NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term Four, 2026

(03) 433 1366 email: office@ardgowan.school.nz

Principal's Message

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa. Warm greetings to you all.

There is a lot going on at school and a range of wonderful opportunities for our students to be part of. Today we farewelled the Life Education Bus. This organisation always does a fantastic job of sharing messages around health and our focus this time has been healthy eating. The tamariki thoroughly enjoy the experience and having the messages delivered in a different way, by a different person is always valuable.

Tomorrow our Kapa Haka ropu head to the Event Centre to perform as part of the North Otago Hui Ako event. They have put in a lot of time and effort into making their performance as polished as it is. A big thank you to Sarah Sutton who has been organising this event and leading the practices.

Swimming is continuing today with valuable life skills being taught to all students. We also have the Ki o Rahi tournament on Thursday and Do Blue for Diabetes to look forward to this week.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Home and School who provided a fantastic Halloween event for our community. It was a lot of fun!

Nga mihi nui
Adelle Banks
Principal

Congratulations to James Anderson and Emily Soper who competed in the recent tap dancing festival in Oamaru. Both had a very successful day with James winning several ribbons and taking out the Most points trophy for boys under 12 years. Emily was equally successful, coming 3rd in her solo, very highly commended in Song/Tap and winning a $100 scholarship.
Well done to both students, we are very proud of you.





Congratulations also to our equestrian team of Bella, Prue, Izzy and Lucas who competed at the North Otago A & P Interschools event bringing home some awesome ribbons.



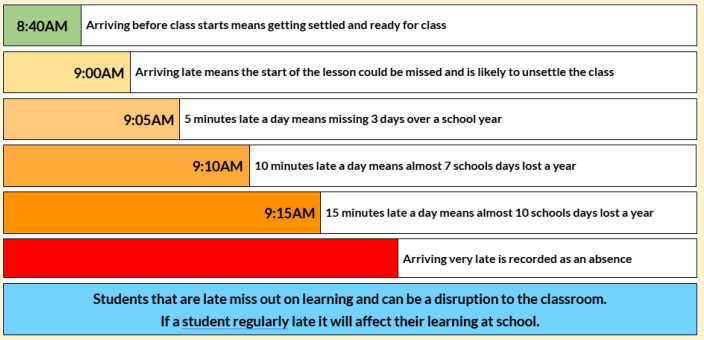


School Notices

Drink bottles - these are a must for all children to have every day while at school. Please ensure their drink bottle is full of water, and is in their bag every morning.

Signing out - If your child is leaving school early, or you are collecting your child during school time for any reason, please ensure you come to the office to sign them out. Should we have an emergency, it is vitally important that we know whether your son / daughter is on / off the school grounds.

POLICE VETTING for parents and caregivers.
If you would like to accompany the children on school trips and camps it is a requirement by law that all parents / caregivers be police vetted, and that the vet be current with our school. If you would like to be police vetted to enable you to join in these activities, please contact the school office. We have forms available on paper, or can email out to you if you prefer. Vetting lasts 3 years and there is no cost to you. A primary and Secondary form of ID must be provided on application.



A couple of reminders for families around drop off and pick up.
The Drop and Drive area is to be used for Drop and Drive only - NO PARKING.
The car park is for parking to drop off and pick up your child only - NO DROP AND DRIVE.
Please help to keep the children safe by using both areas for their intended purpose only as it creates frustration for other users when they are used inappropriately. Please drive carefully and safely when in and around our school.

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website: ardgowan.school.nz under the News and Events Tab at the top. It is regularly updated with as many dates as possible but please be aware some dates - especially those further on in the year, may change.

UNIFORM PRICES
Polo top Size 6 - 16 $32.50
Polo top Size S, M, L $37.00
Polar Fleece Size 4 - 14 $48.00
Polar Fleece Size S, M, L $57.00
Sunhats $23.00

A full range of sizes are now in stock in the office

SCHEDULE OF LUNCHES TERM FOUR 2026
MONDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. **ONLY MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS**
Items to be securely wrapped in tin foil and named with a vivid. No Bowls as they take up too much room. Items can be taken to class on the morning and put in the class tray to be transferred to the pie warmer. Please have items defrosted.
TUESDAY - OWN LUNCH
WEDNESDAY - OWN LUNCH
THURSDAY Subway orders every week. Please have orders into the school office by Wednesday mornings. Order envelopes are available at the school office. Correct cash please.
FRIDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. **ONLY MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS**
Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle at all times of the year. Our school promotes healthy eating whenever possible, a piece of fruit each day, and choosing healthy snack options for your child's lunchbox is a great way to ensure they get the best out of their day. It also greatly helps to cut down on the amount of plastic packaging we have to send to the tip each week.

