



Glenorchy School

NEWSLETTER TERM 4 Issue 1 - 7 October 2025

Welcome

Welcome back to the final term of the year. It was great to walk around the school yesterday and see all the students looking happy and excited to be with their friends again. There was a real buzz in the classrooms and out in the playground too. Term 4 is always a busy one and the staff have many exciting learning experiences planned which is going to make the term go quickly.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Fox, and his parents Dan and Gina, who arrived in Glenorchy at the end of last term. Fox has joined the Senior Room. This week we have also welcomed Harriet to the Junior Room, and her parents Luke and Pip, as well as her little brother George to the Glenorchy School community.

We are also pleased to welcome Kelly back.

Book Week

We finished the term with an exciting week of activities for Book Week. A big thank you to Amandine (Dine the Fox), Julia and Lyndsey from the Queenstown Library, Lesley from the Glenorchy Library and Craig Smith for helping make our Book Week so engaging for the students. It was great to see so many students getting behind book week and dressing up to celebrate on the final day.

Sunhats

It is school policy for all students to wear their school sun hat when outside during Term 4 and Term 1. We would like to thank the PTFA for purchasing some new hats this year to add to the supply we have.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school continues to be a strong focus and, as you are aware, is being monitored daily.

The table below shows the percentage of students at Glenorchy School that attended school regularly (ie, had less than 5 days absent from school a term) over 2024 and 2025. You can see that there was improvement in Term 1 and Term 2 this year from 2024. Term 3 this year was on a par with last year. We are hoping that for this final term of the year we can improve on the 81% from Term 4 2024.

Table showing percentage of Glenorchy School students who attended school regularly in Terms 1 - 4 throughout 2024 and 2025.

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
2025	79%	57%	48%	???
2024	57%	40%	48%	81%

Kids Art Work

Today we are sending home order forms for Kids Art Work products. If you wish to place an order, please have the form back to Gorettie by Monday 13 October.

TERM 4 DATES

6 October – 12 December

Small Schools Triathlon

16 October

BOT Meeting Dates

16 October
11 November

Labour Day (No School)

27 October

Teacher Only Day (No School)

28 October

Fire-Wise

3 November

Bike-Wise/Hugo Bridge

6 November

Wheels Wednesday

12 November

End of Year Prize-giving

11 December

Term 4 Ends

12 December

Possible Strike Action

NZEI, the union which represents many primary principals, teachers, and support staff, has given notice of potential strike action on Thursday 23rd October. If the strike goes ahead, we will have very limited options for staff on site, as the vast majority of our staff will be striking on this day. If you have no alternative care arrangements and require supervision for your children on the 23rd October, you must let Gorettie know by Monday 20th October. This will allow us to ensure we have adequate supervision and can keep all children safe. Thank you for your understanding and support as we manage the situation. As soon as we have confirmed information we will let you know if the strike is going ahead.

Eeling Trip

We have the opportunity this term to work with Ngai Tahu who are monitoring eels in the area. On Thursday 9 October we will be going down to the lagoon to observe the process and to have a question and answer session with Paulette who is doing the monitoring. Please send students to school with appropriate clothing for this activity - sturdy shoes or gumboots, and a warm jacket / raincoat.

Small Schools Triathlon

Next week, on Thursday 16 November, our Year 5 - Year 8 students will be attending the Small Schools Triathlon at the Events Centre. Arrangements for the day are being made and communicated to parents of Year 5 - Year 8 students via email.

NZ Shake Out Day

On Thursday 16 October Glenorchy School will be participating in the Great New Zealand Shake Out. At 9:30am we will hold an Earthquake Drill in the classrooms and run through our emergency procedures with the students.

Evacuation Hikoi

It is timely to remind you that if we have to evacuate the school in the event of an earthquake we will assemble on higher ground on the track that leads up to the Bible. At 2:00pm on Wednesday 15 October we will walk this route to show the students where we would assemble. Parents are welcome to join us if they wish.

Teacher Only Day

A reminder that Glenorchy School will be closed on Tuesday 28 October for a Teacher Only Day whilst teachers continue their professional learning in the new Maths Curriculum. This also gives families an extra long Labour Weekend break.

Working Bee

The Board of Trustees has scheduled a Working Bee for Sunday 19th October, 10:00am - 12:00pm with a sausage sizzle to follow. We hope many families can come along to make light work of the jobs that need done.

Teacher Workload in Term 4

Term 4 is especially busy for our teaching staff. As the school year draws to a close, teachers are deeply involved in a significant amount of specialised work beyond the classroom instruction you see daily. This crucial work ensures a smooth wrap-up of the current year and vital preparation for the next. Key tasks occupying our teachers' time over the next few weeks include

- **Gathering and analysing data:** Teachers are meticulously compiling and interpreting a wide range of student assessment data to measure progress against learning goals and to identify next steps.
- **Making On-balance Judgements:** A significant professional responsibility is formulating **on-balance judgements**. This involves carefully considering a substantial body of evidence - including daily work, assessments, observations and student voice - to determine a final, accurate overall achievement level for each student. This is a time-intensive process that requires deep professional reflection.
- **Report Writing:** The final detailed student reports require focused time and energy to personalise feedback, articulate achievements, and set goals for the future. This also includes finalizing entries for portfolio books too.

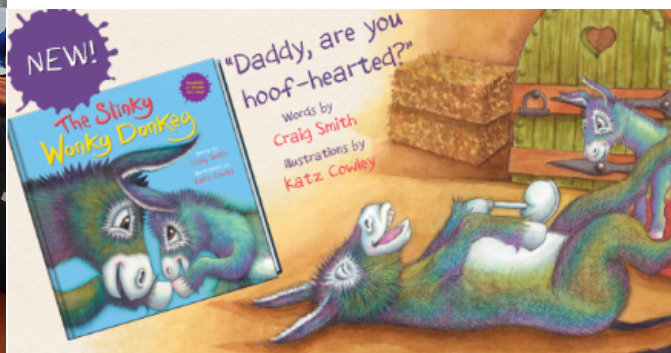
We know this time of year brings a flurry of final questions and requests from parents. We ask that you be mindful and respectful of the demanding workload teachers are managing during this period. While our staff remains committed to open communication, please understand that our capacity for immediate or extended meetings may be limited as we prioritise these critical, non-negotiable end-of-year duties.

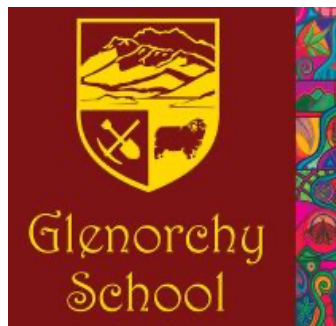
Student of the Week

	Junior Room	Senior Room
WEEK 9	Miller - Incredible reading and writing. Her finger spacing in her writing is amazing!	Charlie - Making great progress towards achieving his set learning goal.
WEEK 10	Blake - For working hard and making great choices all week.	Bella - for showing perseverance and hard work in maths, applying herself and her learning to tricky problems and achieving success.

Paula, Kelly, Michelle, Clair and Gorettie

Some Photos of the 'Book Day' dress-up with The Wonky Donkey Man - Craig Smith





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