



12 February 2025

Term 1 Week 1

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

Kia Ora Parents and Whanau

Welcome back to the 2025 school year.

As we start the new year we wish to welcome Mrs Michelle Houghton onto our staff. Mrs Houghton is teaching in Room 2. We also want to welcome back Miss Georgia Callander and Miss Marion Frei, we are pleased to have you back at Riversdale School.

There are also a number of new students, including **Jack Horrell** (with parents Megan and Clarke); **Hannah Hunt** (with parents Bernadette and Alistair); **Emily Gunton, Leo English, James Gibson, Colton Govan** and **Jack Orpwood**.

There are lots of beginning of the year activities planned for both students and whānau.

The annual **Riversdale Prime Lamb and Calf Competition** is being held tomorrow, 14th February, at the showgrounds from 6pm onwards. This team very generously donate money to our school - for which we are very appreciative. This year the school group is cooking the BBQ, if you are able to pop along and help us please let the office know.

On **Monday 17th February at 10am we are having a Mihi Whakatau** (welcome celebration) for our new students and staff. All school families are invited to join us in this welcome celebration.

On **Tuesday 18th February parents and children are invited to a Meet the Teachers** evening from 6-7pm. This is an informal way to meet your child's teacher and find out more about the classroom expectations and timetable. You can come any time from 6-7pm and stay as long or short a time as you like. If you want to have a one on one interview with your child's teacher you can always make an appointment with their teacher for another time.

The **Waimea Plains Athletics Day is on Thursday 27th of February** at the Riversdale Showgrounds. On this day we join with Waikaia and Balfour Schools. More information about this will come out next week.

On **Sunday 23rd February at 9am** we will be meeting at the grounds to get them ready for Thursday. We need some extra helpers to mark lines and mow tracks. If you are able to come along, bring a lawn mower and help out we would really appreciate the support. Please let the office know. The more people we have the quicker we can get the job finished.

This year we are fully introducing a programme called *Play Is The Way*. The classes had a trial look at the programme in Term 4 last year and the teachers were keen to explore it more. All staff

have been involved in a training day and now we are ready to fully implement it throughout the school.

The objectives of the programme are

- To develop independent, self-managing, self-motivated, empathetic children of good character
- To help staff, students and parents create a safe learning environment in which students learn to be independent, self-regulating, self-motivated learners in persistent pursuit of their personal best and able to get along with each other
- To develop students who are considerate of themselves, each other and the world in which they live with sound and good reasons for the things they say and do.

The programme is based around 5 “Life Rafts” and we will be looking at all of them over time. If you look below you will find an overview of each of the concepts being covered.

At the moment we are working on the Golden Rule



Ask your children about the discussions they are having in their classes about this.

If you would like to find out more about the programme, we have organised our facilitator, Marlene Campbell, to come and run a parents evening on Tuesday the 11th March from 6-7:30pm. More details will come out closer to the event. Or we have several copies of a book called *Children Aren't Made Of China* by Wilson McCaskill available for parents to borrow. It is an easy read and gives background to why this programme was developed. If you would like to borrow a copy give us a call.

Just a reminder that in Term 1 sun hats are to be worn when outside. The sun hats must have a brim all the way around (a cap style hat is not acceptable). The Home and School are doing an order for school sun hats; look back on the Hero posts from this week for ordering and payment details, by the 18th of February. No sun hat = playing under the big tree.

School safety vests are to be worn to and from school daily, even if students are being picked up at the gate. If your child has lost their vest the Home and School have some available to purchase for \$10 at the office (cash only). No vest = rubbish duty at morning tea time (gloves will be provided).

Cell phones are not to be used at school by students. If your child needs to bring their phone to school because of after school activities it is to be either tucked safely in their bag all day and not brought out, or handed into the office each morning.

A number of students bring toys from home to play with at lunchtimes, and while this is fun they can get damaged or lost at times. If it is a precious toy please leave it at home. We take no responsibility for any lost or damaged items from home.

Please ensure that absences and early pickups are communicated to the school in a timely manner to avoid any confusion. If your child/ren are absent, notify the school via the Hero App or text the school mobile and make sure to include the reason of absence. For early pickups either send a note with your child in the morning or text/ring the school prior to arriving.

