



19 February 2026

Term 1 Week 2

**Kia Ora, Kamusta, Āyubōvan, Sata srī akāla, Namaskāra,
Hallå, Dia dhuit, Kam na mauri, Mālō e Lelei, Hello**

Kia Ora Parents and Whanau

Coming up on Friday 27th February are the Waimea Athletics Sports which involves us, Balfour and Waikaia Schools. This year the event will be hosted by Balfour School at Balfour Rugby Grounds. See below for the timetable of the day for both Junior and Senior programmes. The senior programme is for students aged 7-12 years old with their age taken on the 31st December 2025. The junior programme is for the 5 and 6 year olds. All Riversdale school students will be given our sports t-shirts on Wednesday and they will need to wear black shorts with these.

Parents will need to arrange transport for their own children to get to Balfour. If you need assistance to get your child/ren there please contact your child's teacher by Tuesday 24 February as there may be limited spaces in teachers vehicles; the school buses will not be running at all that day. If you have any questions about the Athletics day please get in contact with Miss McCall or Miss Callander.

Coming up on Tuesday 3rd March the Year 8s have the opportunity to attend the GRIP Leadership Conference. Info was sent out on Hero yesterday to families with a paper copy coming home today.

Just a quick reminder that children should not be coming to school before 8:30am unless you have made an arrangement with your child's teacher to be at school earlier. This is essential prep time for the teachers.

This week we have had the ERO (Education Review Office) team onsite looking at our systems, in our classes and talking to our wonderful students. We had a great couple of days and are looking forward to seeing our emerging findings next week. This was an opportunity for us to evaluate where we are at and make goals for improvement.

There is a School Board meeting on Monday 23rd February, 7pm in the staffroom.

Nga mihi,

Bronwyn and the Riversdale Staff

Senior (7-12 year old) Programme



Programme 2026 Waimea Athletics Sports

Some food will be available to be purchased at the sports grounds on this day.

This programme is subject to change without notification, depending on how the day progresses. Postponement day: **Monday 2 March**

Time/Date: 9:00am Friday 27th February 2026 (8.30am if running 1500m)

Venue: Balfour Rugby Grounds

Children who wish to run in the 1500m event, this will start at 8:45am before all the events.

Children will need to be there 15 minutes before start time.

All students assemble in the middle of the running track in their age groups at 8.55am.

5 and 6 year olds are then taken to the junior programme.

After lunch all students will assemble in their age group on the inside of the track ready for sprint finals.

Time	7 Year Olds	8 Year Olds	9 Year Olds	10 Year Olds	11/12 Years
8:45am				1500m Assemble at the *1500	
9:00am	Assemble	Assemble	Assemble	Assemble	Assemble
Children move when their event is completed. NB there is no bell	Discus	Long Jump	100/200m	High Jump	Shot Put
	Long Jump	Shot Put	Discus	100/200m	High Jump
	Shot Put	High Jump	Long Jump	Discus	100/200m
	High Jump	60/100m	Shot	Long Jump	Discus
	60/100m	Discus	High Jump	Shot	Long Jump
800m (final) 10 years and up					
Lunch Break (approx 12.30)					
Please make sure that you take lunch and plenty of water to drink. The length of this break depends largely on the weather. Food is available to be purchased.					

All Sprint Finals including preschool and 5 and 6 year olds

(children to sit on inside of track
behind their age group sign)

NB – Footwear is essential for shot put competitors.

