

# LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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



Thursday 12 March 2026

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## Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou

***Ka ora te wai, Ka ora te whenua, Ka ora te tangata***

If the water is healthy, the land will be nourished, and the people will be provided for.



Kia ora Koutou

Recently our Junior Team visited their local river (The Waitatari) while the Waiwhio Team explored their local environment at Fisherman's Wharf. These visits were a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to connect with our amazing environment right here on our doorstep.

Apart from having a lot of fun, spending time in these special places helps our students develop a deeper understanding of the importance of caring for the land and waterways that sustain us. When we nurture our environment, we also nurture the wellbeing of our people. Through exploration, observation, and learning outdoors, our students are reminded that looking after our natural spaces is a shared responsibility — one that helps our whole community thrive.

And on that note, we are wishing our Senior students, currently on camp at Hanmer Springs, all the very best. I know they will be spending a lot of time outdoors, building independence, teamwork and resilience and I'm really looking forward to spending the day with them on Thursday.

Nga mihi nui  
Lynda Taylor

## WELCOME TO LEESTON SCHOOL

Stella Kaynes, Tommy McLintock, Tilly Lundaahl, Octavia Connell, Daniel Bullock-McGee-Roles

### LUNCH ORDERS NEW WEBSITE

Ellesmere Kitchen will continue to be our lunch provider however ordering a school lunch is now done via their new website - <http://www.ellesmerekitchen.co.nz>. Please do not use Kindo.

### HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER

Just a quick (and slightly delicious) reminder that **Hot Cross Bun orders close this Friday at 12pm. Any orders not paid for by the Friday 12pm cut-off will need to be cancelled**

Order link:

<https://forms.gle/BzJxKCohMVPsRshK6>

### LEESTON LEGENDS

We are always delighted to celebrate and share our students' achievements. If your child is involved in any extracurricular activities, we would love to include their accomplishments in our newsletter.

Please email the details, along with a photo, to [admin@leeston.school.nz](mailto:admin@leeston.school.nz), and we will feature them in an upcoming edition.

### SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Issue 2 of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club is now available. Book online with the current issue number 2 – [www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz](http://www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz). Orders close 3pm, Thursday 12th March. No late orders please.

### KISS AND GO ZONE

Please avoid driving down Gallipoli Street and turning directly into the Kiss and Go zone in the mornings. The camber of the road makes it difficult to do this safely while pedestrians are using the footpath. Please only enter the kiss and go zone from Selwyn Street. Thank you for helping keep this area safe for our tamariki.

### THE BIG LITTLE SPONSORSHIP 2026

AA Insurance is giving schools the opportunity to win a \$10,000 sports grant for sporting equipment. If you would like to nominate Leeston School it would be much appreciated. Click the link below:

<https://www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little>

### CONTACTING TEACHERS

We ask that you contact the school office for any notices regarding changes to your child's pick-up or drop-off arrangements during the day, rather than contacting the classroom teacher directly.

Teachers are not able to check class Dojo or emails while they are teaching, so messages sent this way may not reach the child in time. Likewise, please **always** advise the office of an absentee, not the classroom teacher.

### ATTENDANCE

As many of you will be aware, the Ministry of Education has a strong focus on raising attendance levels across all schools in New Zealand, with 80% of all children attending 90% of the time.

Regular attendance is considered to be 90% or more (maximum 5 days absent in a term). Our term 4 summary from 2025, indicates that our regular attendance was 75% so we have some way to go to reach our target.

## Term 4 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?


 Regular Attendance

**75%**

Compared to 74% in Term 4, 2024

 Irregular Absence 16%

Compared to 16% in Term 4, 2024






 Moderate Absence 5%

Compared to 7% in Term 4, 2024

 Chronic Absence 4%

Compared to 3% in Term 4, 2024

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

-  (M) Illness / Medical Absence 53%
-  (J) Explained and Approved 20%
-  (G) Holiday 13%
-  (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 12%
-  (?) Unknown (Temporary) 2%

How many students were on time to class?

**98%** of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

Due to these new targets we are required to introduce an Attendance Management Plan which is linked [here](#), and which can also be found on our website. It outlines the Ministry guidelines, our procedures for analysing attendance and our stepped attendance response plan when children are absent from school. Please take some time to read through this, so that you know what to expect should your child's attendance be more than 5 days a term.

It is important that children are at school as often as possible. Days away can quickly add up if children are sick and then have time away for a holiday or a day off for their birthday etc. quickly without noticing children can end up having 5-6 weeks a year away. We understand that they need to stay home if they are sick, however we ask that you carefully consider the impact on learning before taking children out of school for any other reason.



