

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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

Thursday 27 February 2025



Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou



A big congratulations to all our swimmers competing at our recent school swimming sports held last week! It was wonderful to see the confidence and determination displayed by everyone, and to hear the encouragement from onlookers. A very big thank you to Ms Davison for organising this event, and to our teaching teams for the swift and efficient marshalling of children. Thank you too, to our wonderful parent helpers – we couldn't have done it without you!

COHORT ENTRY WHANAU AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Board at Leeston School are considering moving to 'Cohort Entry' for our intake of New Entrants, in line with other primary school in our Kāhui. Essentially this means that instead of starting on their 5th birthday, New Entrants would instead begin on one of 8 dates predetermined by the MoE. These dates would be at the beginning of Week 1 and Week 6 of each school term; new students would begin in small groups rather than as individuals. The move to cohort entry would not stop a parent waiting until they feel their child is ready before starting them at school as long as they are fully enrolled before their 6th birthday.

The MoE have conducted extensive research into this area and have discovered that schools which have already moved to cohort entry reported that the change:

Supported new entrant social and emotional wellbeing as they started in groups, often with friends from ECE.

Supported learning for new entrants and their peers as teachers had more time to teach.

Supported whānau wellbeing as their children settled well into school, and created opportunities for them to connect with other whānau and the school.

Helped teachers plan ahead for groups of new children and teach in uninterrupted blocks as they knew when the next group of students were due to start.

Enabled schools to plan transition events and activities that reached more whānau at the same time, and connected whānau to each other and the school.

Before making a decision to stay with the status quo or change to adopt a cohort entry model; the Board would like to hear your opinions and thoughts about the potential move.

Should the Board choose to adopt cohort entry then it wouldn't come into place until term 3, 2025 at the earliest. Students enrolling in terms 1 and 2 would continue to start as and when they turn 5 years old.

A full copy of the report can be found here: www.ero.govt.nz/audience/parents

The online Consultation Survey which closes on Friday 21 March can be [found here](#).

Nga mihi nui
Lynda Taylor
Tumuaki

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

Sophie Pantling

REPRESENTATIVE GROUP APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL

Representative group applications are also open. Talented singers and musicians from our school can now apply for an audition to join a Representative Group - Junior Choir, Concert Band, Orchestra.

Applications are made online on the [Festival website here](#) and close on the 1st of April. Parents need to make the application so that they are aware of the rehearsal and performance commitments.

This is a wonderful opportunity for talented singers and musicians to have a chance to not only participate in a life-changing learning opportunity but also to represent our school while doing it. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Taylor.

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.

CREATING HEALTHY SCREEN USE ROUTINES

Creating Healthy Screen Use Routines

Screens are a big part of our lives, and when used mindfully, they can be a great tool for learning and connection. However, too much screen time or unstructured use can lead to challenges with focus, sleep, and emotional regulation. This guide provides simple strategies for setting healthy screen habits in your home.

1. Start Conversations About Screen Use

Encouraging open communication helps children understand why screen limits are important. Try these conversation starters:

- What's your favorite thing to do on your device?
- What's something fun you did today that didn't involve screens?
- Have you ever felt tired or grumpy after too much screen time?
- What do you think is a good balance between screens and other activities?

These questions help children reflect on their own screen habits without feeling judged.

2. Set Clear Screen Time Guidelines

Creating predictable rules helps reduce screen-time conflicts. Consider these guidelines:

- ✓ **Set time limits:** Decide how much daily screen time is appropriate for your child's age. (e.g., less than 30 minutes for school-aged children).
- ✓ **Schedule screen-free times:** No screens during meals, before bed, or in the morning before school.
- ✓ **Use a timer:** Help children transition away from screens by setting a visible timer (e.g., "10 more minutes, then it's time to play outside").
- ✓ **Explain the 'why' behind limits:** "Too much screen time before bed makes it harder to sleep."

