

WOODBURY SCHOOL

09 February, Term 1 Week 2

Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk

Kia ora koutou,

Despite the poor weather and uncertainty around Alert Levels, it really has been wonderful having students back on site and the children have settled back in very quickly. Welcome back to all our children and families, in particular to those new to Woodbury School.

The children in Year 4-6 need to be commended for their attitude towards the new rules mandating mask use while inside. By Day 2 I could look in the windows of these classes and see the children getting on with their work as if nothing at all was different. After just a couple of days the novelty has worn off and the children have realised it really isn't a big deal wearing them, most of the time seemingly forgetting they have a mask on at all. Like many things with children, the hardest part is developing that personal responsibility to remember where your mask is located! We always have plenty of spares on hand though.

When the weather improves we will also see the opportunity for more learning outdoors in the fresh air. Thank you parents for your support with this, in normalising mask use so children can get to school and continue their education un-interrupted. In doing so you are showing them that wearing a mask is simple, in no way hinders their daily life and that they are supporting the health and wellbeing of themselves and others, particularly the more vulnerable members of society. I would like to thank the teachers as well for managing this change, looking for ways to be innovative and involving the outdoors more in the children's learning.

Our new Ministry-funded fence is almost completed, with just some signage to be erected. We are very grateful to the Hargreaves family for your time and generosity in planting some established rhododendrons along the fenceline, I am sure these will look amazing when in flower. Thank you also to the Edge family for your help in putting these in. It has been fun supporting parents to figure out how to open the gates from the inside!

Nga mihi nui,

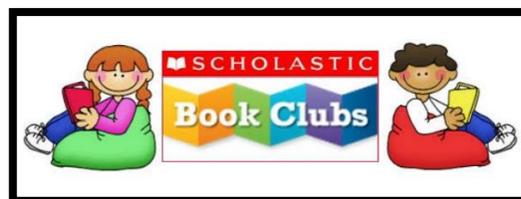
Mike de Joux



Term 1 New Starters



Sophie, Charlie, Olive, Angus, Gabby, Ted, Karlos



Scholastic Book Club

Last day for orders to be made online is 24th February.

Term calendar - Week by Week



[See attached](#) – please note this will be subject to change

Below is a week-by-week explanation of the term ahead. Due to the RED Alert Level settings, some activities are modified, while others have been cancelled for this year. Our annual Flower Show is one to be cancelled, but will definitely be on again in 2023. The alert level restrictions are much tighter than how we ended 2021, with a strong message from the Ministry of Education to limit the opportunity for groups of people coming on site. We can go ahead with most of our usual educational activities and trips, as we are able to minimise contact with those outside of school and have safety measures in place (such as distancing and mask use). Whereas last year we made changes to events such as athletics to allow a family member to attend, this year we have been discouraged from doing this.

Week 3 (14th - 18th Feb)

We have a visiting coach taking football skills with all classes on Tuesday. On Wednesday we have a planned visit to the Rocky Shore in Timaru for our Year 1-3 students (information to come home soon).

Week 4 (21st - 25th Feb)

Year 4-6 swimming daily at the Geraldine Pool. Parents [please follow this link](#) if you haven't already to fill in a survey for the instructors.

Week 5 (28th Feb - 4th March)

Year 4-6 swimming continues this week. We also had optional parent interviews planned for this week.

We have decided to shift these towards the end of Term or the start of Term 3 (date TBC). Please remember parents are always welcome to set a time to meet with the teacher, either on-site or on-line to catch up regarding their children's learning. We will also be contacting parents of specific students to explain how we are supporting their child's learning and development.

Week 6 (7th - 11th March)

Monday is "Bike to School Day", as children bring their bikes for the week in preparation for the triathlon on Friday. We will store these safely in the school pool area. The triathlon will be held on Friday, with students going out class-by-class. Unfortunately we will not be able to have parents on-site for this event (unless we are in ORANGE Alert Level).

Week 7 (14th - 18th March)

On Tuesday we have South Canterbury rugby sending us some coaches for the day to work with the children.

Week 11 (11th - 14th April)

On the last day of Term the Year 6 children will run our traditional ANZAC Service, again parental attendance is determined by which alert level we are in.

In addition to the above, the annual Winchester A & P Show which we contribute to has also been cancelled, along with the South Canterbury Year 5 Triathlon and Swimming events.