Junior (5 & 6 year olds) Programme

Information:

Overview of the day

- 9am - Move to junior area
 - warm up (dance)
- 9.30am - rotation 1
- 10.35am-10.50am - (approx) Morning tea
- 11am - rotation 2
- 12pm - prize giving
- 12.15pm (approx) - lunch
- After lunch - preschool, 5yr and 6yr sprints

Important notes for parents/caregivers

- Children will bring home a Riversdale t-shirt to wear to Athletics Day and need to wear black shorts/pants if they have them and sneakers (shoes appropriate for running).
- Please ensure your child has their water bottle and lunch box with them in the junior area at all times so they have access to this when needed.
- All junior students must stay in the junior area until we are finished (except for morning tea or using the toilet).
- Sprints occur after lunch on the main track. Everyone gathers back behind age group signs after lunch.
- Ensure your child has a sunhat and is wearing sunscreen.
- No drinks will be for sale so please ensure your child has a water bottle. This can be refilled in the rugby clubrooms.
- The Balfour Home and School will be selling sausages in bread, toasties and baking but children will still need their own food too.
- Please let us know if you will not be attending so we can supervise your child over break times.

Coming Up.....

Term 1

23 February 2026

School Board Meeting

27 February 2026

Waimea Athletics Day at Balfour

2-13 March 2026

REAP Swimming

3 March 2026

GRIP Leadership Day for the year 8s

9 March 2026	Teachers Only Day
10 March 2026	Northern Athletics at Northern Southland College
21 March	Southland athletics
25 March	Northern Swimming Sports at Te Anau (TBC)
26 March	Community Assembly, 1:30pm in the school hall
27 March	After School Ki O Rahi tournament
2 April 2026	Final day of Term 1

Kei te pai - Well done to our STARS OF THE WEEK!
You all displayed the school values so well.
 Certificates from Term 1, Week 1



	STAR OF THE WEEK	Te Reo Māori Learner of the Week
Room 7	Kate	Sam
Room 6	Rumith	Maatata
Room 5	Siupeli	Aroha
Room 4	Aliya	Frankii
Room 3	Darcy	Ayva
Room 2	Chloe	Chayan
Room 1	Eli	Hugo

Parents, Caregivers and Whanau are invited to visit the SchoolDocs site to read our school policies. Each term the Board reviews a number of policies and procedures. Parents, Whanau and Families are invited to read and make comment when these come up for review. To read any of our policies follow the steps below

To review policy documents:

1. Visit the website link:
<https://riversdale.schooldocs.co.nz>
2. Enter the Username: *riversdale*
3. Enter the Password: *excellence*
4. Click into the *Parents Quick Links* tab to easily find the policy you require.

Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our Concerns and Complaints Policy and related policies on SchoolDocs.

OVERVIEW

You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.

The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.

The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (Verbally or in writing).

<p>A staff member involved (e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)</p>	<p>The principal for serious matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member). • The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter. • You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative). • Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.
<p>The board chair for concerns or complaints about the principal</p>	<p>Another board member for concerns or complaints about the board chair</p>	

HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).

NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, the school considers the matter closed.

If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response, you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

After the board has dealt with a matter, there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

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Regular Attendance Excellent attendance Best chance of success	Irregular Absence Attendance concerns Risk of reduced results	Moderate Absence Poor attendance Less chance of success	Chronic Absence Very poor attendance Serious impact on results
<p>More than 90% attendance</p> <p>0-4 days absence per term</p> <p>Up to 16 missed school days per year</p> <p>Up to 1 year of missed school by 16 years old</p> <p>No Action Required</p>	<p>80% - 89% attendance</p> <p>5-9 days absence per term</p> <p>36 missed school days per year</p> <p>2 years of missed school by 16 years old</p> <p>Possible Actions Attendance letter sent Ongoing monitoring</p>	<p>70% - 79% attendance</p> <p>10-14 days absence per term</p> <p>56 missed school days per year</p> <p>3½ years of missed school by 16 years old</p> <p>Possible Actions Parents contacted Truancy Services referral</p>	<p>Less than 70% attendance</p> <p>15 days or more absence per term</p> <p>80+ missed school days per year</p> <p>4+ years of missed school by 16 years old</p> <p>Possible Actions School roll removal</p>
<p>Government Attendance Target 80% of students present for more than 90% of each term</p>			

School Buses

Our four bus drivers are Jan Robertson, Michael Lobb, Rhonda Wilson and Paul Eason

Please inform the driver if your child is off the bus in the morning.

