



19 February 2026

Term 1 Week 2

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

Kia Ora Parents and Whanau

A big shout out to Tania Striling and Sarah Crooks for repainting the fence in front of the memorial trees and by the water tanks. They look really great; thank you for your time.

Coming up tomorrow, 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 the 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. There is a new team at Balfour and this is their first time running the Athletics. We would appreciate parents who are able, to offer to help at stations; lifting the bar on the high jump, raking the long jump pit and rolling back the shot put and discus. Remember none of the teachers at the stations are experts and are doing their best. A reminder there will be no buses tomorrow. If the weather does not clear and we have to postpone until Monday, a message will be put on Hero and the school Facebook page before 7:30am. See below for the programme and the menu from the Balfour Home and School.

Riversdale School is part of the Trees for Survival programme where we look after seedling trees and then work with local farmers to use these for riparian planting in the district. On Tuesday the year 6 & 7s and Room 5 will work with Jennie Dyer to repot the seedlings and house them in our growing unit which is out behind Room 6 and 7. It would be great if those students involved could bring along a small garden trowel to help them with the repotting.

With the warmer weather we have had in the last few days we have noticed a number of students wearing tops with very thin spaghetti straps. These are not sunsmart and we discourage students from wearing anything that has their shoulders bare. Please encourage your child to be sunsmart in their choice of clothing and cover up their shoulders.

REAP Swimming starts on Monday, for the next two weeks. This is an important part of our Physical Education Curriculum and so it is important that students bring their togs and towel every day. It would be really helpful if everything is named, including your child's underwear (as sometimes it is forgotten when they get dressed).

At our Board meeting on Monday we looked at our end of year assessments for Reading, Writing and Maths. In Reading and Maths we have over 80% of our students achieving at or above the expected level, and 74% of students in Writing are achieving at or above. We are very pleased with these results as we have had 2 new curriculums to start using and to mark against. Writing

will become one of our targets for improvement this year. We also looked at the Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices Policy. See the green SchoolDocs picture below to go in and have a look at it, and the other policies listed, as part of our review process.

*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.



A menu sign for Athletics Day with a dark blue background and yellow text. The title 'ATHLETICS DAY MENU' is at the top, followed by a line of seven asterisks. The menu items and prices are listed below.

ATHLETICS DAY MENU	
Sausage In Bread	\$3.00
Savouries	\$2.00
Baking	\$2.00
Jelly Cup	\$1.00
Half Ice Block	50c
Ice Block	\$1.00

Coming Up....

Term 1

27 February 2026

2-13 March 2026

3 March 2026

9 March 2026

Waimea Athletics Day at Balfour

REAP Swimming

GRIP Leadership Day for the year 8s

Teachers Only Day

10 March 2026
 21 March
 25 March
 26 March
 27 March
 2 April 2026

Northern Athletics at Northern Southland College
 Southland athletics
 Northern Swimming Sports at Te Anau (TBC)
 Community Assembly, 1:30pm in the school hall
 After School Ki O Rahi tournament
 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 2



	STAR OF THE WEEK	Te Reo Māori Learner of the Week
Room 7	Murphy	Hannah H
Room 6	Archer	Dani
Room 5	Dakota	Kaiden
Room 4	Beetita	Phoebe
Room 3	Freya	Bryn
Room 2	Olive	Charlie
Room 1	Mitchell	Izzy
Tumuaki Award	Max	



Parents, Caregivers and Whanau are invited to visit the SchoolDocs site to review our school policies for Term 4 2025. This term we are reviewing topics in Health, Safety and Welfare Policy section.

Reviews are open to the Board, staff and school community (parents/caregivers/whanau)

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. Go to *Current Reviews* and click the links to read the policies currently under review

5. Click the *Policy Review* button at the top right hand of the page

6. Select reviewer type - "Parent"

7. Enter your name (Optional)

8. Submit your ratings and comments

Term 1 policies	Review opens 26 January
• Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy	Board review
• Sun Protection	Board review
• Digital Technology and Online Safety	Board review
• Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices	

To view any of our policies go to the above site and search for the appropriate policy



Maize Maze

Our first Maize Maze was a great success – we had over 650 people go through and most of them would have been from outside our usual fundraising circles which is great!

We have 2 more events still to go and are still in need of some additional helpers.

Please message Kelly-Anne Blatch 0274 857 877 if you can help out – all funds raised will be going towards our new school playground.

Saturday 14th March – FINAL DAYTIME MAZE

- Maze open 10am-4pm (arrive 9.15 to setup)
- We need 2-3 more people who can help out on the day (taking money/carparking marshal/cook BBQ etc).
- 1-2 experienced digger operators who may be able to relieve some of Matt McClintocks digger drivers for an hour or so at some stage throughout the day (people are getting a turn to try and dig up a winning golf ball)

McCLINTOCK CONTRACTING LTD

MAIZE MAZE

A fundraiser for Waikaia Forest Trails Grade 3 Blue Trail and Riversdale Home and School new School Playground

FINAL DAYTIME MAZE
14 MARCH | OPENS 10AM
DIGGER TREASURE HUNT
BBQ - TRACTOR RIDES

MAZE ENTRY
ADULTS (13+) - \$10
KIDS - \$5, UNDER 5 FREE
\$30 FAMILY
(2 ADULTS, 3 KIDS)

RIVERSDALE FIELD OF FEAR

RESTRICTED
13

18TH APRIL | \$20PP
IT'S NOT JUST A MAZE ANYMORE...
THE FIELDS COME ALIVE AFTER DARK

CASH PREFERRED - EFTPOS AVAILABLE | 741 MANDEVILLE-KINGSTON CROSSING ROAD

RIVERSDALE MAIZE MAZE - FOR MORE INFO

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.



Community Notices

Junior Hockey - Registrations OPEN

It's time to register for junior hockey this year. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/register/9e65e7>

Information

Junior Hockey (Year 1-6), Winter 2026, Eastern Southland Hockey - Gore

20 Apr 2026 - 03 July 2026

Pricing information

Yr 1 & 2 Fridays 3:30 - 6pm Subs \$55

Yr 3 & 4 Fridays 3:30 - 6pm Subs \$70

Yr 5 & 6 Monday 3:30 - 7.30pm Subs \$85

Note: year 5/6 will go a few weeks into term 3.

If you are happy/keen to coach we would love to hear from you - please could you also fill out the form in the link under the "coach" tab.

Can you please make payment to 03 1355 0594658 01 and use your child's name and Year group in the code field.

Additional information

All age groups will play on the turf.

Please note registrations **MUST** be completed by the 20 March (Yr 1 - Yr 6) **Any registrations after these dates will not be possible.**

Eastern Southland Junior Hockey Committee