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

14 February	Prime Lamb/Calf competition
17 February	Mihi Whakatau
18 February	Meet The Teachers Event
27 February	Waimea Athletics Day
3-14 March	REAP Swimming Lessons
11 March	Play Is the Way Parents Information Evening
13 March	Northern Athletics
22 March	Southland Athletics
26 March (TBC)	Northern Swimming Sports
3 April	Community Assembly
8 April	Year 8s at GRIP Leadership Day
9 April	John Parson - Digital Safety Parents Information Evening
11 April	End of Term 1

School Buses

Our four bus drivers are Jan Robertson, Michael Lobb, Rhonda Wilson and Tony Cooney
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

Tony Cooney - 021 1333791

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.

If someone is unlike you, seek to understand them.

TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO TREAT YOU



School is about stepping bravely into the unknown. The unknown is often uncomfortable. The braver you are, the more you learn.

BE BRAVE - PARTICIPATE TO PROGRESS

We don't come to school to be better than others. We come to school to better ourselves by being able to work with others.



PURSUE YOUR PERSONAL BEST NO MATTER WHO YOU WORK WITH

If you don't know why you're doing something then don't do it because it's most likely wrong.

HAVE REASONS FOR THE THINGS YOU SAY AND DO



We do the right thing because it's the best thing to do.



IT TAKES GREAT STRENGTH TO BE SENSIBLE

SELF-MASTERY CHECKLIST:

- Am I doing the right thing or the wrong thing?
- Am I making a strong decision or a weak decision?
- Are my feelings in charge of my actions or is my thinking in charge?
- Am I running away from the problem or am I dealing with it?
- Am I being my own boss or am I inviting my teacher to be my boss?
- Is my teacher trying to help me or hurt me?



BE THE MASTER, NOT THE VICTIM OF YOUR FEELINGS

Bus Monitors 2025

Here are our Bus Monitors for 2025. These students have been selected as they have shown our 3 Rs when traveling on the buses. Well done

Wendon Bus



Jaxson, Harrison, Amanda and Harry

Mandeville Bus



Trelise, Hannah, Campbell and Xian

Waipounamu Wendonside Bus



Nicole, Ben and Hazel

Kaweku Waimea Bus



Priyah, Ashlyn and Leyana

Scholastic Book Club Pamphlets

Due to the school no longer dealing with cheques and cash for this, you will have to order online please. The books will still come to school and we will hand them out as before. Remember if you want them as a gift to indicate on the form and we will phone you when they arrive.

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).



Community Notices

RIVERSDALE
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
POOL

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)	

A roll of yellow food wrap with a white inner core, shown at an angle.

A big THANK YOU to Christine O'Connor for the amazing artworks in our pool, and to Blake O'Connor for putting them up. If you haven't seen them, go and check them out!

x x x x x x

ATHLETICS DAY MENU

**SAUSAGE
IN BREAD** **\$3.00**

TOASTIE **\$3.00**

BAKING **\$2.00**

Thank you for supporting the
Balfour Home and School

Riversdale Golf - Juniors Friday Afternoons

Childrens after school golf will start this Friday, 14th February, from 3.30pm = 4.45pm, at the Riversdale Golf Club.

Sadly Stuart Riordan has moved to Invercargill so we would very much like parent help for our Friday golf.

We have plenty of golf clubs etc for the children.

Any queries please phone Debbie Schriek, 0210462596

Incredible Years



Incredible Years

Incredible Years is a free programme designed for parents/caregivers of child/children/tamariki aged 2½ to 8 years who would like to strengthen their parenting skills and learn how to manage challenging behaviour.

We acknowledge that parenting is one of the most important jobs adults can do and this programme aims to encourage positive and strong family relationships.

Incredible Years will start in Gore on the 4th March, every Tuesday from 10am – 12.30 pm

Gore Baptist Church 23 Ardwick Street

T 03 211 8272 T 0800 707 808 ext 272

M 027 223 1417

E iy@familyworkssld.nz



Ngā Tau Miharo
The Incredible Years Aotearoa



Opening Event

Community Sing - Our Songs Our Stories
Saturday 1st March 2025, 2.30 pm
First Church, Tay Street, Invercargill

We launch Heritage Month 2025 with a very special community event for all ages. Join us in the historic First Church for an afternoon tea, and a good old-fashioned family sing-a-long with musical maestro and choral director, Sally Bodkin-Allen leading us in renditions of popular songs from the past.

A free family-friendly event, though a koha is appreciated.

Do let us know if you're coming to this event by emailing events@heritagesouth.nz by Wednesday 26th February.