**Help us celebrate by wearing your mismatched or loud socks on Friday 20th March.**

**Gold coin donation to support the Downs Syndrome community would be appreciated.**

# WOW WEEK

## FUNKY FEET FRIDAY



# WHEELS DAY



## FONTERRA MILK TANKER MASTERPIECE COMPETITION

This project invites students to construct their own version of a Fonterra tanker using whatever materials they like, big or small, paper, cardboard or Lego. Perhaps use an old scooter, skateboard or bike you have at home.....anything goes. Let your imagination run wild.

Judging Day is **Wednesday 22nd April** (Term 2), amazing prizes, followed by a whole school breakfast shout from Fonterra!

Let's get behind the Fonterra initiative, designed to encourage creativity while educating children about the journey of milk.

We are very grateful to Fonterra for their continued support of Leeston Primary School.



# Milk Tanker Masterpiece Competition

**Calling all aspiring engineers and creative minds! It's time to showcase your talent by designing and crafting your very own 3D Milk Tanker model. Whether you prefer cardboard, clay, LEGO bricks, or any other materials, let your imagination run wild and bring your unique Milk Tanker masterpiece to life!**



<p><b>How to Enter:</b> Create your 3D Milk Tanker model using any materials you prefer. Drop off your masterpiece at Leeston School reception/office.</p> <p><b>Eligibility:</b> Open to all students.</p> <p><b>Submission Deadline:</b> All entries must be submitted by Tuesday 21st April 2026.</p> <p><b>Judging Date:</b> Wednesday 22nd April 2026.</p>	<p><b>Prizes:</b></p> <p><b>1st Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$50 Voucher</p> <p><b>2nd Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$30 Voucher</p> <p><b>3rd Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$20 Voucher</p>
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## ECO WARRIORS NEWS

Last year, some Eco Warriors entered poems in a "Love Letter to the World" poetry competition for Climate Matters. Aoibhinn Brady's poem, "My love for the Earth" was given an Honourable Mention.

Here's what the judges wrote:

*"My love for the Earth" was a beautiful, hand-written poem by 9-year-old Aoibhinn Brady, which conveys unconditional awe and excitement, as well as the activities that humans can do to appreciate Earth's beauty. In the final line, it emphasised that Earth is a beautiful place for everyone - an ambiguous "you" that applies to all living things."*

Congratulations Aoibhinn - we are all so very proud of you!

## My Love For The Earth By Aoibhinn Brady

Earth is an amazing home  
With lots of space to roam.  
New Zealand, Germany and Ireland too  
So much to see and do.  
Earth has mountains so high  
Earth has oceans so blue  
You can climb high if you like  
And go scuba diving too.  
Life on earth can be exciting.  
Life on earth can be frightening.  
In the stormy days there can be lots of lightning.  
I love the earth it's a great place to be  
It's a great place for you and me.

Our wonderful eco warriors, new and old, have been having fun playing games during wet lunches, and collecting and sharing fruit when it's dry.

Please keep an eye on our Kia Kart as people are always donating produce here. Remember to just take what you need.

Our school hens have returned from their holiday at Mrs Stoliker's house and are being cared for by all the classes at school who take turns on a weekly basis. To introduce our school hens, the grey one is lady, the brown one is called Amber, and the black hen is Brianna.



On the weekends the wonderful Mrs C (and Mrs Tarpey) look after our hens. Other people also help with Hamilton Seeds donating wheat and R and K lawns and hedges donating pellets and minerals.



# Waiwhio Trip to Fisherman's Point Feb 2026



# **NEW FAMILIES POT LUCK DINNER**



## **Welcome To Leeston Consolidated School**

The PTA, along with our Principal Lynda Taylor, would like to invite your family to our Potluck Dinner. A way to welcome new families and give you an opportunity to meet with our Principal, staff, PTA members, and each other.  
An evening of fun, food and frivolity!

**When: Thursday 26th March 2026**

**Where: Leeston Consolidated School Staff Room**

**Time: 5.00pm**

**Eating @5.30pm**

**What to bring:**

**A savoury dish or substantial salad for Pot-luck  
Non-alcoholic drink**

**Ice blocks will be provided for the children**

We look forward to meeting you and your family, and are happy to provide any information which will assist you and your child(ren) to find your place within our school family.

**RSVP to: Megan at [admin@leeston.school.nz](mailto:admin@leeston.school.nz) or 3243 493 by Wednesday 18th March**

## The Waitatari Team studying the aquatic and bird life at the Waitatari river (Harts Creek)



## Leeston School Families, Teachers & Friends

Country in the Country 2026 poster featuring Kaylee Bell. The poster has a black background with white text and a photo of Kaylee Bell wearing a cowboy hat. The text includes: 'COUNTRY IN THE COUNTRY' in large letters, 'FAMILY CONCERT 14th March', 'Ellesmere Showgrounds Leeston', and 'KAYLEE BELL' in a red banner. At the bottom, it lists other acts: 'Zayde Blair | Steffany Beck | Sisterhood | The Eastern'.

