



# NĪKAU SCHOOL

Nurturing young  
minds naturally

# PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE



09 422 3298



[www.nikau.school.nz](http://www.nikau.school.nz)



[office@nikau.school.nz](mailto:office@nikau.school.nz)



70 Kokihi Lane, Snells Beach, 0920

# SCHOOL VALUES

## OUR NĪKAU SCHOOL VALUES

**N.I.K.A.U.** - Nurturing Individuals' identity, curiosity, collaboration, unity and resilience

**N.I.K.A.U.** represents the values that reflect the spirit of the Nikau Tree, symbolising growth, strength, and resilience.

### N

**Nurture identity:** Embrace the uniqueness of each person, fostering a supportive and caring environment where everyone can grow and thrive.

### i

**Inspire Curiosity:** Seek and Share inspiration, sparking creativity, curiosity and a love for learning amongst our school community.

### K

**Knowledge:** Through hands-on, self directed learning, learning to be curious, independent thinkers and lifelong learners.

### A

**All-Together:** Embrace unity and collaboration, valuing teamwork, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging as we work together towards common goals.

### U

**Unstoppable:** Cultivate resilience, learning from challenges and setbacks, and developing the strength to persevere and adapt in the face of difficulties.

# OUR STAFF



ACTING HEAD OF SCHOOL - JOY LEIGH



MONTESSORI LEAD - JANE WATSON



OUTDOOR LEAD - MARGUERITE VAN DER KOLK

# SCHOOL TIMES

## MONDAY - FRIDAY

**8:45AM** - Drop off

**9AM** - Morning work cycle

**12:30PM** - Lunch

**1:30PM** - Afternoon work cycle

**3PM** - Pick up

## SCHOOL TERM 2023

**TERM 3:** 17 July - 22 September

**TERM 4:** 17 October - 15 December

## COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to reach out to us whenever necessary.

We highly value open communication and believe that addressing issues as they arise is the most effective approach to problem-solving. So, if you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

During the school day, we kindly request that any non urgent communication is done via email between 9am and 3pm. Joy will be available in the office during the day via phone for any urgent communication.

If for whatever reason we do not pick up the phone, please leave us a voice message as these will be sent through to us via email directly.

We also ask for your understanding that during evenings and weekends, we might require some personal time and may choose to reply to non-urgent messages the following morning.

Thank you for your cooperation and respecting our need for occasional breaks. We are committed to maintaining open lines of communication and addressing your concerns promptly.

**Office number:** 09 422 3298

**Office email:** [office@nikau.school.nz](mailto:office@nikau.school.nz)

# HERO

## Our Student Management System

At Nīkau School, we are using Hero as our Student Management Software, a powerful tool that enhances our communication and collaboration with families and parents. We believe that strong home-school partnerships are vital for the success of our students, and Hero helps us achieve that goal.

Hero comes with a downloadable app for families.

Here's how Hero supports good communication:

- 1. Instant Updates:** Hero provides real-time access to important updates and information about your child's academic progress, attendance, and behaviour.
- 2. Direct Messaging:** Communication becomes seamless with Hero's direct messaging feature.
- 3. Transparent Attendance Tracking:** Hero's attendance tracking system provides a transparent view of your child's attendance record. You can easily monitor their attendance patterns, including tardiness and absences, and collaborate with us to address any concerns promptly.
- 4. Progress Reports and Assessments:** Hero allows you to access your child's progress reports and assessments online. You can track their performance, view completed assignments, and celebrate their achievements.



# FEES

At Nīkau School, we are very committed to making our program as accessible as we can, removing any barriers that might hinder students accessing what we offer.

Unfortunately, New Zealand government provides very little financial support for private schools. The budget is a set amount, which means the more schools come on board as private, the rate per student goes down.

In the first 12 months, the MoE does not provide us with any funding. Once we are granted our full registration, we will be paid \$1,080 per student per year.

Once we can prove to the Ministry of Education that our school has a future roll growth exceeding 100 students, we will be able to apply for a 'state integrated' status. This will allow us to bring down the fees considerably.

We only charge to cover the costs of running the school and paying our staff in line with the collective agreements in state schools.

Rest assured, we are actively seeking opportunities to establish scholarships, grants, and fundraising initiatives to provide financial assistance to our students and families. We are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive community where all students have the opportunity to thrive.

