



NIEUWKOMERS
WEST-FRIESLAND

Information for parents and / or caregivers: the new entrants class

Dear Parents and/or Caregivers,

In this letter you may find information regarding the class for new entrants in which your child/pupil has been enrolled. This new entrants class is intended for children who have newly entered the Netherlands, directly or through a centre for asylum seekers. The age range for this facility is six to twelve years of age.

When children have not yet had the opportunity to receive Dutch language education, the new entrants class offers them the possibility to acquaint themselves with the Dutch language as well as aspects of the Dutch culture. By means of a specially developed program, children are being taught to understand, speak and apply the Dutch language on a level that is required to benefit from the Dutch school system. Besides the strong focus on language, there is also attention for common subjects such as reading, writing, reading comprehension, arithmetic, spelling and the creative subjects. In one year, children receive sufficient preparatory education to enable enrollment in a regular primary school in the vicinity of their own addresses.

In this region there are four entrants classes: Hoorn (public primary school Universum), Medemblik (public primary school Meridiaan), Zwaag (primary school De Rank) and Bovenkarspel ('t Palet) Children are preferably placed in the location that is closest to home. Initially, parents/caregivers are responsible for transportation to the new entrants class; in exceptional situations there are possibilities for organized student transport. Parents and caregivers are to contact their municipalities for more information.

As soon as you have enrolled your child or pupil in a primary school near your place of residence, this school will contact the regional facility for new entrants. The school will fill out the necessary application forms with you. Whether or not the pupil qualifies for a new entrants class depends on how long he or she has been in the Netherlands. As soon as a spot opens up, you and your child/pupil will be invited for a preliminary interview. During this interview you will receive all the necessary information such as timetables and holidays. Also several forms will be filled out with you and we will need to make a photocopy of your child's/ pupils ID.

Students spend 40 school weeks of 5 days each in the new entrants class after which they will return to the regular primary school in which they were originally enrolled. The last 10 weeks of this 40 week period will be used to become accustomed to the original primary school: The coordinator of the new entrants class will guide both student and regular primary school in this transition and will provide custom-made advice. Target is providing a form of education that is optimally aligned to each student's personal development.

We trust that we have provided you with all the information you need to successfully enroll your child or pupil into the Dutch educational system. Should there be any questions that have not been answered for you, please let us know.

Tsjikke Dijkstra, coördinator nieuwkomersklas Medemblik
Ronald Overboom, coördinator nieuwkomersklassen De Rank, Zwaag
Aafke Boon, coördinator nieuwkomersklassen Hoorn,
Lianne Broersen, coördinator nieuwkomersklassen Bovenkarspe