

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

*Ko nga akonga o He Puna Karumata
He rangatira mo apopo*

Thursday 30th January 2025



Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou



A very warm welcome to you all and a special welcome to new families joining us for the first time, and to our new entrant children pictured above! Nau mai, haere mai!

A special welcome to Mrs Mel Stenhouse who is joining our Kāhui Ako as the Learning Support Co-ordinator. Mel will be working at Leeston for three days a week, and a day each at Southbridge and Dunsandel schools supporting our ākonga with their learning. We also welcome Mrs Alison Harrington, sharing the teaching for two days a week with Whaea Tash in Room 5.

At Leeston School, we are guided by the Pillars of Care—caring for ourselves, caring for each other, and caring for our environment. These values shape everything we do; from the way we support each other in the classroom and the playground to how we take responsibility for our school. As I walk into classrooms, and around the playground, I see these values in action numerous times, and they are what makes this place a special place to be!

Next week is a short week as we celebrate our unique and shared identity and the importance of tikanga Māori on Waitangi Day on Thursday 6th of February – I hope you enjoy this special day.

Ngā mihi nui
Lynda Taylor

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

Cooper Bennett, Freddie Booth, James Brockie, Marcy Densley, Riley Dickinson
Atalia Feeney, Mckenzie Grobler, Lachie MacPherson, Harvey McMillan, Brooke McNeill,
Isla Mulvena, Theo Mulvena, Seth Newton, TJ Patterson, Maiki Pettigrew, Shelby Rennie,
Tiki Serulevu, Kent Kick and Zoey Turnbull

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

From Term 1 2025, we are required to submit attendance data to the Ministry each day. To assist us in ensuring our data is as accurate as possible, it is **most important that you notify us of the reason for your child's absence or lateness** before 9.00 am **every day** they are absent. This can be done via the EDGE app, or by ringing the school and leaving a message on the answer machine. If you do not do this, we are required to contact you to find out why your child is absent without explanation, and this can be very time consuming.

The Ministry has clear expectations around student attendance, as regular attendance is key to success at school. It is a requirement that all students attend school every day, unless they are sick, or have a justified reason for being absent (eg illness or medical appointments that cannot be scheduled outside school hours, bereavement or tangihana, family emergencies or unforeseen serious circumstances, or exceptional circumstances approved by the school).

Unjustified absences include staying home for a birthday or special event, taking extended holidays during term time, missing school due to tiredness or sleeping in, staying home to look after siblings or family members (unless in an emergency) and non-urgent appointments that could be scheduled outside school hours. Frequent unjustified absences will require further follow-up.

A reminder that school begins at 9.00am each day, so it is important that your child is here at school, ready to begin the day **before** 9.00am.

Thank you for your support in keeping attendance a priority, as this ensures the best learning outcomes for all students.

MEET YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER EVENING

'Meet and Greet' evening will be on Wednesday 12th February in our school hall starting at 7.00 pm. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and hear a little about their expectations, and the term ahead. We will run two rotations (7.10–7.30, 7.35–7.55) to allow parents to attend different rooms if you have more than one child at school. We look forward to seeing you there.

JUNIOR SWIMMING DEMONSTRATION

The junior school swimming demonstration will take place on Thursday 13th February at the Leeston Learners Pool, Chervier Street, Leeston. Room 1, 2 and 6 will be at 12.30 - 1.30pm and Room 4 and 5 will be at 1.30 - 2.30pm. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL HATS / SUNBLOCK

All children are required to wear sun hats which give cover to the face, ears and neck. These hats are to be either blue or red with no logo labels on them. **NO HAT / NO PLAY** will be enforced. Please remember to name your child's hat. Sunblock stations are located outside Mrs Taylor's office and the Waitatari Junior block. Please encourage your children to reapply during the day.

SAFETY VESTS

Please ensure that your child / children are wearing their **named** safety vest to and from school every day, especially if they are bus children. New vests are available at the school office- \$10.

