

22 October 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We welcomed back our bi-ennial Pet Day event, with some excellent weather and excited children. Classrooms were a hive of activity in the 2 weeks prior, as students researched, recorded and presented knowledge of their animal. It was impressive to see and hear the knowledge children had of their animal, and how they care for their pet. Thank you again to parents, for organising getting your animal and children to the domain for the event, and giving up your time to be there to support this event.



TOP TEAMS

Next Wednesday 29th October, we have Top Teams at school. This is for children in HTK-P and the Tarahaoa classes. On the day the children take part in a range of exciting team-building activities, co-operating and supporting their team-mates while taking part in some physical and mental challenges. Carew Peel Forest join us, and we mix children across schools and years levels into teams of 6 or 7 students.

On the day, along with their usual hat and drink bottle, children will need a change of clothes (suitable for getting wet, togs underneath a t-shirt are a good idea) and a towel.

The event begins at 9.35am, finishing at 10.40am.

We also require a few helpers for this event. This mainly involves keeping score on an activity. If you are free to help out, [please fill in this quick survey](#).

ATHLETICS DAY

We look forward to our Athletics Day, coming up on Friday 7th November (Week 5). For those who have been before, the day will look the same as in previous years.

Please find [attached at this link](#) organisation for the day, including what time to arrive, what to bring, schedule of events, etc...

AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING

Pre-schoolers in the 2.20PM session are to come dressed in togs ahead of their lessons as there may be older school children using changing room at this time.

Children are not to be left to go to lessons unsupervised and parents must be on site to supervise at the pool.

Toilets at school will be left open, but children need to be supervised while heading over to the school block. The classrooms are out of bounds after 3.10PM.



SCHOOL POOL KEYS

School pool keys are available to purchase from the office for the 2025/26 season from Tuesday, 28th Oct. Cost is \$50. Please make contact with the office to arrange collection of keys. Keys are to be returned after 2026 end of season.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Attached here is our current Strategic Plan, which we are in the process of developing for the next 3 years.

We would love some feedback from parents going forward. Please follow this link to a survey, if you would like to contribute your thoughts. We have kept the survey nice and simple - "What is going well for your child and whānau", "What do you believe could be a future focus (within the next 3 years, and beyond)".

Thank you to those parents who have completed this already, it is great to get feedback from a parent's perspective and all comments are shared and considered in our planning meetings.

NEW STUDENT

It is wonderful to welcome Wallace along to Pekapeka this week.



TERM 4 NOTICES

A reminder that children need to bring their red hat, drink bottle, and apply sunscreen (there will be some available in class as well). Hats can be purchased from The Warehouse.

We require all children to wear their hat in order to be out in the sun. We recommend that if your child takes their hat home at the end of the day, it is immediately put into their schoolbag so as to be accessible the following school day. Students without hats will still be able to play with friends or do an activity at break times, but this will need to be in the covered decking area where there is shade.

TERM 4 DATES

[Attached here is a link](#) to the Term 4 calendar

Week 3 (20 - 24 October)

- Monday 20th at 7.00pm is a board meeting
- Thursday 23rd October is an NZEI (teaching union) strike day, and as such there will be no school on this day.
- Friday 24th October is a Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day, focussing on the new Maths Curriculum

Week 4 (27 - 31 October)

- Monday 27th is the Labour Day holiday
- Tuesday 28th October, After School Swimming with Clare Connolly begins. This goes every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for 4 weeks.
- On Wednesday morning all Year 3-6 students take part in the fun "Top Teams" event, which we host and invite Carew Peel Forest to join us for.
- On the Thursday our Year 6 students head along to the High School for a ropes challenge and orientation activity, as part of our transition to high school programme.

Week 5 (3 - 7 November)

- On Thursday 6th we have "Gumboot Friday", as a fundraiser for this mental health initiative (on Thursday as the Friday is athletics)
- Friday 7th November is our athletics event, at the Geraldine Domain, combined with Carew Peel Forest.

Week 7 (17 - 21 November)

- The Timaru Relay races are on at Caroline Bay, for Year 5/6 students, on Tuesday 18th.
- Wednesday 19th November at 6.30pm our Board of Trustees have a training evening with other BOT's in the area

Week 8 (24 - 28 November)

- Monday at 7.00pm is a BOT mtg
- Tuesday 25th November is South Canterbury Athletics, for selected students
- Friday 28th November is a transition visit for those Year 6's heading to Geraldine High School in 2026.

Week 9 (1 - 5 December)

- Year 4-6 swimming starts. This is during class time, every day for 2 weeks at the Geraldine Pool, with trained CBAY instructors.

Week 11 (15 - 17 December)

- Tuesday at 1.00pm is our end of year prizegiving at the Woodbury Hall. End year reports are also out on this day.
- Wednesday 17th December is our last day, with students finishing at 12.00pm. Note: we actually complete our required number of school days on the Tuesday. Wednesday morning is a "clean-up" day for putting away resources, equipment, etc... Children who do attend on this day can help out, or have a last day of the year to play with friends!