The fees will cover:

- Salaries
- Operating expenses (i.e. water, power, rent, rates, insurance etc.)
- Art Supplies
- Professional Development
- Class materials & stationery

We encourage you to explore our Fees Guide in the enrolment pack for a comprehensive understanding of the fee structure. Fees are typically paid a term in advance to support the smooth operation of the school and enable us to meet our financial obligations.

If you have any specific concerns or inquiries regarding fees or financial assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our dedicated team. We are here to support you and work collaboratively to ensure that financial constraints do not hinder access to the exceptional education we offer at Nīkau School.

# THE EVERYDAY GUIDE

## DROP OFF

When dropping off your children at Nīkau School, we kindly request that you follow these guidelines to ensure a smooth and independent start to their day.



**Drop-Off Location:** Please bring your children to front door. The doors will open at 8:45 am, and a teacher will be there to warmly welcome both you and your child.



**Foster Independence:** To encourage independence and self-reliance, we kindly ask that you say your goodbyes to your child at the door. They will then make their way to their classroom on their own. This allows them to develop confidence and take ownership of their school journey.



**Morning Preparation:** Our teachers dedicate their mornings to preparing a nurturing and engaging environment for your children. They ensure that everything is ready to facilitate a productive day of learning and growth.



**Formal Meetings:** If you would like to discuss something with a teacher, we kindly request that you schedule a formal meeting with us. This helps us ensure that we have enough time to prepare the classroom environment and give your concerns our undivided attention. We want to maintain a balance between supporting your child's education and addressing any specific needs you may have.

## PICK UP



To ensure a smooth dismissal process and create a positive experience for both students and teachers, we kindly request your cooperation with the following guidelines:



**School Finish Time:** School finishes promptly at 3 pm.



**Late Arrival Notification:** If you anticipate arriving late to pick up your child, please make contact with the school in advance. This allows us to inform your child and ensure they are aware of any changes to the regular dismissal routine.



**Respecting Teacher Time:** Please understand that after-school hours are an important time for teachers, as they may have scheduled meetings with parents. If your child is late to be picked up, it can disrupt their schedule and cause distress for your child.



**After-School Conversations:** When engaging in discussions with your child after school, it's beneficial to convey your genuine interest in all aspects of their day. Ask your child what Montessori material/s they used during the day. i.e. What Mathematics material did you choose today? What language material did you choose today?

Also, ask them about their preferred activities for the afternoon or encourage them to share examples of kindness they witnessed. These prompts stimulate natural conversation and allow them to feel comfortable sharing without fear of judgment.

# THE EVERYDAY GUIDE

## BEING LATE

We would like to highlight the importance of timely arrivals and provide insight into the morning routine at Nikāu School between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. Understanding this process helps create a smooth start to the day for both teachers and students.

**During this planned arrival period children:**



**Put Away Belongings**



**Attend to their morning responsibilities**



**Socialise**

While we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, we kindly request your assistance in ensuring your child's timely arrival whenever possible. This helps maintain the cohesion and efficiency of our classroom community.

## ABSENCES

To foster self-development and self-education in children, their consistent presence at school plays a vital role. At the primary age, collaborative work is an integral part of the learning experience. Children form various project groups that change for different activities. Frequent absences can disrupt the dynamics of their group work, leading to feelings of exclusion and missed opportunities for participation.

That's why we emphasise the importance of your child's regular attendance at school, unless they are unwell. Attending school allows children to fully engage in collaborative projects, contribute to group discussions, and benefit from the diverse perspectives of their peers.

We do understand that unique opportunities occasionally arise, such as visits from distant family or special overseas trips. If your child needs to be absent due to such circumstances, we kindly request that you discuss it with the teachers. This ensures they understand the reason behind your child's absence and can provide appropriate support for their continued learning.

In the event that your child is unwell or unable to attend school, we kindly ask that you contact one of the teachers before 9:00 am to inform them of the absence. This enables us to maintain accurate attendance records and ensure your child's well-being.



At Nīkau School, we value the active participation and collaboration of every student. By prioritising regular attendance and open communication, we can create an inclusive learning environment where all children have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to their fullest potential.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance or any potential absences, please don't hesitate to reach out to our teachers. We are here to support you and ensure a positive educational experience for your child.