3. Create Screen-Free Zones

Having areas in your home where screens are not used encourages healthy habits. Try:

- No screens in bedrooms to promote better sleep.
- No screens at the dinner table to encourage family conversation.
- Screen use only in shared spaces so parents can monitor content.

4. Balance Screen Time with Other Activities

Children need a mix of activities for healthy development. Encourage:

- Outdoor play (biking, running, sports).
- Reading or creative play (drawing, puzzles, building).
- Face-to-face social time with friends and family.
- "For every hour of screen time, let's do an hour of something active!"

5. Use Screens Mindfully

Not all screen time is equal. Focus on:

- **Quality over quantity:** Choose educational or interactive content rather than passive scrolling.
- **Co-viewing:** Watch or play games together and discuss what they're seeing.
- **Encouraging creativity:** Prefer screen activities like coding, digital drawing, or making music over endless video watching.
- **Taking breaks:** Teach kids to notice when they feel tired or grumpy and take a break.

6. Model Healthy Screen Habits

Children learn by watching their parents. Set an example by:

- Avoiding excessive phone use when spending time with family.
- Setting your own limits, like turning off screens before bed.
- Talking about your own screen use: "I need a break from my phone, so I'm going to read instead."

7. Adjust & Reassess As Needed

Screen habits change as children grow. Revisit your family's screen guidelines regularly and adjust based on:

- Age and school demands.
- Any changes in behavior related to screen time.
- New technologies and trends.

By setting clear expectations and using screens mindfully, you can help your child develop a balanced relationship with technology.

AA INSURANCE BIG LITTLE SPONSORSHIP

Nominate our school today for the chance to win one of four \$10,000 sports grants to help inspire the next generation of athletes! Nominations close Sunday 16th March.

Your nomination would be used to purchase padder tennis bats, nets and court paintings. Simply click on the link below to complete a nomination form. We appreciate your support!

[AA Insurance Big Little Sponsorship](#)

SPARE UNIFORM

We are happy to provide your children with spare clothing when needed, but we kindly ask that it be returned to school, washed, ready for the next student. Our stock is running very low as much of the spare uniform sent home has not been returned. If you find any items labeled LSC at home, please return them to the office.

Additionally, if you have any spare girls' underwear that your child has outgrown, we would be grateful to accept it. Thank you for your support!

EZYPAY

We have expanded our student payment options when using EdgeApp. While you are still able to pay via internet banking you now also have the option of using EzyPay.

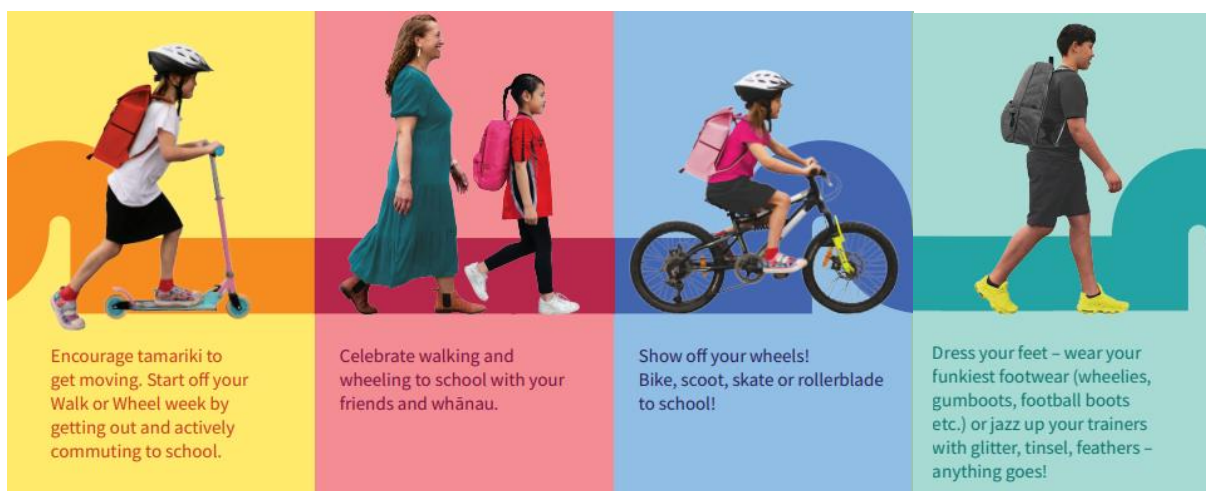
In the EdgeApp when on your child's finance page, you have the option of paying directly with EzyPay either from your bank account or a credit card. Fees apply. Any questions please contact the office.



WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL WEEK

Next week, our school is joining Walk or Wheel to School Week, a fun-filled event run alongside the Selwyn Council that encourages students to walk, bike, or scoot to school!

With **daily themes, exciting prizes, and awesome giveaways**, there’s plenty to get involved in. Get your passport stamped daily to go into the prize draw for some cool prizes. If you use the bus to get to school, just be that little bit more active in the playground to get your passport stamped. We can’t wait to kick things off next week—let’s get moving!



MONDAY - Move it Monday. Walk or Wheel to school. If you catch the school bus

TUESDAY - Travel together and walk or wheel to school with your friends and family.

THURSDAY- Show off your wheels! During second lunch you can use your bike, rollerblades and scooter.

FRIDAY - Funky feet Friday. Wear your funkiest footwear

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Learning begins at 9am, and students are expected to arrive before this time to prepare for the day ahead. Our first bell to welcome children on site is at 8.30am. We kindly ask that you make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time. While we acknowledge that some days children have appointments during school hours we don't want children to miss out on school unnecessarily as you can see from the chart below the impact this has on a child's attendance and learning.

If there are any special circumstances affecting your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us so we can better understand and support your whānau.

If your child misses:	That equals:	Which is:	And over 13 years of schooling, that is:
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

“How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child...”

If your child misses:	That equals:	Which is:	And over 13 years of schooling, that is:
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 mins per day	1 hr 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

SPORTS UPDATE

The year 3 - 6 swimming sports went very well last Wednesday. We had some fabulous results from the sports. The next big event is the Zone Swimming Sports at Southbridge pool. This is on Wednesday 5 March. The children need to have their permission notice back by Thursday 27 so that Ms Davison can get the transport list out on Friday.

Ellesmere Zone Swimming: Wednesday 5 March (week 6)

Canterbury Swimming event: Thursday 3 April (week 10)

School Duathlon

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

It is on **Tuesday 18 March (week 8)**. There will be two categories: the competitive and the non-competitive. The non-competitive is much shorter and allows children to have a go if they are unsure of their ability. The competitive is similar to the Canterbury event - 2km run, 6km cycle and 1km run to end the race. If your child is doing the competitive event, they need to be fit and understand the road rules

(we cycle on the road and run on the footpath). They also need a roadworthy bike and helmet. We will need a number of adults to help out with this event. Ms Davison will give out permission notices next week (before camp).

