

Welcome to first grade at Meritorin koulu primary school!

We are glad that your child will study with us. At Meritorin koulu primary school, we practise not only academic knowledge and skills but also friendship skills and general skills of pupils. Practising perseverance, self-control and appreciative encounters comes naturally as a member of a group.

Introduction for new schoolchildren and their parents/guardians on 23 May 2023

We will introduce the school to newcomers on 23 May 2023 at 8:00–9:00 and hold an information session for their parents/guardians at the same time. We will meet the pupils at door C at the sea-facing end. After the event, the parents will escort the children to continue the day in pre-primary education. You are warmly welcome to join us!

The group that the child will meet on the introduction day is not necessarily the one in which the child will start studying in August. We will form classes on a pedagogical basis in May. If your child would like to have a friend in the same class, you can make a wish using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddOPeJF3RFNxQnRTEMqM7Ok7AWQ-ERVvtG7xJrbgVBgBIN3Q/viewform?usp=pp_url

If the link does not work, please copy the text into the address bar. We will take into account wishes made by 15 May.

Preparation for starting school

Starting school often makes children nervous. We adults must ensure that all learners receive the encouragement, support and guidance they need. We strive to provide each learner with both moments of success and new challenges. We also practise following common rules and learning the school's operating culture. At Meritori, the educational approach rises from positive pedagogy.

You do not need to buy writing utensils or learning materials, since these are provided by the school. Of course, children can also use their own writing equipment – personal pencil cases and their contents are often important for children. We are a shoeless school: outdoor shoes are taken off on the mud mats by the front doors. Families need to get indoor shoes for their children.

School commute

If the pupil goes to school alone, it is advisable to start practising the school route in the summer. The child should be instructed to pay attention to safety. If you transport your

child to school, please turn your car around at the turning point at the end of Merivalkama, and not at the school junction or at the pedestrian crossings, for example. The school parking area is reserved for staff use only. If the first-grader's commute to school is longer than 3 km, the pupil can receive a free public transport travel card for school transport. The form for the school transport subsidy can be printed here:

<https://www.espoo.fi/en/childcare-and-education/forms-and-instructions#section-19123>

Please return the form to the school.

Clothing

We hope that the children will come to school dressed in weather-appropriate clothes every day, because we spend breaks outdoors every day. You should make sure that your child can get dressed independently or, if this is challenging, you should practise together at home. When children get dressed quickly, they have time to enjoy outdoor activities with their friends. All children's clothes, shoes and accessories should be labelled so that they are returned to their rightful owners. Unfortunately, the school does not have storage space for a change of clothes or a drying cabinet.

Taking care of oneself

Pupils must be able to eat independently; adults will not butter bread or peel potatoes or fruit for them. Adults guide the activities in the canteen and help the pupils to follow common practices.

Toilet visits must be carried out independently. We encourage children to go to the toilet in transition situations, but small pupils can also use the toilet during lessons if necessary. You should encourage your child to tell adults if they have to go to the toilet.

Special diet

If the pupil has a special diet, please complete the form below. The form can be completed online. We hope that you will complete the form before school starts. Please deliver a medical certificate to the school nurse. No medical certificate is required for a religious diet, but the notification of a special diet must be completed.

<https://www.espoo.fi/en/childcare-and-education/forms-and-instructions#section-19123>

Please send the notification to: koulukeittio.meritori@espoocatering.fi. You can scan the notification or take a photo of it and email it to the school kitchen. The paper form can be sent to the following address: Meritori school kitchen, P.O. Box 5424, FI-02070 CITY OF ESPOO.

Communications

The Wilma system is the primary means of communication between the home and the school. If your child is ill, please notify the school of the sick leave via Wilma at the beginning of the child's first lesson at the latest.

Cooperation between home and school

The parents/guardians know their children best. First-grade teachers will invite all pupils and their parents/guardians to a first meeting early in the autumn term, in addition to the common parents' meeting for the whole class. At the parents' meeting, we discuss studying in the first grade and elect a class representative to the parents' association, Meritori ry.

School starts on 10 August 2023.

School will start on Thursday, 10 August 2023 at 9:00. First-graders will gather in the courtyard of Meritorin koulu primary school near door C, where the teachers will welcome them. You will recognise the school personnel from the yellow high-visibility vests.

On the first two days of school, we will study from 9:00 to 12:00. Starting from Monday, 14 August, we will work according to the schedule, meaning that first-graders will be taught between 8:00 and 13:00. In the first grade, there are 20 lessons per week in the autumn term and 21 in the spring term. Your child's schedule will be published in Wilma, and the teacher will also send a paper copy of the schedule to you with your child. Work and holiday times and other information can be found on the school's website at <https://www.espoo.fi/fi/kasvatus-ja-opetus/perusopetus/peruskoulut/meritorin-koulu>

Afternoon activities

Afternoon activities are organised on the Meritori premises for pupils who have been granted a place in the afternoon activities. Afternoon activities will begin on 10 August at 12:00. Children who participate in part-time afternoon activities are entitled to care until 15:00, and those in full-time afternoon activities until 17:00. Afternoon activities take place both indoors and outdoors.

The application time for afternoon activities for the coming school year 2023-2024 is 26.4.-10.5.2023. The application is made through Wilma. You can find the application form in Wilma on the "Applications and decisions" tab. If you are unable to apply electronically, you can use a paper form. You can print out the form at <https://www.espoo.fi/en/childcare-and-education/forms-and-instructions#section-17228>, request it from the school or order it from iltapaivatoiminta@espoo.fi.

Send the paper form to:

Finnish Basic Education Unit
Education Support
P.O. Box 31
02070 City of Espoo

More information about afternoon activities organised by the City of Espoo can be found here:

<https://www.espoo.fi/en/childcare-and-education/comprehensive-education/studying-comprehensive-school/afternoon-activities-and-care-pupils>

The school does not decide on afternoon activity places and does not participate in invoicing. If you have any questions about invoicing, please contact Iltaivaivatoimintamaksut@espoo.fi.

The contact person for afternoon activities at the school is Nea Koivuporras (nea.koivuporras@opetus.espoo.fi, 040 636 6257)