## **ILLNESS**

To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students and staff, we kindly request your cooperation in following the Ministry of Health guidelines for schools. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, we kindly ask that you keep them at home:

- High Fever
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Severe cough
- Unusual yellow colour to skin or eyes
- Skin or eye lesions or rashes that are severe, weeping, or pus-filled
- Stiff neck and headache with one or more of the symptoms listed above •  
Difficult breathing or wheezing
- Complaints of severe pain

If your child is not feeling well in the morning, we urge you to closely observe their condition before sending them to school. This helps ensure the health and safety of all children in our community.

It is important to note that children must be symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. This allows sufficient time for recovery and reduces the risk of spreading illnesses to others.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in prioritising the health and well-being of our school community. By following these guidelines, we create a safe and nurturing environment for all our students to thrive.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on health-related matters, please don't hesitate to contact us.

# THE EVERYDAY GUIDE

## DRESS CODE

At Nīkau School, we prioritise the development of life skills, including the ability to dress oneself. As a result, we do not have uniforms for our students at the Montessori Primary level.

However, we kindly request that your child comes to school dressed in clothing that is suitable for purposeful work and allows for unrestricted movement. It is important that their attire does not distract them or others from their focused learning activities. If a piece of clothing or jewellery becomes a distraction, we will kindly ask your child to remove it and return it to them at the end of the school day.

Additionally, we encourage you to avoid sending your child to school in clothing that you would be upset about if it got a little messy. As a school, we engage in various hands-on activities, and while we make efforts to minimise messes, accidents can happen. We believe in fostering a dynamic learning environment where exploration and growth may occasionally result in some stains or spills.

Please provide a change of clothes to keep at school in case a change is required.

Rest assured, we will do our best to prevent any unnecessary messes whenever possible. However, we also understand the importance of hands-on learning experiences that may involve a bit of dirt or messiness.



## NURTURING HEALTHY EATING HABITS AT NIKĀU SCHOOL

At Nīkau School, we understand the significance of nutritious food in supporting optimal learning, growth, and development. That's why we have a robust healthy eating policy in place. We encourage food choices that are low in sugar and additives while being rich in essential vitamins and nutrients.

To promote independence and minimise congestion, students have access to the fridge and kitchen facilities. We suggest using a thermos whenever possible, such as for soups or smoothies, allowing children to manage their own meals.

Lunchtime at Nīkau is a community experience where teachers and children come together to socialise while practicing good manners and social graces. During this time, we teach children to wait for everyone to be ready before beginning their meal, engage in polite conversation between mouthfuls, chew attentively, and patiently wait for others to finish.

Any uneaten food is returned to the lunchbox, allowing you and your child to gauge appropriate portion sizes for each day.

We have implemented a litter-less lunch policy, wherein plastic wrappers are taken home for proper disposal. Using compartment lunchboxes or small containers reduces waste and provides an opportunity to create a colorful buffet-style lunch.

Here are some tips to help your child create interesting and nutritious lunches:

- Utilise leftovers
- Involve your child in preparing their lunch the night before
- Plan a weekly menu for school lunches to add variety and involve your child in the planning process
- Try different ways of cutting fruits and vegetables, such as slices, cubes, sticks, or rings
- Provide a list of food options and let your child highlight their preferences
- Encourage trying new foods by introducing one new item per week
- Prepare new foods together as a family to increase your child's willingness to try them.

Morning Tea ideas:

- Fresh fruit or fruit salad
- Tuna and ricotta cheese or tuna and crushed pineapple mix
- Blended plain yogurt with fruit
- Cheese and crackers or cheese cubes
- Raw vegetables with cottage cheese or guacamole
- Bliss balls made from dried fruit, coconut, and nuts
- Vegetable or fruit skewers, corn on the cob, or hard-boiled eggs
- Avocado slices
- Trail mix with various nuts and seeds
- Sundried tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, radish slices, roasted chickpeas, pickles, sugar snap peas, or celery sticks

Lunch ideas:

- Bagels with favourite fillings
- Sausages stuffed with cooked vegetables
- Roasted peppers stuffed with vegetables or quinoa
- Corn fritters or egg frittatas with or without sliced vegetables
- Mini quiches or sushi
- Homemade meatballs with preferred dipping sauce
- Wraps with fresh ingredients like ham, salami, lettuce, cucumber, grated cheese, and carrot

## DISCIPLINE WITH NATURAL AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE AT NĪKAU SCHOOL

We believe in a discipline approach that avoids punishment and instead emphasises natural and logical consequences. We aim to create an environment where children learn from the natural outcomes of their actions, without external interference.