Year 4-6 Camp

This year we had planned for the Year 4-6 camp to be in May, which was due to not being able to secure the venue earlier. We are in the process of trying to shift this to later in the year, to try and ensure we can go ahead with fewer restrictions. We will keep parents posted on this.

Covid 19 cases and Schooling

Many families will have seen in the news disruptions already at schools in the North Island, with some staff and students isolating with Covid and a large number of close contacts isolating. We anticipate in the coming weeks and months that we will have both individual and groups of students requiring isolation at home, should we see the expected community transmission. Please contact the school if you have any questions at all regarding being a close contact and the actions you should take. The Ministry of Health website has plenty of information for the steps people need to take in general, and what constitutes being a [“Close Contact”](#).

We have planned for a wide-range of scenarios, including staff and students being absent. The government have stated that school closures are a last resort, and we will be exploring all options before that would be the case here. We will communicate with parents any changes and how this will look, as the days and weeks progress and we see how Covid impacts our community.

Communication - HERO

HERO will be used as a primary means of communication, alongside the fortnightly newsletter and emails. Facebook will be used on occasion to share school-wide activities or notices which wider family members may be interested in.

HERO has several functions on the parent screen, and we encourage parents to have a look around these to see what they have access to. In the future there are other aspects we can add, such as student achievement levels and reports.

[Here are the instructions again](#) for downloading the HERO app. The email you login with needs to be the email we have on file, so if it isn't working for you please contact the office to check we have the correct details.

We have had a few queries regarding the use of HERO, and will figure these out as we go and let parents know. A couple of things parents may have come across are noted below:

- Currently there is no back-and-forth messaging function on HERO, so any messages / queries will need to be emailed to the teacher's email address.
- There is a student profile section on the app, much like on ClassDojo, where teachers can share individual learning with parents.
- Some parents have asked about having to login each time on their phone. This is to do with the settings on your own phone, and allowing passwords to not be entered, so will need to be sorted under the “Notifications” section of your phone. Within the “Notifications” section parents can also set whether they get alerts (which we recommend) when items are posted.
- Parents with any issues or wanting access please send us your email, particularly dads as for some reason parents usually put the mother's details on the enrolment forms! Any email we have attached to a child's contact details will have access to the HERO account, so this can also include grandparents.

Remember also that you can use the “Absences” link to quickly and easily message us about any absences.

Accounts

Parents have a finance link within HERO where they can access their students accounts to see any outstanding payments required. These will be loaded up for any outstanding debt from 2021 and 2022 Stationery and Ritchies Bus invoices.

Community NEWS

GIANT LEAPS
SPEECH + DRAMA

Enrol now for 2022
classes in TIMARU!

Speech
NEW ZEALAND

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

0800 4 SPEECH | info@giantleaps.nz | WWW.GIANTLEAPS.NZ

Parent Help
For Parents and Family Support

FREE PARENTING HELPLINE | www.parenthelp.org.nz
ALL ISSUES ALL AGES | **0800 568 856**

Futures TEAM GOLF

Pleasant Point GC - 9am - 11am - February 13
 Gleniti GC - 9am - 11am - February 27
 Timaru GC - 9am - 11am - March 13
 Geraldine GC - 9am - 11am - March 27

If this is of interest go to registration link:
<https://bit.ly/3r7ncjH>

LOVE OF GOLF
futures
TEAM GOLF

6-HOLE EVENT SERIES STARTING
SUN 13 FEB | 9AM - 11AM
FOUR EVENTS AT FOUR COURSES
AROUND SOUTH CANTERBURY

Can't wait to get on the golf course? Team Golf brings kids together for a fun golf experience. It's a great format for young beginners who want to build confidence on-course and it's OKAY relaxed rules ensure it's all about having fun. Open to girls and boys 14 years & under, and mum and dad can come along to caddy. If you need to borrow equipment, we've got you covered!

Cost: \$5 per event | Pay on the day.
 Be in with a chance to win spot prizes.
 Scan the QR Code to view dates/venues and sign up. Team Golf contact:
 tom.wilson@golftz.org

SCAN ME TO REGISTER

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(Disclaimer: We in no way endorse or otherwise any notice placed in this section. It is purely an information section for public notices.)