RELEASE FROM SCHOOL

If you intend to collect your child from class for a regular period i.e. swimming lessons, music lessons, please complete a **Release from Tuition form** for approval from the school office. A new form is required to be completed for each current year.

DROP OFF AND PICK UPS

If you are dropping your child off in the morning, we encourage you to use our kiss and go zone on Selwyn Street. If you are the first car into the zone, please drive right to the end to allow following cars to park behind you. For safety reasons, we ask that cars do not come down Gallipoli Street and do a U-turn into the Kiss and Go Zone.

Regarding pickups and drop offs, please adhere to the yellow no parking lines, and refrain from double parking. The staff car-park is reserved for staff and visitor cars only, this is not a drop off point.

LUNCH ON-LINE ORDERS UPDATING CLASSROOMS

If you have a Lunch-Online App, please remember to update your child's details by clicking "members" and changing their classroom name (otherwise their lunches will end up in the wrong location). Lunch orders start up again on Monday 3rd February.

BUSES

PLEASE, PLEASE remind children to sign off the bus if they are not taking it. If you feel your child may not remember, please email or call the office prior to 2.30pm.

KEEP US UP TO DATE

Please remember to advise the office of any changes to your contact details throughout the year.



SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Issue 1 of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club is now available. Book online with the current issue number 1 – www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz. Orders close **3pm, Thursday 20th March**. No late orders please.

SPORTS UPDATE

Please read all the information for the Waiwhio and Waikewai Swimming Sports. As always we will need some amazing parent helpers - let me know if you are available. We are lucky enough to have the Selwyn Swimming Instructors in for a couple of weeks - this is kindly paid by WFS fundraising - many thanks for everyone's ongoing support!

Medley event: Friday 14 Feb (week 3) 1 length breaststroke, 1 length backstroke and 1 length freestyle.

Waiwhio & Waikewai Swimming Sports: Tuesday 18 February Pp 19 Feb

Ellesmere Zone Swimming: Wednesday 5 March (week 6)

Canterbury Swimming event: Thursday 3 April (week 10)

Canterbury Triathlon

This is an event for the year 5 and 6 children only.

It is on Tuesday 25th February. If your child is interested in entering this event please contact Ms Davison by Friday 7th February. It is held out in South Eyreton and parents will need to take their child to this event. The swim is outside so children need to have had a go at other triathlons before they attempt this one.

Race details: Yr 5/6 100m Swim, 7km Bike, 2km Run

**Waikewai (Years 5 and 6) & Waiwhio (Years 3 and 4)
Swimming Sports 2025**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Where: Leeston Consolidated School Pool
When: **Tuesday 18 February (week 4)**
Postponement Day: Wednesday 19 February

Children from rooms 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15 will be involved in the school swimming sports.

The swimming sports will be split into **two sessions. The competitive swimming will start at 10.00am and the non-competitive will follow in the afternoon.** The competitive swimming sports will start at 10.00am. The non-competitive swimming sports will start at 1.00pm. In the morning, the children from the Waikewai and Waiwhio Syndicate, who are **able to swim a length or more, will** compete in the swimming. We will time the 2 length events in order to send the fastest children to the zone event.

On the day children will need to bring the following:

- Togs and at least one swimming towel
- Warm clothing and a t-shirt (can be their house colour) for between events
- Drink & some food to eat at the pool
- Sun block
- Long hair tied up or wearing a cap
- Sun hat

Children need to stay at school for the day. That means if they swim in the morning they go back to class for the afternoon.

Children must wear their school uniform to school, however, to encourage pride in our house system children are allowed to wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house, at the pool. The colours are D'Arcy = yellow, Pultney = blue, Market = red and Selwyn = green. This is just for fun and not compulsory.

