Little River School Newsletter









Term 3, Newsletter #11 - 5 September 2026

Kia Ora, Bula Vinaka, Bonjour, Kon'nichiwa and Olá

It is hard to believe we are already down to the final three weeks of term! The energy around school is high as students and staff work hard to bring everything together for our upcoming end-of-term events. Our school production preparations are in full swing. The costumes are coming together, lines are being memorised, and the hall is filled with music and drama as the tamariki rehearse. Due to the small staff numbers we are very dependent on the goodwill of the community in preparing for the production. Thanks go to Claire for reading lines with the cast and to James who is helping with the sound for the performance.

E noho e, kia raungāwari

Sit down and bide your time

Sherlock and Cinders

The performance of the production will be held in the Little River Community Hall on Wednesday 23 September (matinee) and Thursday 24 September (evening). Tickets for this will be on sale from Tuesday 8 September and can be obtained from the office. Tickets are $10 per adult and $5 per child.



Wednesday 9 September

The whole school will travel to Birdling's Flat to assist with the conservation efforts. Please make sure you have completed the permission and transport notice on HERO so that your child can attend.

Consultation

This year the LRS Board will be gathering your ideas for the Strategic Plan 2027-2029. This will determine the direction of the school for the next 3 years. Over the next weeks expect a phone call from a member of the board who will be reaching out for ideas and suggestions as to how to keep our school amazing.

We will also be holding a further consultation on the evening of Tuesday October 20 (next term) for our Māori whānau. Please note this date.

Upcoming Events

Monday 7 September: Milo Monday
Thursday 15 September: Weeding at Birdlings Flat
Friday 11 September: Hot Lunch
Monday 14 - Friday 18 September: Kealy attending the NZPF conference in Auckland.
Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori language week)
Tuesday 15 September: Football skills (at school)
Wednesday 16 September: Sport Canterbury Winter Tournament
Thursday 17 September: Sport Canterbury Winter Tournament (Jarod and Ollie will be competing)
Monday 21 September: Milo Monday
23-24 September: Sherlock and Cinders Performances
Friday 25 September: House Challenge, Whānau Assembly and Last day of Term 3 2026
Monday 12 October: Term 4 2026 begins



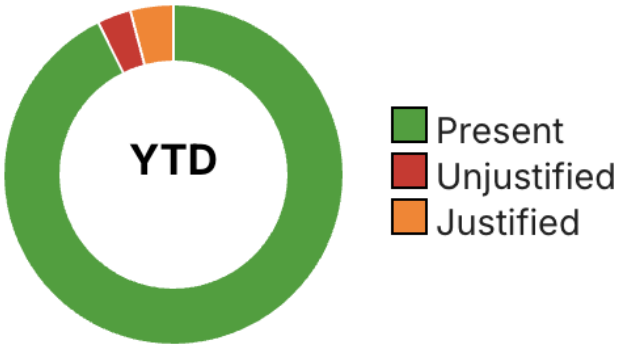
Hot Lunch - Friday

To warm up these cooler days, we have a hot lunch day coming up this week. Please make sure your orders and payment are handed in to the office by Wednesday morning this week. The pub is providing lunch this week.

6 Chicken Nuggets and Chips - $5

Attendance

Our school management system will now be sending attendance letters automatically after 5 days absence per term. This is in accordance with the attendance guidelines and reporting to parents requirements.



Year to date: 92.7%, Justified 4.1% Unjustified 3.2

Production Assistance Required

If there are any theatrical types who have some extra time we would welcome help with the production of the production! If you could help in any of the following areas please contact Ruth Pannett at school.

Costumes, Make-up, Hair, Props, Set Painting, Lighting/sound

Lunchtime practises - listening to lines, singing

Communication

Please ensure you have the SkoolLoop App installed and notifications turned on so that you receive communications in a timely manner



Members of the cast of Sherlock and Cinders

School Reports

As you will be aware there have been changes in the school reporting requirements. Also to note are the new curriculums which have changed expectations for each year group. There is now more content to be taught each year meaning that absences from school will have an even greater impact on learning.

School boards are legally required under the Education (School Boards) Regulations 2020 to provide written reports to parents and whānau on their child's progress and achievement at least twice a year in plain language.

Under updated Ministry of Education guidelines, primary school reports follow standardised components to provide clear, consistent information nationwide.

Core Components of a NZ Primary School Report

- **Progress Descriptors:** Standardised terms used for Reading, Writing, and Maths to show how a student is progressing against year-level expectations:
    - *Emerging / Developing:* Working towards expectations; not yet on track for end-of-year goals.
    - *Consolidating (mid year) / Proficient / Exceeding:* On track or exceeding expected learning levels for their year.
- **Teacher Narrative:** A comment explaining *why* a specific descriptor was chosen, highlighting evidence of learning, key strengths, and specific next steps. It includes tips on how parents can support learning at home.
- **Standardised Assessment Results:** Specific results from national monitoring tools such as PATs, SMART, e-asTTle, or Year 1–2 Phonics Checks . Please note that one test is not indicative of a child's progress. They are a moment in time knowledge capture.
- **Visual Progress Graph:** A clear visual representation showing the child's academic progress trajectory over time.
- **Attendance Record:** A summary of total days attended and absences.

There are a lot of curriculum changes occurring in education at this time but please be assured that we keep the needs of the students first and foremost as we navigate these new expectations.

Thanks and enjoy the week ahead
Kealy and the Team at Little River School