Natural consequences are the inherent outcomes that naturally follow events without any external intervention. For instance, if you stand in the rain, you will get wet. These experiences serve as valuable teachers, allowing children to understand cause and effect without unnecessary adult interference.

Logical consequences, on the other hand, are actions or responses implemented following a child's inappropriate behaviour. They are designed to discourage the child from engaging in that behavior again. Logical consequences teach children to take responsibility for their mistakes and misbehavior. It's important to note that logical consequences are not punishments. They should be relevant to the behaviour, respectful to the child, and reasonable, regardless of the level of frustration felt by the adult.

For example, if a child forgets to set the timer for the food in the oven, the natural consequence is that the food burns. The logical consequence may involve baking another casserole or preparing an alternative dinner option. This helps the child understand the relationship between their actions and the resulting consequences, fostering responsibility and learning.

We prioritise genuine discipline that focuses on real-life experiences, in contrast to the artificial discipline often associated with reward and punishment methods.





" The greatest gifts we can give to our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

- Dr Maria Montessori



# A DAY IN NĪKAU SCHOOL

In Montessori education, the work cycle refers to a designated period of uninterrupted time during which children engage in independent, purposeful learning activities. This cycle plays a fundamental role in fostering concentration, self-discipline, and a love for learning in Montessori classrooms.

**Here's a breakdown of the Montessori work cycle:**

**Preparation:** The Montessori environment is carefully prepared to provide a rich array of materials and resources that cater to the developmental needs and interests of the children. The materials are organised and displayed in an orderly and accessible manner, enticing children to explore and engage with them.

**Freedom of Choice:** During the work cycle, children are granted the freedom to choose their activities based on their individual interests and developmental readiness. They have the autonomy to select materials and work on tasks that capture their attention and ignite their curiosity.

**Uninterrupted Time:** The work cycle is characterised by a block of uninterrupted time, typically spanning a few hours. This extended period allows children to immerse themselves in their chosen activities, fully engrossed in their learning without interruptions or distractions.

**Concentration and Focus:** With the freedom to choose their work and a dedicated time frame, children have the opportunity to experience deep concentration. They engage in activities that capture their interest, leading to a state of focused attention and absorption in their tasks. This concentrated focus is crucial for optimal learning and cognitive development.

**Individual and Small Group Lessons:** Throughout the work cycle, teachers provide individual or small group lessons based on the child's specific needs and interests. These lessons are tailored to support the child's learning objectives, introduce new materials or concepts, and guide their progress. Teachers observe and guide each child's development, offering guidance and support when necessary.

**Order and Respect:** The Montessori work cycle emphasises the importance of order and respect. Children are encouraged to handle materials with care, return them to their designated places after use, and maintain a tidy learning environment. This fosters a sense of responsibility, orderliness, and respect for the learning materials and the environment as a whole.

**Self-Correction and Mastery:** Montessori materials are designed to be self-correcting, providing children with immediate feedback on their progress and allowing them to independently identify and correct their errors. This promotes a sense of mastery and empowers children to take ownership of their learning.

The Montessori work cycle is a fundamental component of the Montessori method, allowing children to engage in purposeful, independent learning experiences at their own pace. It supports the development of concentration, self-discipline, and a love for lifelong learning.

## THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Through our nature-based curriculum and outdoor experiences, we want to create opportunities for children to immerse themselves in the healing power of nature. Spending time in natural surroundings has been proven to reduce stress, enhance mood, and improve overall well-being. By engaging with the natural world, children can find solace, peace, and a sense of connection to something greater than themselves.

### The sorts of activities students will experience include:

**Team-Building Challenges:** Engage students in cooperative activities that require teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, such as ropes courses, trust falls, or scavenger hunts.

**Solo Nature Exploration:** Allow students to spend quiet time alone in nature, encouraging self-reflection, mindfulness, and self-awareness. This could involve sitting by a tree, observing natural surroundings, or simply enjoying a moment of solitude.

**Nature-based Games and Sports:** Organise outdoor games and sports that promote physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while connecting students to nature and the environment.

