



**Newsletter**  
**Week 4**  
**Term 1 2026**  
**Leading Our Learning - Whai Akoranga**



Wednesday 25 February 2026

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers, and Ward School Whānau,

This week, we are officially in the middle of the term, as this is a shorter 9-term week! Time is flying by, and the students are in the full swing of their learning routines. As you can see from this newsletter, we have hit the ground running with loads of exciting opportunities. We appreciate all your support in making the start of 2026 a successful one!

### **Reef Assembly**

Reef will host this year's first sharing assembly. Please note these will now be held on a Thursday afternoon. The starting time remains 2:00 pm. This is a great way for each class to share and celebrate the great mahi they have done at school. Parents and whānau are more than welcome to attend. We would love to see you in the Reef.

### **Sea Week**

Next week the country celebrates Sea Week. Each class will be looking at matters do with the sea in their own way. As a school, we would love to finish the week with a trip to Ward Beach next Friday morning. It is a great opportunity to look at some of the ecosystems we have in our own backyard and also give back a little with a bit of a clean-up! We can't do this without your support. Today, we will send home a permission form and a request for support with transport. If you could get these back ASAP it would be greatly appreciated.

### **Fundamentals**

From Feb 16 to Feb 20, all three of our classes worked with staff from Stadium 2000 as part of the fundamental skills programme. Students learnt the rules, skills and movements of a variety of games and activities such as dodgeball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, and some heart-start water aerobics in the pool! Activities are modified to suit age and ability levels. It is a great week to develop both fine and gross motor skills.



### **Swimming Sports**

On Thursday, the 19th of February 2 of our classes, Wave Pool and Reef, attended the Seddon/ Ward Swimming sports. This was a fantastic event with all of our swimmers from year 3 through to 8 performing extremely well! We must give special mention to Margot Murray, who took out the overall Year 6 Girls Champion award and to Lucy Murray, who was first equal as the Year 7 Girls champion! This is given for the most consistent performer across Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke races. This Friday, we will send our Year 5-8 students to town for the combined small and rural schools swimming event. Following this, we will select a small team to represent us at the Marlborough district swimming champs in March.



### Author Visit

Today we were very lucky to have a local Author, Alyse Boaz, visit the school and talk to students from Rock Pool and Wave Pool. She talked about some of her fantastic new books and shared “Royal Blue” a fantastic educational book all about Starfish. The school has purchased a few of her books for the school library, so children will have the opportunity to explore them further.



### Team Fundraiser

On Friday the 20th of February, Team held their major fundraiser for the year. It was a fantastic day out on the golf course for 17 corporate teams of 4, which was followed by some kai and a silent auction. In all, TEAM raised over \$12 000, which is a phenomenal effort! We offer a massive thank you to the dedicated team of Parents that brought this event together, and also a massive thank you to all in the community who contributed, either through time on the day, baking and preparing food or giving donations for prizes. If you haven't been involved in TEAM yet, I strongly encourage you to reach out and get involved. TEAM fundraising and donations to the school mean we can operate 3 classrooms instead of 2, we can make our camping experiences amazing and affordable, and we can provide up-to-date resources that enhance student learning. TEAM doesn't work without you! Currently, we have a small group of dedicated volunteers who oversee the day-to-day running of TEAM. I know they would love to expand this group, so any way you can get involved and spread the workload will be greatly appreciated. Every family that is enrolled at Ward school is automatically a member of TEAM, so if you can help, please get in touch.

### Agri Kids

Congratulations to the team of Lucy Murray, Archie Booker and Charlie Todhunter, who took out 4th place in the recently held Agri Kids competition. While the team was a little disappointed not to make the top 3 and head to nationals, 4th place out of 35 teams is still an amazing achievement! Also congratulations to Mason Lloyd, his combined team got 5th! Well done.



### Celebration Wall

In the foyer outside Candi's office, we have started a celebration wall. This is where we would like to celebrate amazing achievements by our tamariki. If your child has achieved something special, please let your teacher know so we can celebrate them. One of the first students to go on the wall is Paddy Milton, who has been chosen to represent Marlborough in U14 Hockey! Great work Paddy, and good luck with your upcoming tournament!



### Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that School is not officially open for drop off until the first bus arrives at approximately 8:25. Before this, staff are busy planning and preparing for the school day. We understand there are occasionally exceptional circumstances which we can work around; however, we would appreciate your consideration in this matter to make sure everyone gets the best start to their day.