Jan Robertson – 027 6088203

Michael Lobb – 027 3725785

Rhonda Wilson - 027 2578895

Paul Eason - 021474580

Please do not make any alternative arrangements with your child's bus driver without first checking with the school as our bus routes are set by the Ministry of Education and we are unable to go outside of our transport zone to drop students in different places. We are aware that some of our buses do travel past houses on the driver's way home, unfortunately this does not mean they are able to drop off students. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch with the school.



SCHOOL VESTS

The Home & School provide each new student at Riversdale School with a vest.

If you need to replace yours - they are now available to purchase in a range of sizes from Mrs Mann in the school office for \$10 (cash payments only).



Community Notices



2026 School Update Eastern Southland Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year! The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.

Local Community Clinic:

- Gore – 9 Birch Lane; Ph: 203 9042

Mobile Dental Units:

- Wyndham Primary School
Florence Street; Ph: 027 284 9937
*From 24 March – 11 June
- Matakura Primary School
33 Oakland Street; Ph: 027 294 7545
*From 9 February – 19 March

NEWS

Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media



*Dates subject to change
For appointments outside these dates please call
0800 570 300



RIVERSDALE AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

For kids aged 5-13
Available between 3.00-5.30pm Wednesday-Friday
At the Riversdale Presbyterian Church

Our services include:
Pick-up from Riversdale School, fun and engaging activities, help with homework, and afternoon tea.

For more information, including fees and available hours, please email Sarah Cowan at riversdalecare@gmail.com
Or visit riversdalecare.weebly.com

IN-CONFIDENCE

Become an Oranga Tamariki Foster Caregiver in Southland

Help make a Difference in a Child's Life!

Are you ready to provide a safe, loving, and supportive home for a child in need? Oranga Tamariki is looking for caring individuals and families who can help children in care to grow, heal, and thrive.

We are currently seeking caregivers who can offer:

- A safe and nurturing environment
- Emotional and physical support to children in need
- A commitment to helping a child reach their full potential

As an Oranga Tamariki caregiver, you'll receive training, 24/7 support, and a financial allowance to assist with the care of the child. You'll also join a network of compassionate individuals dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact in the lives of children.

Who can become a caregiver?

- People with a genuine desire to care for children
- Families, singles, and couples
- People with different life experiences, backgrounds, and cultural connections



Every child deserves the chance to grow up in a loving, stable home. Could that home be with you?

Contact us today to learn more about joining the Southland caregiving whānau.

Call: Isla Hardy
Email: isla.hardy@ot.govt.nz
Website: orangatamariki.govt.nz

Together, we can make a brighter future for children in Southland!



Riversdale Lions Club

If any farmers have SGT Dan pallets that they would like to donate, please contact the Riversdale Lions to arrange pick up.
All funds go to projects within the community.



Enquiries to
Rhys 027 3929687
Scott 027 2271360

Junior Golf - Riversdale Golf Club

Children's golf will start on Friday, 20th February 2026, at 3.30pm at the Riversdale Golf Club.

All children welcome
Contact Debbie Schriek
0210462596

JIM DINE-INSPIRED ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

With

Reanda Gerber

SATURDAY, 21 FEB 2026

1 PM - 4 PM

\$60 P.P

AGED 5 -12

@ RIVERSDALE ARTS CENTRE

Dab. Layer. Paint. Create.

Inspired by Jim Dine's hearts, this acrylic painting workshop is all about bold colour, rich texture, and expressive mark-making – the perfect mix of process, play, and creativity the DAB-ART-DO way.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE EMAIL
dabartdo@gmail.com

 Riversdale Arts

DAB ART **DO**

SAVE THE DATE
**DIPTON SCHOOL
TRAILRIDE**
SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

MORE INFORMATION COMING OUT SOON



SPONSORED BY:



**2026
After-school
Orienteering
Series**

MONDAYS, FROM 23 FEBRUARY - 16 MARCH
START BETWEEN 4-5 PM

More info:
www.southlandorienteeingclub.co.nz/events