Country in the Country would love to invite the Leeston School community to join us for an unforgettable afternoon of live country music, carnival fun and family friendly entertainment right here in Leeston.

**BUY A TICKET. SUPPORT THE SCHOOL.**  
\$10 from every ticket sold goes directly to the school community. Tickets are available to purchase at the school office.

COUNTRY IN THE COUNTRY 2026  
Ellesmere Showgrounds, Leeston  
Saturday | 14 March 2026 | 1:00PM

Festival Highlights:

- ✓ Family concert experience
- ✓ Fun carnival attractions
- ✓ Family picnic welcome
- ✓ BYO food & non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ Food carts & drinks available on site
- ✓ Entertainment for all ages
- ✓ Children 17 & under go FREE

We can't wait to see you all there!

Facebook: Country in the Country

This event is taking place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026, it is for all ages and under 17s are free of charge. Tickets cost \$77.00 for general admission and \$50.00 for senior citizens.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

*Refer to our website for further term updates*

13 March	PTA Hot X Buns orders in by 12noon
18 March -19 March	Waiwhio - iBike
20 March	pp Waiwhio - iBike Loud Socks Day - Gold coin donation
23 March	Waiwhio Poetry Competition Waitātari Class Poetry
24 March	Waiwhio Speech Competition Waitātari Class Poetry Ellesmere College Coaching with Waikekewai
25 March	Canty Swimming
26 March	Newsletter Waitātari Poetry semi finals New families Pot Luck Dinner
27 March	Whole School Assembly 11.30am Waiwhio
31 March	Padder Tennis Ellesmere College Coaching with Waikekewai PYA Meeting 7pm
1 April	Whole School Speech and Poetry Competition
2 April	Waikekewai Camp Celebration Term 1 Finishes at 3pm
20 April	Term 2 Commences Cohort Entry
21 April	Submit Milk Tanker Masterpiece to school
22 April	Milk Tanker Masterpiece Competition and Breakfast
23 April	Newsletter
24 April	Whole School Assembly
27 April	ANZAC Day - School Closed
30 April	School Cross Country
1 May	pp School Cross Country
4 May	Epro8
5 May	Epro8 school Event PTA Meeting 7pm
7 May	Rugby Fun Day
8 May	Whole School Assembly



Here is a link to the short video we made to share this exciting news:

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

(The video is on our main BBs website page, just scroll down to view and click Unmute to listen)

The updated [Terms & Conditions](#) will come into effect on Monday 20th April, the start of Term 2.

**Holiday Programme Bookings**  
**NOW OPEN**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR REDUCED RATES!**

Full Day (7:00am - 6:00pm)  
**ONLY \$55** (Save \$15)

School Hours (8:30am - 3:00pm)  
**ONLY \$40** (Save \$20)

Additional costs apply for Excursions & Incursion Days.

Book your space online at [www.busbumbles.co.nz](http://www.busbumbles.co.nz)

**LOOKING FOR A TUTOR....** \* Our schedules have opened up new spaces from next term.

\* We provide one-on-one tutoring recognizing the individual needs of students for reading, spelling and comprehension using a multisensory approach. \* Often children can be good readers (and not always) yet are not able to spell what they can read, so happy to chat about 'why'.

Robyn van den Berg - Dyslexia Tutoring Ltd - ☎ 021 02230664

Selwyn Sports Centre

# Girls on the Go Holiday Programme



Bookings required



\$45-\$55 per child daily



Ages 7-12 years

Monday to Friday  
7-17 April

8am-4pm or 9am-3pm

Week One

Monday 6 April	Tuesday 7 April	Wednesday 8 April	Thursday 9 April	Friday 10 April
Closed: Easter Monday	Easter Egg Hunt	PE Games	Werewolf	Session with Canterbury Floorball
	Basketball	Session with Mainland Football	Session with Canterbury Volleyball	UV Sports
	UV Sports	Table Tennis	Pickleball	Benchball
	Create your own sport	Wheels Wednesday	Backyard Cricket	Ki o Rahi

Week Two

Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
Multi Sport	Futsal	Dance with Swarm Studios	Hobby Horsing	Floorball
Youth BoxFit	Trip to Full Monty's	Build your own obstacle course	Basketball with the Selwyn Hawks	Turbo Touch
Session with Black Ferns and Mataitū		Hockey	Dodgeball	Capture the Flag
	Kids' Choice	Wheels Wednesday	Nerf Wars	Netball with VIP Frames & Trusses Tactix