**Environmental Awareness:** Encourage students to raise awareness about environmental issues by organising campaigns or events, such as creating posters, giving presentations, or hosting community discussions. This promotes advocacy, critical thinking, and social consciousness.

**Nature-Based Reflection Circles:** Facilitate small group discussions or circles where students can share their thoughts, experiences, and emotions related to their outdoor experiences. This fosters active listening, empathy, and the development of healthy relationships.

**Nature Exploration Clubs:** Establish student-led clubs focused on exploring and learning about nature. These clubs can involve regular outdoor outings, guest speakers, and discussions centred around environmental topics, enhancing curiosity, identity, and a sense of belonging.

**Environmental Problem-Solving Projects:** Assign students real-life environmental challenges and guide them through the process of brainstorming, planning, and implementing solutions. This cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and a sense of empowerment.

**Nature-Based Mindfulness and Meditation:** Introduce students to mindfulness and meditation practices in natural settings. This helps them develop emotional regulation, stress management skills, and a deeper connection with themselves and their surroundings.

**Peer Mentorship activities:** Pair older students with younger ones in outdoor activities, fostering mentorship, empathy, and the development of positive role models.

# THE EVERYDAY GUIDE

**Reflective Sharing Circles:** Create safe and supportive spaces for students to share their personal outdoor experiences, reflections, and insights with their peers. This promotes active listening, empathy, and self-expression.

**Nature Walks:** Students explore local natural areas, such as forests, parks, and wetlands, to observe and learn about the diverse flora and fauna.

**Gardening and Planting:** Students participate in gardening activities, planting seeds, nurturing plants, and learning about sustainable gardening practices.

**Environmental Investigations:** Students conduct field studies and experiments to investigate various ecological concepts, such as water quality, biodiversity, and soil composition.

**Conservation Projects:** Students actively engage in conservation initiatives, such as tree planting, habitat restoration, and waste reduction campaigns, to make a positive impact on the environment.

**Outdoor Art and Crafts:** Students create art inspired by nature, using natural materials and incorporating elements found in the outdoor environment.

**Wildlife Observation:** Students learn about local wildlife species, their habitats, and behaviours through observation and research.

**Nature Journaling:** Students keep personal journals to document their outdoor experiences, sketching and writing about their observations and reflections.

**Team Building and Adventure Challenges:** Students participate in team-building activities and adventure challenges, fostering cooperation, leadership, and problem-solving skills.

**Outdoor Sports and Physical Education:** Students engage in physical activities, sports, and games in natural settings, promoting physical fitness and outdoor recreation.

**Camping and Overnight Trips:** Students have opportunities for outdoor camping experiences, fostering a sense of adventure, resilience, and appreciation for nature.  
**Environmental Education Workshops:** Students attend workshops led by environmental experts, learning about topics such as climate change, sustainability, and conservation practices.

**Community Service Projects:** Students actively contribute to their local community through environmental service projects, such as litter clean-ups, community garden maintenance, and awareness campaigns.

**Nature-Based Art and Literature:** Students explore and create art and literature inspired by the natural world, expressing their creativity and connection to the environment.

**Nature Photography:** Students learn basic photography skills and capture the beauty of nature through their lenses, fostering artistic expression and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

# LEARNING AT HOME

## **Fostering a Love for Reading: Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey at Nīkāu School!**

At Nīkāu School, we recognise the immense value of reading and its impact on a child's development. We encourage active participation from parents to support their child's reading journey, as the partnership between home and school is vital in establishing a lifelong habit of reading for enjoyment.

**Here are some ways you can actively engage with your child to nurture their love for reading:**

**Daily Reading Time:** Set aside dedicated time each day to read with your child or have them read to you. Find a calm and cozy space where your child feels comfortable and let them choose their favourite books. Offer assistance when needed, but also honour their efforts and encourage independent reading practice.

**Plan Reading Sessions:** If finding time for daily reading is challenging, schedule specific reading times for each day of the week, taking into account your activities and appointments. Write these times on the calendar, ensuring both you and your child are committed to following through with the plan. If possible, utilise car rides to engage in reading together, allowing your child to read aloud as you drive home from school.

**Book Selection:** Involve your child in selecting books they would enjoy. You can also share stories that you loved reading as a child and discuss why you liked or disliked them, including your favourite characters. Consider acting out parts of the stories or using different voices for each character, creating a more interactive and engaging reading experience.