Changed your address or phone number? Please let the office know.

Important Term 4 Dates for the Diary

School website calendar: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

November
Thursday 12th - Ki o Rahi tournament Year 5-8.
Tuesday 17th - Otago athletics Champs TBC. Postponement date 19th.
Friday 20th - Rural schools science day Year 8.
Monday 23rd - Teacher only day - School closed.
Wednesday 25th - Stock the Bus - mufti and donations for the bus.

Thursday 26th - Swimming pm.
Friday 27th - Year 8 - 9 Transition day at high schools.

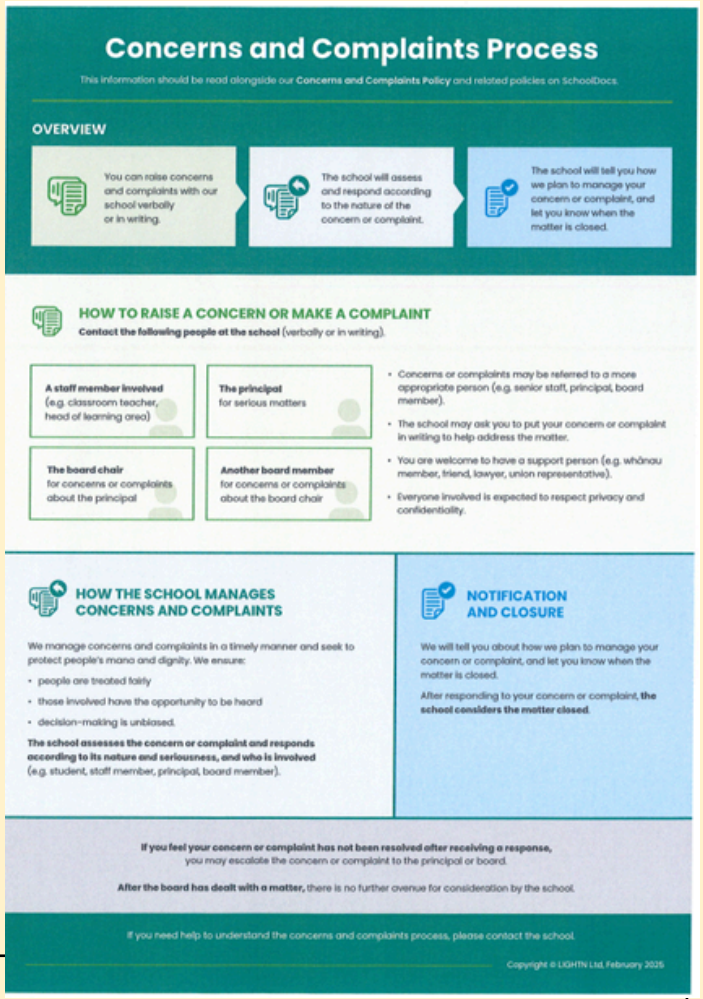
December 2026
Thursday 3rd - Year 1 and 2 Big Day Out - Totara Estate
Friday 4th - Year 8 water day - Glenavy.
Tuesday 8th - BOT Meeting 5:30pm.
Wednesday 16th - Final Day of Term 4.

2027 Start date: Monday 1st February
2027 End date: Thursday 16th December

End of day pick up

We are continually reviewing how our end of day pick up procedures are working so that all our students are kept safe. Our school procedure is that students need to be picked up or actively supervised by whanau from 3.10pm. After that they are no longer the responsibility of the school staff. We understand that from time to time this is not possible. If this is the case please let your child's teacher know.

- Parents who pick up their child / children and park in the carpark need to make sure they are getting out of the car and meeting them in the school grounds. This is to stop children being in the carpark unsupervised when many cars are moving around.
- Students that are getting picked up at the drop and drive need to stay inside the gates until the car they are travelling in is at the front of the queue and preferably get in on the school side of the vehicle.
- You must let us know if your child has a change to their normal arrangements eg: walking along the track when they normally get picked up. This helps us make sure students have permission to leave the school grounds.



Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our **Concerns and Complaints Policy** and related policies on SchoolDocs.

OVERVIEW

You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.

The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.

The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).

A staff member involved (e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)

The principal for serious matters

The board chair for concerns or complaints about the principal

Another board member for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member).
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter.
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative).
- Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.

HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).

NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, **the school considers the matter closed**.

If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response, you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

After the board has dealt with a matter, there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

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ARDGOWAN HOME AND SCHOOL

We welcome any of our parents/caregivers to join our Home and School committee.

homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz

Absentees. Please inform the school via email, phone or Skool Loop if your child is going to be absent or late to school for any reason. Please expect a phone call or email from our school office if you have not contacted us - this is to ensure all children are safe, and is a Ministry of Education requirement which all schools must follow.

Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of sickness and let the office know.

School and Community Feedback Our Board of Trustees really values feedback from our school families and community. If you have any comments or feedback please feel free to email feedback@ardgowan.school.nz all communication is treated confidentially

BUS FAMILIES. If your child is getting off at a different stop in the afternoon to what they would normally, please give Pearsons a call or

inform the school office so we can let the bus driver know. For safety reasons they are unable to drop children off at alternative stops unless prior parental permission is given

PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE BERM! Our neighbours across the road have a lovely area of grass in front of their house, but vehicles parked there cause a considerable safety hazard to the residents and other road users.Tyre marks on their lawn are not appreciated. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Parents - road rule changes are here!

Four road rule changes came into effect across New Zealand on **1 October 2026**. Make sure you know what's changed before you and your children head out on the road.

Check out the **four changes below**, plus a link to helpful information from NZ Transport Agency for parents on teaching children how to ride safely on the footpath.

https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/Riding-bikes-on-the-footpath-for-children-12-and-under.pdf



Caring for Kids: Essential First Aid Training
Do you look after children in your home? Would you know what to do in a medical emergency?
This **FREE half-day course** will give you the skills to identify and respond to serious illness and life-threatening medical emergencies. Through practical lessons and scenario-based activities, you'll gain the confidence to provide vital first aid assistance when it's needed most.
Course details
Date: Saturday 14 November
Time: 9.00am-1.30pm
Venue: St John Hall, 23 Exe Street, Oamaru
Spaces are limited. Bookings are essential.
Book online: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ZdaEE8mF6e
Email: oamaruareaoffice@stjohn.org.nz





Oamaru Multisport Club

DUATHLONS & FUN RUN SERIES

Wednesday nights, Registration is at 5.30pm.
November series: Duathlon and Fun Run - Three events to be held on Wednesday 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026.
Prizegiving will be held at the conclusion of the event on Wednesday 25th November.
Oamaru Harbour Playground. Registration is at 5.30pm
These events are suitable for all ages and abilities.
We encourage people to walk the Fun Run distances if they prefer
We also encourage teams including children and parents.
We recommend a parent bike beside their children if their child is under the age of 10.

Fun walk/run - 2.5k (1 lap), 5k (2 laps) or 10k (4 laps)
Duathlon:
Off the Couch 2k walk/run; 4k (1 lap) bike; 0.5k run
Weekend Warriors 2k run; 12 k (3 laps) bike; 2.5k run
3 week series - Wednesdays November 11, 18, 25 @ 6pm.
Register on-line or email oamarumultisportclub@gmail.com; Adair Craik 021-309439; Diane Talanoa 021-08150688
Adults $10 per event or $20 per series / students $5 per event or $10 per series
https://www.sporty.co.nz/.../NOVEMBER-Fun-Run-Duathlon...



MOUNTAIN BIKING

North Otago's Mountain Biking Club is holding another fun Chocolate Fish series in November
Dates are: 15th, 22nd and 29th November 2026
Venue is Willowpark Trails, Papakaio (entrance is opposite the Papakaio School)
Start time is 9.30am for children and 10am for students who are more advanced riders and adults
There is a choice of easy or more technical tracks











The Rec Centre is collaborating with local artists to run a Pop-Up Art Gallery fundraiser, this is a great opportunity to support the Rec Centre and local artists and get some great art! The exhibition is at the Rec Centre throughout November and December up until Christmas time.

Inquiries Di 021 08150688







