

## **Mahi Tahī – Pre School Programme**

To ensure our students have a welcoming and positive experience when they start at Holy Cross Catholic School we have developed our Mahi Tahī Programme (Working Together as One) which has two distinct areas, a weekly Pre School Learning experience and a Pre-school Transition programme consisting of four points of contact for the parents and child before the child starts at our school.

### **Pre School Learning Group**

Every Tuesday from 9.00 am to 9.30am a pre -reading and numeracy session is held for our 3 ½ to 5 year olds to introduce them to the early skills of oral language, literacy and numeracy as well as social skills and interacting with their peers. They come with their parents or caregivers who some weeks work with their child and other weeks we have parent workshops. At the workshops we aim to provide to help parents with practical ways they can prepare their children for school and how they can support their child in different curriculum areas at home.

### **Transition to School Programme**

All parents and students receive a personal letter inviting them to school for three visits. The first visit is for the whole cohort of students who will be starting the following term. At this initial meeting an outline of school organisations, procedures and expectations are shared and any questions about varying policies within the school can be answered. Each child is given a pre-school pack and an explanation of how it can be used to support their child's learning prior to them starting school.

Two pre-school visit times are allocated for students to visit the class from 8.50- 10.30 on two consecutive Wednesday mornings and a follow up telephone call is made to arrange a time for an individual final meeting. At this last session an informal assessment is completed and there is an opportunity for parents to share information about their child and have any concerns addressed so all parties feel confident about the child's transition to school.