Waikewai & Waiwhio Swimming Results 2025

	Year Groups	1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place
Championship 2 Lengths Freestyle	Year 3 Girls	x	x	x	x
	Year 3 Boys	x	x	x	x
	Year 4 Girls	Grace Stewart	Ava Wilson	Eva Murphy	x
	Year 4 Boys	Riley Long	James Brockie	Archie Argyle	Fletcher Lodge
	Year 5 Girls	Kristina Reekie	Amelia Long	Connie Hooper	Lila Calle Mostrey
	Year 5 Boys	Noah Rollo	Stuart Pouniu	Maddox Harley	Bradly Hobbs
	Year 6 Girls	Sera Luvenitoga	Mary Pouniu	Summer Fearnley	Ava Borisi
	Year 6 Boys	Bradly Hobbs	Zeus Cane	Visori Vanavana	x
Championship 2 Lengths Backstroke	Year 3 Girls	x	x	x	x
	Year 3 Boys	x	x	x	x
	Year 4 Girls	Grace Stewart	Eva Murphy	Ava Wilson	Frankie Clark
	Year 4 Boys	Riley Long	Fletcher Lodge	Archie Argyle	James Brockie
	Year 5 Girls	Amelia Long	Kristina Reekie	Skyla Zajonskowski	Isla Legg
	Year 5 Boys	Noah Rollo	Clark Hunt	x	x
	Year 6 Girls	Sera Luvenitoga	Mary Pouniu	Summer Fearnley	Heidi McMaster
	Year 6 Boys	Visori Vanavana	Brody Milne	Lachlan Preddy	x
Championship 2 Lengths Breaststroke	Year 3 Girls	x	x	x	x
	Year 3 Boys	x	x	x	x
	Year 4 Girls	Grace Stewart	Ava Wilson	x	x
	Year 4 Boys	Riley Long	Archie Argyle	x	x
	Year 5 Girls	Amelia Long	Inti Calle Mostrey	Isla Mulvena	Esther Burns
	Year 5 Boys	Noah Rollo	Stuart Pouniu	Clark Hunt	Maddox Harley
	Year 6 Girls	Sera Luvenitoga	Ava Borisi	Mary Pouniu	Summer Fearnley
	Year 6 Boys	Brody Milne	x	x	x
Championship Medley (backstroke, breaststroke & freestyle)	Year 4 Girls	Grace Stewart	Ava Wilson	Eva Murphy	x
	Year 4 Boys	Riley Long	x	x	x
	Year 5 Girls	Amelia Long	Adele Bland	Isla Legg	Isla Mulvena
	Year 5 Boys	Noah Rollo	Clark Hunt	Maddox Harley	Bradly Hobbs
	Year 6 Girls	Sera Luvenitoga	Mary Pouniu	Ava Borisi	Summer Fearnley
	Year 6 Boys	Brody Milne	x	x	x

ECO WARRIOR NEWS

Leeston School Eco Warriors have been busy distributing the school's wonderful harvest of apples and pears. Some have gone to share with the community in our Kai Kart, the rest we distributed around the classes. The Eco Warriors have been earning their "Knife licences" as they learn to safely cut up apples.

We have also been looking at plants and our new planter boxes around the library and working out what would grow best in there. Some good discussions and observations.....

"Cacti are low maintenance and would survive all summer" "But what about the spikes?" "How about succulents?" "What about carrots and potatoes?"

We came to the conclusion the plants need to be: ok to touch, look nice, not get too big, smell nice, and be hardy. Watch this space to see what we plant!!



CRUSADER VISIT

We were fortunate to have two Crusaders visit our school today! Antonio Shalfoon and Louie Chapman spent time with our junior and senior students, sharing their insights, before heading out to the field for some skills training and games with our seniors.



**Leeston Consolidated School
19 Selwyn Street
Leeston 7632**



Monday 24th February 2025

**PTA
FUNDRAISING**

This year the PTA committee will once again be participating in our usual fundraising project of selling EcoStore soaps and Whittakers chocolate slabs. These are New Zealand made products, and we would love for you to support our efforts with these New Zealand businesses.

Please complete the form below and return to the drop box. You can also email your order form to pta@leeston.school.nz. All forms must be returned to school by Monday 10th March 2025. The more we sell, the more we raise to go towards our efforts this year which includes paying for the Tamariki's swimming instructors for 2026.

Payments can be made by cash or bank transfer. Donations can be dropped in with your form in cash or paid electronically to Leeston School PTA bank account number 02-0860-0074659-066 and reference your child's name and class number please. Do not transfer money into your child's school account please. **If you do not return your form, you will not receive any product.**

Kind regards,

Leeston Consolidated School PTA

PTA FUNDRAISING

Oldest Child's Name:

Room:

Please indicate your fundraising option for 2025 by circling one of the below options.

Chocolate

Eco Store Soap

\$20 Donation

I have enclosed a \$20 donation

I have paid a \$20 donation via internet banking

Comments:

.....
.....
.....

LEESTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PTA PRESENTS...

