



TERM FOUR, WEEK ONE

SWIMMING WEEK:

Swimming Week next week, daily.

Please note pick up time from the Balclutha Swimming Pool is at 3:00pm each day. Mrs Watson will have the sign-out sheet and will be at the entrance for you to see as you leave.

Thank you to those that have offered transport, please be at school by 1:15pm.

COMMUNITY CONSULT:

We will be conducting a community consultation in Week 3, to gather perspectives and feedback, ensuring that our decisions are informed by and responsive to the needs and desires of all residents and stakeholders. We can have a consult as a group, via a google form or an email. We ask you to respond and let us know which method is your preference.



Fiji Language Week:

This week classes have been learning about Fiji. There are many similarities between all the small Pasific islands, and we have enjoyed looking at and creating artwork. Here are our Bati family wearing traditional clothing.

A MESSAGE FROM MISS HOLDEN

I would like to share that I have accepted a teaching position for 2026 at Te Kura o Take Kārara in Wānaka. I have absolutely loved my time at Stirling School and have really enjoyed being back in the classroom. It has been such a joy to teach the wonderful children and to be part of such a caring and supportive school community.

I will miss all the amazing staff, children, and families, but I'm also feeling very excited about this next adventure as my partner Josh and I prepare to move to Wānaka.

In the meantime, I'm really looking forward to enjoying the rest of the term at Stirling.

PRINCIPAL WATSON MESSAGE

Kia ora, Bula

A fantastic start to Term 4 - rain, wind and sunshine.

This term always flies by and we all need to be on the same page for learning journeys - a big push to meet those goals and extend our skills even further. I know it is much lighter in the evenings but a good night sleep makes such a difference for learning minds.

Term 4 is wear a hat term - we ask each child to have a named wide brimmed hat (not caps) that is protecting their ears and neck. Classes have sunblock, but it is a good idea to get into the practice of putting on sunblock before school.

We welcome Mrs Cloete back next week - she has made a fantastic recovery from her cancer treatment. Mrs Cloete can't wait to be back in class.

As you will read below, we will farewell Miss Holden at the end of the year. We wish Paige a fantastic journey and every success in her new teaching position; we know she'll embrace the change and gain invaluable experience.

Tofa, Donna Watson

phone: 027 429 9272 (new school number)



MANUIA LE ASO FANAU!

Miss Sinclair Charlee - 11 Matauaina - 10
Jordan - 12 Leah - 11 Keerat - 6

CLASSROOM NEWS:

RUMA KĀKANO

We were so excited to be back at school this week, catching up with our friends and sharing stories from the holidays! On Tuesday, we had a visit from Skip, our Sports Activator. This session was lots of fun, we focused on developing our hand-eye coordination using tennis racquets. It was wonderful to see everyone encouraging and supporting each other during the activities.

In class, we did a special craft activity where Miss Latta gave us photos of our faces — but they were all cut up! We had to put them back together the best we could. The results were very funny, and they're now proudly displayed on our classroom wall!

For maths, we've started our fractions unit. We've learned that when we divide things, they must be equal, and that equal means the same. This week, we've been focusing on finding halves.

We're also super excited for school swimming next week, we can't wait to get in the pool!



RUMA TUPU

It's been a great first week back, and I hope you all enjoyed the holidays with your children. The class has settled back into routines beautifully and we've had a busy, fun start to the term.

In maths, we've been focusing on multiplication, using strategies such as equal grouping, skip counting, and repeated addition to help us understand multiplication in different ways.

For writing, the children have been working on recounts about their holidays, and they are now publishing these to display on our Wow Work Wall.

Over the school holidays, all staff took part in Pause, Breathe, Smile training. This is a mindfulness programme designed to help children build emotional awareness, focus, and resilience. We've begun introducing some of these practices in class, and the children are really enjoying learning simple breathing and focus techniques.

We've also been making the most of the sunny weather and getting outside for physical education. This week we played a game called Castles, which teaches the skills of defending an area and working as a team using zone defence. We also braved the cold on Tuesday when our Sports Activator, Skip, came to run a session.