[selwyn.govt.nz/holidayprogramme](http://selwyn.govt.nz/holidayprogramme)



Selwyn Sports Centre

# Active Holiday Programme



Bookings required



\$45-\$55 per child daily



Ages 7-12 years

Monday to Friday  
7-17 April

8am-4pm or 9am-3pm

Week One

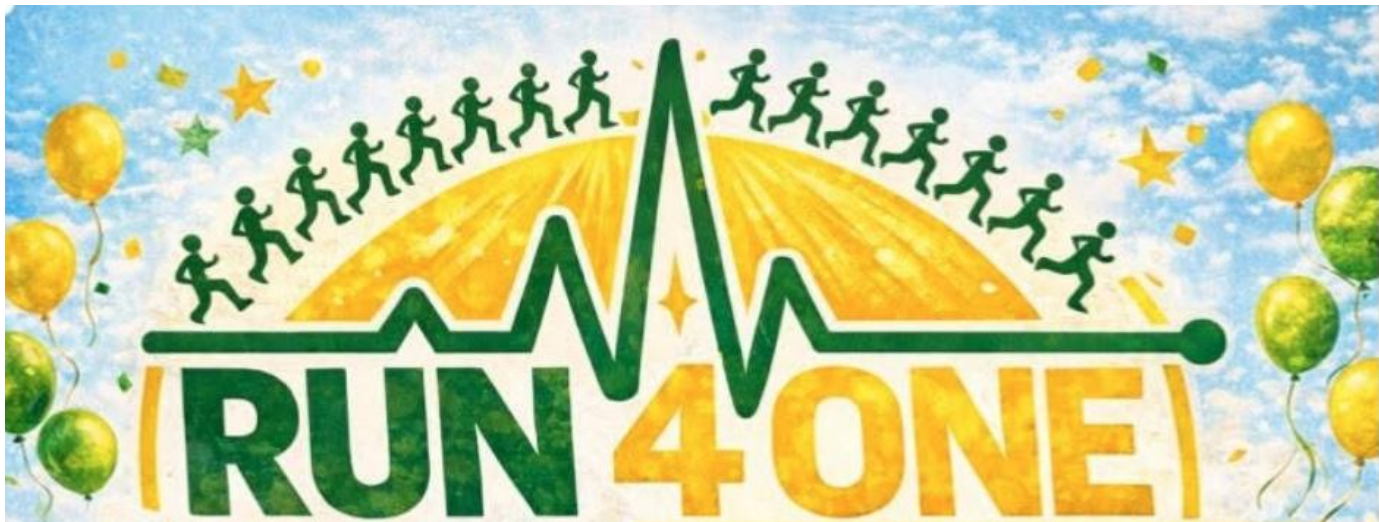
Monday 6 April	Tuesday 7 April	Wednesday 8 April	Thursday 9 April	Friday 10 April
Closed: Easter Monday	Basketball  Easter Egg Hunt  Create your own sport  UV Sports	Backyard Cricket  P.E Games  Session with Mainland Football  Wheels Wednesday	Werewolf  Pickleball  Session with Canterbury Volleyball  Running Track Relays	UV Sports  Session with Canterbury Floorball  Ki o Rahi  Benchball

Week Two

Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
Youth BoxFit  Multi Sport  Backyard Games & Bouncy Castle  Nerf Wars	Futsal  Kids' Choice  Trip to Full Monty's	Build your own obstacle course  Hockey  Table Tennis  Wheels Wednesday	Paper Plane Competition  Bootcamp  Basketball with the Selwyn Hawks  Dodgeball	Turbo Touch  Capture the Flag  Floorball  Skateboarding with Cheapskates Skate Skool

[selwyn.govt.nz/holidayprogramme](http://selwyn.govt.nz/holidayprogramme)





Sunday  
**MAY 3rd**

**At Lincoln University**

### Enter

There are individual, team and corporate options to enter and support this great cause:

- Individual = \$10
- Team (up to 6 people) = \$55
- Corporate team (up to 10 people) = \$100

**Sign up at Eventbrite** ➔

### What is it?

Run4one is a community driven fundraising and awareness event supporting St John ambulance Selwyn. The event will be based around a fun run/walk around a track within the Lincoln University campus on the 3rd of May where the money from entry fees will go to St John Selwyn.

On the day, there will be a community group BBQ and other food vendors and activities, such as St John who will be doing some first aid demonstrations. There will also be spot prizes for different categories on the day as well.



**We aim to raise \$11,111**

Funds will be used to directly support St John Selwyn's equipment, staffing, and emergency response capability, particularly for rural communities.