The **medley event** (3 x 1 length) will be held on **Friday 14 February (week 3) at 9.30am.**

As with each school sporting event I will need the assistance of some parent helpers. If you are able to help, please fill in the slip and return to Carol Davison, Room 10 by **Wednesday 12 February**. To be eligible for further competition, children must compete in the **2 LENGTH EVENTS**. Remember, the year 5 and 6 swimming cups are up for grabs so children need to swim their hardest!! (Ellesmere Zone Swimming will be held at the Southbridge Pool on Wednesday 5 March.) This includes year 4 children. The Canterbury Swimming event is on Thursday 3 April at the Selwyn Pool (Rolleston).

Thanks for all your support.

Carol Davison
Sports Co-ordinator

I can help out at the Competitive Swimming Sports morning session on Tuesday 18th February starting at 10.00am

_____ (name) _____ (mobile number)

I can help for the medley event Friday 14 February at 9.30am

_____ (name) _____ (mobile number)

Please return this notice by Wednesday 12 Feb or let Ms Davison know ASAP. Thank you!

Waiwhio & Waikewai School Swimming Sports

Tuesday 18 February

PP Wednesday 19 February

Please note these times are only approximate

Approximate time	Events	Year levels
Competitive		
Starts at 10.00am		
10.00am	1 length freestyle	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
10.20am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths freestyle	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
10.40am	1 length backstroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
11.00am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths backstroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
House Relay		
11.20am	1 length breaststroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
11.40am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths breaststroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
	2 lengths Butterfly	
Lunch 12.00 - 12.40pm (allows time to get pool ready for afternoon session)		
Waiwhio goes back to class and the children get changed inside. Line up on their numbers ready to walk over to the pool.		
Non-Competitive		
Starts at 1.00pm		
1.00pm	Width Swimmers: there and back 1. Kickboard - front and back 2. Noodle - front and back 3. Streamline- front and back 4. Freestyle 5. Backstroke 6. Medley- freestyle and backstroke	Year 5 & 6 Get changed and back to class Year 4 & 3
1.30pm	Water Confident Swimmers: 1. Running race - there and back 2. Noodle race 3. Noodle streamline 4. Kickboard - streamline 5. Freestyle 6. Backstroke	Year 4 & 3
2.00pm	Obstacle course around the pool & free swim	

- **Children are expected to be at school for the whole day. If your child competes in the morning then they will be back in the classroom in the afternoon.**
- **Medley event will be held on Friday 14 February @ 9.30am.**
- **Ellesmere Zone Swimming Wednesday 5 March @ Southbridge Pool.**
- **Please discuss with your child what event they are competing in.**

WHANAU FRIENDS AND SCHOOL (WFS)



Leeston Consolidated School WHANAU FRIENDS AND SCHOOL

To support the school in helping all children thrive and grow in their time in our learning community.

The Whanau Friends and School organises events to raise funds to support the school with extras for the children and pastoral care to support families.

We have a great team and hope to build on that again this year. So please consider joining us.

Ways you can help - joining the committee, helping at fundraisers and teacher support. Our first meeting of the year is Tuesday 4th February at 7pm in the staff room - we would love to have you on board!

If you are interested, please get in contact by emailing us on wfs@leeston.school.nz and please follow us on our Facebook page – Leeston School Whanau Friends and School.

VISITOR AND STUDENT VISTAB

Any parent helpers on site at school are to sign in at the school office prior to visiting and on departure to sign out. If you are bringing students in late or taking them early from class, please also sign them in or out.

EDGE MOBILE APP - Free

Our cloud based student management system (EDGE) allows caregiver access to the caregivers portal on an App using your current email address the school holds for you. The portal gives you quick and easy access to information for students in your household including Attendance, Student Reports and School Payments.

Further login instructions, information is on our school website www.leeston.school.nz under Communication.

SCHOOL DOCS FOR PARENTS AND WHĀNAU

Leeston Consolidated School uses SchoolDocs to maintain a comprehensive, up-to-date set of policies and procedures. These policies and procedures follow guidelines and legislation and best practice, and have been tailored for our school. There is a link under policies on our school website (www.leeston.school.nz). You may find the **Parents and Whānau** section a useful starting point.

