**10th October 2025**

***Welcome Back***

**Welcome back to the final term of the school year. The one that leads us into sunshine, barbeques and fun.**

**As I mentioned earlier in the week, we have begun the process of carrying out some of the requested pool upgrades. We are updating the water heater, fixing the masonry work and installing a hot shower. (The shower is already done). There may be a slight delay in the pool opening for the season, but it will be worth it. I would like to thank and acknowledge Kara Walters for her work, the previous and current Board for their work, particularly in accumulating the necessary funds and for recognising the importance of the pool to Big Rock children’s development and as an asset to the wider community.**

**I understand that our first round of sushi and lunches online went well. I welcome any feedback on this.**

***School Photos***

**School photos are scheduled for this Tuesday- 14th October.**

***New Zealand Primary School’s Strike Action***

**All New Zealand primary schools will be closed on Thursday 23rd October as New Zealand teacher’s undertake industrial action.**

**We will be open again on Friday 24th October. Some schools have chosen to have a Teacher Only Day on this day, we are not one of them.**

***Stewart Island***

**I have just returned from Stewart Island with the senior class. After an early departure on Monday morning (5:15am) we had an event free drive down, and as good a crossing as you can expect when crossing Foveaux Strait., then the weather went a bit wonky. However, we managed, somehow to get through every planned activity, almost as planned. That was a testament to all the children’s effort, resilience and enthusiasm, and all out willingness to have a go. As well of course to the great support and encouragement they received from the amazing parents we had with us.**

 **These activities included fishing out at sea, kayaking and snorkelling. It is important to remember to understand that while we were down there, we had some of the heaviest rain I have ever encountered, gale force winds, including for a small period winds that are classified on the Beaufort Scale as hurricane force! Rest assured the children were never in any danger. Everyone went home with blue cod as well. We also went on a rather cool trip out to the salmon farm in Big Glory Bay, all courtesy of Sandford Fishing and Rakiura Water Taxis. We also had the opportunity to have dinner in the iconic South Seas Hotel. The children also had the opportunity to enjoy mussels from Big Glory Bay, as well as paua and kina, retrieved while snorkelling. A few lucky (and quiet) children and adults also had the privilege of seeing a kiwi in the wild.**

**The journey home was eventful that the ferry was delayed for 2 hours due to sea and weather conditions. I won’t describe the crossing except to say that it was in alignment with the legend of Foveaux Strait crossing of kiwi folklore.**

**All in all, an incredible trip. It wouldn’t have been anywhere near as successful without the help a magnificent group of parents, who helped with transport, activities, meals and encouragement. Thank you Angie, Dallas, Shane, Daniel, Mel, Marc and Cavan, as well of course the work of teachers Richard Murray and Rachael Ward.**

**I would also like to thank Shane and Amber of Mana Fishing Charters and Chook of Tequila Fishing Charters, Charlie from Sandford, Phil from Phil’s Kayaks, Aaron from Stewart Island Backpackers and the team at the South Seas Hotel. Incredible.**

**The children were immense; every child was brilliant the whole time. Not one issue. I couldn’t have been prouder or happier, and I know Richard felt the same.**

**Photos will be posted on the school Facebook page I hope the parents remember to post a few as well.**

***Date Change***

**The school End of Year Prizegiving is now on TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER.**

***Futsal***

**At this stage I don’t have next week’s futsal draw.**

**Enjoy the weekend**

**David Grant**

**Principal**