## Wave Pool Fundraiser (Repeat Notice)

Who doesn't love a hot cross bun? Wave Pool are selling Hot Cross Buns to help make their end-of-year camp more affordable and accessible for every year 3, 4 and 5 student. Your support helps us keep costs down and ensure all our students can take part in a memorable and inclusive camp experience. We are going to Bridge Valley in Nelson at the end of October. Please help us by supporting our fundraising efforts. Thanks for your support! Check out the link for more details: [Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser](#)

## From the Board of Trustees

Hello everyone, and welcome to the beginning of 2026 school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, even with all the rain. I just wanted to give you an update from the BOT for this year. We held our first meeting last week and have welcomed Rhianon Murray as our new secretary. We have also elected our portfolios for the parent representatives for the year ahead. I have been elected as Presiding member again for the year, with Hamish Murray being deputy and assisting when I am away in Australia working. Hamish has also taken on the HR portfolio, Niki Macfarlane the health and safety portfolio, Ratapu Moore the finance portfolio and Em Nesbit the property portfolio. We have also welcomed Whaea Robyn as the staff representative.

I just would like to take a moment to remind everyone of the complaints and concerns process policy which is found on School Docs ([www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz). Username: Ward Password: School). This is also where all our policies are kept and anyone can log on and provide feedback or comments for the board to review and I encourage you all to have a look. Any questions or problems logging on, then please let me know.

The school year is looking to be another great one, and we look forward to seeing what all of our children can accomplish throughout the year. If you have any questions please get in touch. My school email address is [angelal@ward.school.nz](mailto:angelal@ward.school.nz). Thanks once again for all your support for our wee school, Angela.



## Just for Laughs! (aka Mr Sangsters Dad Joke of the week!)

What is the astronaut's favourite part of a computer?

The space bar!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Aaron Sangster - Principal/Tumuaki

**Together**



**Respectful**



**Adaptable**



**Creative**



**Kind**



# Leading Our Learning - Whai Akoranga

## Important Term 1 Dates

Date	Event
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Feb 26	Reef Assembly
Feb 26	Lions Dinner - Fundraiser
Feb 27	Rural School Swimming Sports in Blenheim
Mar 3 & 10	Mako Rugby Taster
March 6	Ward Beach Visit
Mar 12	Wave Pool Assembly
Mar 22	Flaxbourne Show (100 Year anniversary)
Mar 26	Rock Pool Assembly
Mar 27	Marlborough District Swimming
Mar 28	Reef Assembly
Mar 24/25	Parent Interviews
Apr 1	Reef Assembly End of Term 1 for Students
Apr 2	Teacher Only Day - Maths - PD
April 23	Lions Dinner - Fundraiser



TE RĀ O NGĀ  
TAMARIKI  
CHILDREN'S DAY

**Children  
are our  
greatest gift**  
He taonga te tamaiti

**FREE EVENT**  
1-March-2026  
10am-to-1pm  
Brayshaw Heritage Park  
26 Arthur Baker Place  
Redwoodtown

**FREE Bus:**  
10:00 - Seymour Square to Brayshaw Heritage Park  
10:30 - Seymour Square to Brayshaw Heritage Park  
13:00 - Brayshaw Heritage Park to Seymour Square  
13:30 - Brayshaw Heritage Park to Seymour Square



**Lions Club of  
Seddon 4x4 Trek**

*A Unique Opportunity to Explore the Stunning  
High Country Through -  
BLACK BIRCH, BLAIRICH STATION & TYNTESFIELD*

**4x4 & Good Ground Clearance Required.**  
**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**  
(postponement date 12<sup>th</sup> April)

**Registration - 9.00am at the DASHWOOD  
JUNCTION SH1 (North of Seddon)**

**COST \$60.00 FOR VEHICLE & DRIVER - PLUS \$15.00 FOR EACH  
ADULT PASSENGER (UNDER 12YRS FREE)**

**EFTPOS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY.**

**Sorry NO DOGS or OTHER PETS  
BRING PACKED LUNCH & CAMERA**

**Proceeds will be donated to Blenheim Hospice, Lions Club and  
Landowners preferred Charities**

**Enquires - Mike Watson Ph 0276 097386**

# Ward School

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