Our topic focus for the term is Dance, and this week the children had lots of fun learning the Jibidi folk dance.



CLASSROOM NEWS:

RUMA MĀHURI

It has been great to see everyone back and ready for Term 4! This week has been no ordinary one, as Miss Cochrane was still holidaying in Japan. We were lucky to have Mrs Watson and Mrs Williams with us at the start of the week, and then Mrs Fraser on Friday. On Wednesday, we learnt all about Miss Cochrane's holiday adventures in Japan - it was so interesting to hear about her travels!

We have loved seeing the sunshine and being able to take our learning outdoors, especially for physical education. This week was Fijian Language Week. For reading, we explored stories and information about Fiji - learning about Fijian culture, traditional foods, art, and the country itself.

In maths, we began our financial literacy learning. We started by talking about incomes in real life and discussed what income might look like in our classroom. We explored different jobs and careers, how people earn income, and then looked at expenses - discovering how quickly costs can add up (especially as a parent!). We identified classroom expenses and researched examples, then had great discussions about needs versus wants - like toilet paper, new shoes, electricity, and lollies.

Next week, we'll begin using Banquer, a financial literacy app that will help us apply our learning and understand how money works in real-life situations.



RUMA RĀKAU

It was great to see all the children again this week. I hope you all had a good break with your children at home.

We focused on our holidays for writing this week and wrote three poems: a haiku, a diamante, and a 'where am I?' poem. Students first wrote down all the activities they did during the holidays and then chose one activity for each poem each day. It was an interesting way to share about our holidays, and I was really impressed with the quality of poetry from the class.

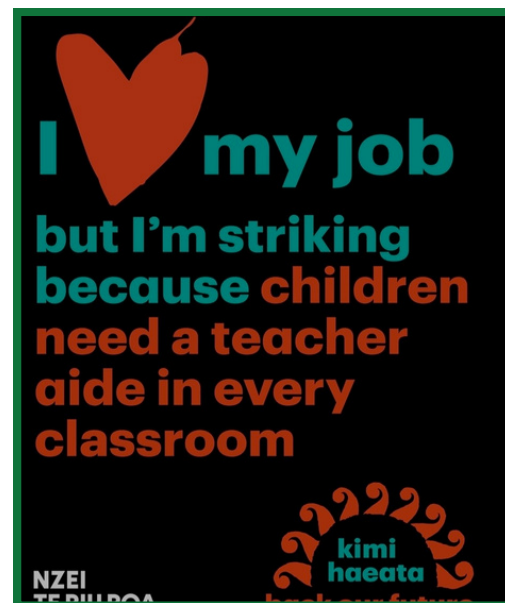
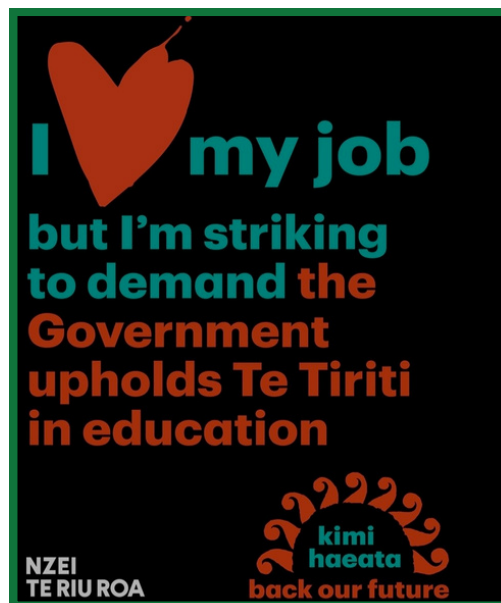
Our PE unit for the first half of the term is focusing on summer games. On Monday, students were put into groups of three and given a Smash Play game to become experts on. Each group will then teach their game to the rest of the class. The aim of this is to work on students' leadership skills and communication with their peers. Each group also had to think about how all students could be included, no matter their level of skill or ability.