You can use the quick links to find information, or use Search to find information on the site.

MEDICINES

Please return current medications that were taken home at the end of 2024 to the office. If the prescription and dose hasn't changed we will use last year's form, however any changes will require new forms to be completed.

EARLY ARRIVALS

A gentle reminder that children are **not permitted** on the school grounds before **8.30am**. Children may wait inside the school gate area, by the bike stands before the 8.30am bell rings.

LEESTON SCHOOL BATTERY RECYCLING

If you have any old used batteries and are about to chuck them in the rubbish bin, **STOP!** Send them with your child to the office at school where there is a battery collection box, so we can recycle them and help our environment.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website for further term updates

29 Jan	Term 1 Commences
30 Jan	Newsletter Swimming Instructors
31 Jan	Whole School Assembly Swimming Instructors
3 -12 Feb	Swimming Instructors
4 Feb	WFS Meeting 7pm - Staffroom
6 Feb	Waitangi Day - Public Holiday
12 Feb	Meet the Teacher evening 7pm - Hall
13 Feb	Junior Swimming Demonstration Newsletter
14 Feb	Whole School Assembly
18 Feb	School Swimming Sports
19 Feb	pp School Swimming Sports
25 Feb	Canty Triathlon
26 Feb	Waiwhio Picnic
27 Feb	pp Waiwhio Picnic Newsletter Whanaungatanga
28 Feb	Whole School Assembly
3 - 7 March	WOW (Walk or Wheel Week)
5 March	Zone Swimming
6 March	Cricket Tourn Yr 5 & 6 teams
10 March - 12 March	Yr 5 & 6 camp at Living Springs
13 March	Newsletter
14 March	Whole School Assembly

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Now is the perfect time to secure the Before and/or After School care that you need for your child/ren in Term 1!

We have been planning another exciting and fun-filled programme for your children to enjoy in Term 1, which is open for bookings at the following link:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25term%201%25>

Please remember that *Permanent Recurring/Regular* rates are for bookings of the same time and day each week, all term. These bookings must be made by week 2 of the term.

Casual rates are for bookings that are made after week 2 of the term or for one off bookings, i.e. not the same days and times each week. Essentially, *Casual* rates are for any extra bookings that are added on top of your normal permanent bookings for the term.

For help with bookings, please email accounts@busybumbles.co.nz or call us at the office – 03 347 3031.

When making your booking, please take a few minutes to ensure that all information saved within Enrolmy is up to date and correct for your family. This includes your child's information, as well as all details for yourself and any other adults that may be included within your account. In particular, please ensure your child's School name and Room along with Authorised Pick-Up details are current, and any relevant Allergies/Medical information is provided in full. If there is anything that you feel should be discussed further, please email us or approach the venue staff directly.

Further details about our Before and After School programme, along with lots of other useful information, can be found on our website:

<https://www.busybumbles.co.nz/>

We can't wait to see all those smiling faces back for more fun with Busy Bumbles!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Carly Napier
Operations Manager



Ellesmere Touch

2025 Summer Season

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!!

Games played on Fridays, starting from 4pm at the Southbridge Domain.

7th Feb to 28th Feb 2025

To register, head to the Ellesmere Touch Facebook page

This is a free competition designed for children and teens ages 4 to 17

Ellesmeretouch@gmail.com

Cost Free

Teams Teams will be arranged based on registration numbers. Please register individually or in Family groups. You will not be required to come up with your own teams.

To register, please fill out the Google form

Updates and further information will also be posted on the [Facebook page](#).



BEGINNER SKATEBOARD LESSONS

Sunday 9 February

Leeston Primary School

Sunday 16 February

Darfield Skate Park

Learn the basics of skateboarding including the features of the board, how to ride and basic tips and tricks to get you rolling on your way with confidence. All equipment provided.

10–11am: Female only, all ages.

11–12pm: All ages.

\$10 per person.

Bookings required.



[SELWYN.GOVT.NZ/EVENTS](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/events)