CLASSIC

CAR SHOW



SATURDAY
MARCH 29TH 2025
10.00 - 2.00PM



LEESTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

18 SELWYN STREET, LEESTON, 7632

GOLD COIN ENTRY - UNDER 10'S FREE

LIMITED ON THE DAY BOOKINGS FOR CARS

CARS. ● MARKET STALLS. ● COFFEE. ● BBQ ● ICE CREAMS.

For guaranteed car bookings, and stall holders please email:

wfs@leeston.school.nz

or call Russell 0274929855

DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website for further term updates

27 Feb	pp Waiwhio Picnic Newsletter
28 Feb	Whole School Assembly
3 March - 7 March	WOW (Walk or Wheel Week)
3 March	Waikekewai Camp Meeting 6pm
4 March	PTA Meeting 7pm
5 March	Zone Swimming
7 March	Whanaungatanga
10 March - 12 March	Yr 5 & 6 camp at Living Springs pp Zone Swimming BOT Meeting
13 March	Newsletter
14 March	Whole School Assembly
18 March	School Duathlon
19 March	Planting Day Y4
20 March	pp Planting Day Y4
27 March	Newsletter Whanau Hui
1 April	PTA Meeting 7pm
2 April	Waikekewai Stream Trip TBC
3 April	Canty Swimming
4 April	Whole School Assembly
7 April	BOT Meeting 6pm
8 April	Padder Tennis
10 April	Newsletter
11 April	Term 1 Finishes at 3pm
28 April	Term 2 Commences
29 April - 6 May	Life Education
1 May	Newsletter

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>

Coffee and Play: St John's Church Hall

Need a coffee and a place to chat after school drop-off? Are your pre-schoolers needing playtime? We have new softplay flooring areas, a construction corner and other toys for stimulation while you have hot, bottomless filter coffee (tea available) and a chance to sit and chat before you start the rest of the day.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 8.45, in the church hall in Selwyn St .

Open Day
Tuesday 18 March 2025

SELWYN HOUSE PRE-SCHOOL
A co-educational
pre school for ages 2.5 to 5

SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL
Girls Years 1-8

**Thriving
Today,
Changing
Tomorrow.**

link to register attendance for this event can be found here: <https://enrol.selwynhouse.school.nz/open-day>. Additionally, accepting scholarship applications. More information can be found here: <https://selwynhouse.school.nz/scholarships/>



Leeston RFC registrations are now open and also there is a registration day this Sunday 11am – 12 noon for those that want to register in person. Here is the link for registering if you are able to add that

<https://myaccount.rugbyexplorer.com.au/choose-registration?name=Leeston%20RFC>



girls SMASH

ROLLESTON FOSTER PARK

MONDAYS | 4.00 - 4.45PM

17TH FEBRUARY - 10TH MARCH

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

\$20 FOR THE 4 WEEK PROGRAMME



GIRLS GOT GAME Basketball Skills Session

Fridays — 28 February, 14 and 28 March, 4–5pm
Darfield High School Gymnasium

Fridays — 7 and 21 March, 4 April, 4–5pm
Ellesmere College Gymnasium (Leeston)

FREE

The Selwyn Hawks, *Girls Got Game* team aim to introduce more young girls to basketball in a fun and safe environment. Learn skills, play games, gain confidence and have fun with friends alongside our amazing female coaches at this 3-week workshop. All abilities welcome. Aimed at girls 5 to 12 years. Register now.

SELWYN.GOV.TZ/EVENTS



We have a great selection of topical parent workshops coming up this year in Rolleston. Please do pass this info on to your staff who are also parents as well as your student's parents. Everyone is welcome.

Starting Next Week!

Positive Parenting Series

- Tues 25 Feb:** Strengths-based parenting
- Tues 4 Mar:** Building respectful relationships
- Tues 11 Mar:** Building ownership & empowerment



Jam packed with non-judgemental, practical ideas and tips for building strong relationships and open communication with your kids, whether they are 6 or 26. Join one, or join them all.

RSVP now

<https://tinyurl.com/4j44npsn>