We also started our inquiry unit for the term, which is all about 'Dance'. We are joining with Māhuri for this unit and will be learning two dances over the next five weeks. During the session, we watched some different styles of dance, such as folk, line, hip-hop, sasa, and haka. We also played some music and danced to the way the music made us feel. This was to try and break the ice and help everybody get over the initial nerves of dancing in front of each other. We look forward to showing our dances off in a few weeks' time.



TERM 4 EVENTS

Friday, Week 1, 3, 5 and 7	Year 7 - 8 Technology
13 - 17 th October	Swimming Week
14 th October	School Photos
21 st October	Little Learners 2pm - 3pm
22 nd October	Cricket Festival (year 5-8)
22 nd October	Board meeting - 5pm
23 rd October	Strike Day - School Closed
27 th October	Labour Day - School Closed
28 th October	Little Learners 2pm - 3pm
29 th October	Friends and Whānau meeting - 6pm
11 th November	Little Learners 2pm- 3pm
14 th November	Community Period
25 th November	Little Learners 2pm- 3pm
9 th December	Little Learners 2pm- 3pm
11 th December	Prize giving
12 th December	Last day for 2025!



SIGN THE PETITION

To Government: Back education that works for all tamariki

What we are asking:

As educators, whānau and community, we are calling on the Government to back our future. This means:

Tamariki need a teacher aide in every classroom

Fund a teacher aide in every class in Budget 2026.

Value educators fairly and ensure their work is secure

Attract – and retain – the best people to educate our tamariki, by delivering fair pay and secure work to all educators – and restoring pay equity.

Uphold te Tiriti o Waitangi in education

Protect te reo Māori as a taonga for our tamariki by reinstating funding for te reo Māori learning for education professionals.

Defend quality early childhood education

Make early childhood education accessible, affordable, culturally appropriate and high quality for all tamariki, by retaining 100% qualified teachers and pay parity, and by improving teacher: child ratios.

Why we are asking for this:

All tamariki deserve an education where they can learn, feel included and access learning support when they need it. However, the Government is taking public education in the wrong direction and tamariki are being left behind.

Schools, kindergartens, and early childhood centres have faced cuts to school lunches, te reo Māori programmes, beginning teacher pay, and literacy and te reo jobs. Some schools have to fundraise to help pay for teacher aides, whose support in the classroom is invaluable for all students. Many tamariki sit on learning support waitlists for months due to inadequate learning support staffing.

Attacks on quality early childhood education and scrapping of pay equity claims for our lowest paid in education make it clear the Government does not value the work of education professionals nor our children's learning.

Primary and early childhood education teachers, learning support workers, principals and support staff, kohanga reo, wharekura and whānau are coming together to seek a new dawn in education.

Join us in demanding better for our tamariki!
Kimi Haeata.
Back Our Future!

FOOD

TRUCK
Nights

**GOLD
COIN
ENTRY**

2025

**10 October
14 November
12 December**

5.00-8.00pm

2026

**13 February
13 March
10 April**



**Cross Recreation Centre
Glasgow Street, Balclutha**

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More information
03 418 3470

Visit our website
www.crossrecreationcentre.co.nz

Make & Create Workshop Series



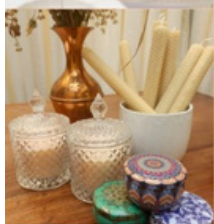
Textured Art

Saturday, 18 October 2025
1.00-3.00pm
\$100 per person



Perfume Making

Saturday, 1 November 2025
10.00-11.30am
\$85 per person



Candle Making

Saturday, 1 November 2025
2.30-4.00pm
\$85 per person



Dried Floral Arrangement - Pot

Saturday, 22 November 2025
10.00am-12.00pm
\$85 per person
• multiple colour options available



Dried Floral Arrangement - Hoop

Saturday, 22 November 2025
1.00-3.00pm
\$85 per person
• multiple colour options available



Acrylic Painting

Saturday, 6 December 2025
2.00-4.30pm
\$50 per person

Scan QR code to register:

