



Welcome to 2026

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and are all energetic and excited about the year ahead. We cannot wait until the start of term next week to see the tamariki once more!

Here is some information for the start of term.

2026 Staff

Principal - Kealy Warren

Kānuka - (Years 1-5) Anna Lopas

Kahikatea (Years 6-8) Ruth Pannett

Teacher Aides - Sher Stanbury

Administration - Annabel Trudehope

Office hours - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
8.30-2.30

Upcoming Events

Monday February 2 - Term 1 begins.

Friday February 6 - Waitangi Day. School closed for instruction.

Wednesday 11 February - Information Evening and Picnic

Wednesday 25 February - BP swimming. Akaroa.

Years 4-8

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March - Life Education Bus at school.

Stationery

If you do not have your child's stationery list please contact the class teacher or school office. If possible please have stationery ready for week 2 or earlier. If you do not have stationery for week 1 please still send your child to school. There is a lot of important learning in this time and setting of routines and expectations.

TU TOA Focus

The Tu Toa focus for week 1 and 2.

High Standards of Presentation

For the first two weeks of school we will be focussing on having high presentation standards in all areas - uniform, classroom environment, book standards etc. Starting the year strong ensures everyone understands clearly what is expected and why. Always giving our

School Uniform

The uniform can be purchased online.

<https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz>

Just type Little River in the search and click away. There is no charge for delivery over \$50. The school office still has the polar fleeces and a few polo shirts, if you would prefer to get them from the office (while stocks last)

The school has a mandatory school uniform. This is:

- blue polo shirt with logo
- blue polar fleece with logo and / or blue school jacket with logo
- any black bottoms
- any shoes that are appropriate for school and sports.
- Year 8 students are also allowed to wear the leavers sweatshirt.
- School bucket hat - Terms 1 and 4
- Shoes - suitable for sports and school life

Please ensure...

- Shorts are long enough to cover one's bottom!
- No make-up.
- Earrings - Studs only (hoops are a health and safety issue for sports.)
- Hair is tied back neatly.
- No rips or tears in clothing
- No jewellery except for pounamu / cultural taonga.

Wearing a school uniform means that pupils are focused on their education and not on their attire. Research has shown that when all pupils are wearing the same outfit, classrooms are more disciplined, with lower noise levels and significantly better 'listening' from pupils. When all students are wearing the same outfit, they are less concerned about how they look and how they fit in with their peers; thus, they can concentrate on their schoolwork.

Uniform process for infractions

- 1) Loving reminder from the teacher
- 2) Email home
- 3) Principal involvement.

We thank all the parents and tamariki for their support in

best.

ensuring all children wear the uniform correctly.

School Transport

For those children who catch the school bus, here is some information from school transport.

Caregivers are responsible for getting their children to school, which may involve getting the children to and from their nearest bus pick-up and drop-off location. Please either stay with your children while they are waiting for their school transport in the morning or keep in contact with them to make sure that they are picked up safely. It is recommended students and caregivers be at the bus pick-up/drop-off locations five to 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. If you wish to discuss any school transport related issues, please contact the school principal

If your child is not catching the bus for any reason please inform the school office and/or email Kealy. Also if your child is going on the bus and they do not normally we need to be informed. I am often looking for children who are in fact not catching the bus that day.

Drop off and Pickup

Please drop off and collect your child from the back gate. This is safer and in line with school policy.

Children are welcome to arrive from 8.30am. Prior to this time teachers are getting ready for the day.

Can children please be collected promptly after school. If they are waiting at school for a period of time then they will require supervision. This needs to be organised through Kealy.

Final Thoughts..

"Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi."

As the old net withers, another is remade.

The old gives way to the new; embracing change and new beginnings.

The Swimming Pool

Swimming instruction will begin on the first day of school. Please remind your children to bring their togs. Our children are very lucky in that they get to swim daily at school.

Parent Info Evening

5.30pm Wednesday 11 February. Family picnics and swimming time. Bring down a picnic, blanket and togs for a lovely get together. Younger and older children are very welcome.

6.30pm Information Session for Parents. We will be presenting information and answering any questions you may have about the year. Kānuka. If you require child supervision during the Information session, this will be provided.

Technology

Year 7/8 Technology is back in Akaroa this year. They have new staff and a new programme and we are looking forward to this. The bus will depart Monday mornings at 9.10 and return at 2.40, leaving Akaroa at 2pm. Starting Week 2, Term 1.

Ms Warren will teach the year 6 students while the year 7/8s are away. We will have our own technology during this time.

If you have any questions around this please pop in and see me.

SchoolDocs

As you know, all our school policies can be found on SchoolDocs. Our SchoolDocs site details are:

www.schooldocs.co.nz

Search: Little River School

Policies for Review in Term 1

Term 1 policies

- [Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy](#)
- [Sun Protection](#)
- [Digital Technology and Online Safety](#)
- [Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices](#)

Please have a look and share your ideas. I have also included some key policies with this newsletter for your perusal.