letter names or sounds.
- Play "Odd One Out." Say four words (e.g., apple, ant, tiger, ant) and ask which one starts differently.
- Use the "Jolly Phonics" book. Go through the pages together, asking your child to say the letter names and sounds.

Try games like:

- “I’m thinking of a word that starts with sss. What letter is that?”
- “Can you think of three words that start with the letter B?”
- Do the action and have them guess the letter or sound.
- Put up an alphabet poster. Point to letters out of order and ask your child to name them or say their sound.
- Get creative with letters.
- Make letters out of play dough
- Use chalk or a paintbrush and water to draw letters outside
- Try alphabet jigsaws and interactive books
- Make it playful and fun—this helps build confidence and makes learning stick!

 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hook around</li> <li>2. Small down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tall down</li> <li>2. Roll around</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hook around</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hook around</li> <li>2. Tall down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slide</li> <li>2. Hook around</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hook down</li> <li>2. cross</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hook around</li> <li>2. down tail</li> </ol>
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. tall down</li> <li>2. roll down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down</li> <li>2. dot</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. down tail</li> <li>2. dot</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. tall down</li> <li>2. small roll</li> <li>3. slant down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. tall down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down</li> <li>2. roll down</li> <li>3. roll down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down</li> <li>2. roll down</li> </ol>
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hook around close</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. down tail</li> <li>2. roll around</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hook around</li> <li>2. down tail</li> <li>3. small slant up</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down</li> <li>2. roll</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. hook and snake around</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. tall down</li> <li>2. cross</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down curve up</li> <li>2. small down</li> </ol>
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. slant down</li> <li>2. slant up</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. slant down</li> <li>2. slant up</li> <li>3. slant down</li> <li>4. slant down</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. slant</li> <li>2. cross</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small down curve up</li> <li>2. down tail</li> </ol>	 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. slide</li> <li>2. slant</li> <li>3. slide</li> </ol>		



# Tips for helping at home

## Maths:

In your child's first year at school, they begin developing key number and maths concepts through hands-on, playful learning. Some early goals include:

- Recognising numbers (0–10 and beyond)
- Counting objects accurately
- Understanding number order and patterns
- Comparing size, length, and quantity
- Exploring basic shapes and positions (e.g., over, under, beside)

Here are some fun and effective ways to support your child's early maths learning at home:

- Count everyday objects around the house or while out and about
- Play dice, card and board games to practise counting and number recognition
- Sort and group objects by colour, size, shape, or type
- Bake or cook together to explore measuring and quantities
- Go on number or shape hunts around the home or outdoors
- Use everyday language to compare size, weight, and length
- Sing number songs and counting rhymes
- Build with blocks or Lego to explore patterns, size, and numbers
- Read books that include numbers, counting, or simple maths
- Set up pretend play involving shopping, counting, or money

# We Can't Wait to Welcome You to Dorie School!

Starting school is such an exciting time, and we're so glad you're joining our Dorie School whānau. Everything we do here is guided by our school values, which help our children to learn, grow, and thrive.

At Dorie School we:

Show Determination – by trying our best and keeping on going, even when learning feels tricky.

Stay Open-Minded – by being curious, giving things a go, and learning from each other.

Practice Respect – for ourselves, for others, and for our school environment.

Live with Integrity – by being honest, fair, and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Show Empathy – by being kind, caring, and looking out for our friends.

We believe these values help every child to shine, both in school and beyond.

We're excited to begin this journey with you and your child. We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to working alongside you to support your child's journey.

Together, we'll build strong foundations for learning and friendships that last a lifetime.