**Autonomy in Reading Choices:** Encourage your child to have the freedom to choose their own reading material. Even if they want to reread the same book multiple times, it promotes important skills such as memorisation and repetition, fostering a sense of mastery and confidence in reading. Allow them to feel successful as they master a book they are passionate about.

**Prioritise Reading Time:** Encourage your child to spend more time reading than engaging in activities such as watching TV, playing video games, or using electronic devices. Books have the power to transport readers to imaginative worlds, and nothing compares to having a tower of books that they have read on their own.

# HOMWORK

## HONOURING BALANCE AND EXPLORATION: Our Montessori Philosophy on Homework at Nīkau School

At Nīkau School, we embrace the Montessori philosophy, which emphasises the holistic development of each child. Our approach to homework aligns with this philosophy, recognising the importance of balance, exploration, and the child's individual needs.

We believe that children learn best when they are engaged in purposeful, hands-on experiences within the classroom. Therefore, our focus at Nīkāu School is on providing a rich and stimulating learning environment during school hours, allowing children to actively explore, discover, and cultivate their interests. We understand that children need time for relaxation, family interactions, and pursuing activities beyond the classroom. We value the importance of play, creativity, and developing well-rounded individuals. With this in mind, our approach to homework differs from traditional methods.

At Nīkau School, we prioritise quality family time and the pursuit of personal interests outside of school. Instead of assigning excessive homework, we encourage children to engage in activities that align with their passions, such as reading books of their choice, pursuing hobbies, engaging in physical activities, and spending time with loved ones.

We believe in fostering a love for lifelong learning, where education extends beyond the boundaries of the classroom. We encourage parents to engage in meaningful conversations with their children, fostering curiosity and critical thinking.

Engaging in everyday life experiences, such as cooking together, exploring nature, or discussing current events, can provide rich opportunities for learning and growth.

## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING TO PARENTS: Our Philosophy on Assessment

The New Zealand Curriculum is designed to support the development of students across various age ranges through the use of developmental growth bands. These bands, or learning progressions, outline the expected learning outcomes and milestones for students at different stages of their education journey. The curriculum provides a flexible framework that allows teachers to cater to the individual needs and interests of their students while ensuring a cohesive and balanced educational experience.

One valuable tool within the New Zealand Curriculum is the Progress and Consistency Tool (PaCT). This tool assists teachers in assessing and tracking student progress against the learning progressions. It enables educators to gather evidence of student learning, make informed judgments, and provide targeted support for each student's ongoing development.

By using the New Zealand Curriculum and the PaCT tool, teachers can effectively monitor and support students' learning journeys. The focus is on fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment that promotes active engagement, critical thinking, and lifelong learning skills. This approach allows students to progress at their own pace while ensuring they achieve the necessary learning outcomes and acquire the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies required for their future success.

The New Zealand Curriculum and the PaCT tool provide a comprehensive and adaptable framework for education, empowering teachers to meet the diverse needs of students while fostering a love for learning, curiosity, and a sense of personal growth.

### TESTING AT NĪKAU SCHOOL

We want to make sure that we have comprehensive data to ensure your child's progression follows an expected trend against New Zealand's National Guidelines and Expectations without too many tests.

To support our observations and judgements as experienced teachers, we will be gathering valuable data upon entering Nikāu School and from there formally once a year at mid year (End Term 2) and comparing these each year to identify trends.

# ASSESSMENTS

**The formal assessment tools we will use include:**

**Reading PM Benchmark assessment:** The reading assessment will enable us to evaluate each child's reading abilities, fluency, comprehension, and word recognition skills. This information will guide us in developing appropriate reading materials and strategies to support their individual needs.

**Spelling Essential Lists:** The spelling assessment will allow us to assess each child's understanding of spelling patterns, phonics, and vocabulary. By identifying their strengths and areas for growth, we can design targeted spelling activities and provide necessary guidance to enhance their spelling proficiency.

**Edify Mathematics:** assessment will focus on assessing the child's understanding of mathematical concepts, problem-solving abilities, and numerical fluency.

## **The assessment Cycle at Nīkau School**

**Term 1 - 4:** Open morning for parents and grandparents

**Term 2:** Assessment and reports (Quantitative)

**Term 4:** End of year report (Qualitative)

We will also be running regular information evenings for parents throughout the year.



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