



12 February 2026

Term 1 Week 1

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

Kia Ora Parents and Whanau

Welcome back to the 2026 school year. We are excited to have everyone back at school. Yesterday we welcomed our new students and their families, along with our new staff members. Welcome to **Eli** (and parents Rachel & Ryan), **Maylee** (and parents Zoe & Benji), **Methuki** (and parents Chamodi & Rukshan), **Esko** (and parents Tania & Anthony), **Willa** (and parents Paige & Rob), **Austin & Dakotah** (and dad Brandon), **Harley** (and parents Deanna & Shane), **Suipeli** (and dad Suipeli), and **Margaux** (and parents Sarah and Alex). We also welcome **Mrs Treana Morton** who is teaching in Room 7, and **Jordan McCleod** and **Sarah Simister** who are our 2 new teachers' aides.

As we start the new year it is important that all students have a sunhat to wear at break times or for any outdoor lessons. The sunhat must have a brim that goes all the way around, no caps are allowed. The Home and School have sunhats you can order with your child's name printed - see below for information. Students must also wear their safety vests to and from school every day, even if they are getting in a car at the school gate.

Coming up are the **Waimea Athletics on Friday 27th of February**, which are being run by Balfour school this year. This is a full day event and parents will need to organise transport for their children to the event. More details will come out next week.

Following on from athletics we have **2 weeks of REAP swimming lessons - every day, from the 2nd to the 13th of March**. The REAP swimming lessons are centred around water safety and survival. It is essential the students bring their togs and towel every day. If they forget we will be getting you to bring them down to school as this is part of our school curriculum. If for some reason your child is not swimming please inform your child's teacher via the caregiver communication on the Hero App.

On **Monday the 9th of March we will be having a Teacher Only Day** to work on our knowledge and understanding of the new Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum. The school will be closed on this day.

This year we have a goal around increasing student attendance at school, in line with the government's objective of 80% of students attending regularly which is 90% of the time. On the Hero app you can easily see your child's attendance level. Did you know if your child has 1 day off a week they will miss 8 weeks of learning throughout the year? That is nearly 1 whole term! See below for a graphic about student attendance.

If you have any change of after school arrangements that you need to let your child know about please let the office know before 2:30pm. You can either call (2025814) or text (0275553534).

As always if you have any concerns regarding your child at school please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. If the matter needs further discussion then the principal will be brought into the conversation. We want to partner with you in your child's education, when we can talk about small things and resolve them we can stop big situations or issues from happening.

Nga mihi,

Bronwyn and the Riversdale Staff

Coming Up.....

Term 1

9 February 2026	First day of Term 1
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



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).

A staff member involved
(e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)

The principal
for serious matters

The board chair
for concerns or complaints about the principal

Another board member
for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- 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.



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.



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).




RIVERSDALE SCHOOL
Home & School Association

SCHOOL SUN HAT ORDER

Wide brimmed hats are compulsory in terms 1 & 4 - NO CAPS

The Home & School do a bulk order of branded school hats with the school name on the front and child's initials on the back so they are easily returned to their owner.

- Available in two sizes - 54cm and 58cm.
- Orders close next Monday 16th February and hats will arrive a couple of weeks after that.
- \$ 25 each - **payment to: Riversdale Home & School Association** 03 0915 0253006 00 reference "sunhat" and your name.

If you would like to purchase please email riversdalehas@gmail.com with your size and what you want printed on the back of the hat - there is space for and first or last name, or initial & last name e.g. Blatch/K Blatch

Community Notices



POOL FUNDRAISER	
Food wrap	300m x 33cm = \$26
	600m X 33cm =\$36
Roll foil	90m x 44cm =\$23
	150m x 30cm = \$23
Baking Paper	100m X 30cm = \$32
Bank Account: 03-0915-0285905-00	
Available from the school office. (new stock just arrived)	





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.

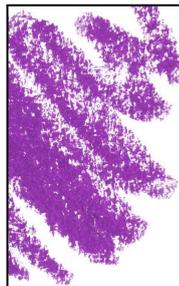


Enquiries to
Rhys 027 3929687
Scott 027 2271360

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



WEEKLY

Art classes with Reanda Gerber
in **Waikaia**

8 Weeks of continuous Art Fun.

2 Artists to inspire.

Join us for an 8-week DAB-ART-DO mixed media journey for ages 5-12. Working with oil pastels and acrylics, students will dab, paint, layer, and play while exploring the styles of two inspiring artists. Two creative projects, lots of texture, and plenty of imagination – no experience needed.

Cost: \$200 for all 8 weeks. Students must book in for the full programme. All materials included.

Starts **Thursday, the 12th of February**

From 15:30 - 16:45

At Waikaia School Artroom

To book your place:

Message 0210 655 067

or email dabartdo@gmail.com

FOR MORE FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK

DAB ART **DO**

FOREST HILL TRAIL RUN

2026 EVENT

Supporting Lochiel School

🕒 10.00am-2.00pm

📅 Sunday 15th February 2026

📍 Forest Hill Reserve, Petigrew Road



Follow our facebook page for
more info!
<https://eventplus.net/fht26>



JOIN US!



SAVE THE DATE DIPTON SCHOOL TRAILRIDE

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

MORE INFORMATION COMING OUT SOON

