NEWSLETTER

Week 7, 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.

Sport

We have had some fantastic results in athletics over the last couple of weeks with students giving it their best at both the North Otago Athletics and last week at the Otago Athletic Championships in Dunedin. Our last assembly (4th Dec) for the term will be a sports assembly where we can acknowledge these students and others who have been part of sports teams this term. We will also have a special performance from our Kapa Haka. We look forward to seeing you there.

Room 4

As many of you will be aware Becky Soper will be taking maternity leave next year. We are very pleased to have appointed Catriona Henderson to cover her position for 2027. Cat is an experienced teacher who has recently spent many years teaching at Papakaio School. We are looking forward to welcoming her to our school.

There is a lot going on with the lead up to the end of year. Teachers have been busy completing assessments so that reports can be sent home at the end of term. Please make sure that you make time to talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns. The sooner we can hear about any issues the sooner we can address them.

Nga mihi nui
Adelle Banks
Principal

Congratulations to Fletcher Diedrichs who has just completed his first season of playing squash. It has been a very successful one with him attending the national competition in Auckland and being awarded the Junior Male Runner up of the year at the Midlands Squash awards. Well done Fletcher, awesome work!



We are super proud of our group who went to the Kapa Haka Festival on Wednesday 11th November. Well done to Miss Sutton for her wonderful organisation, everyone looked and sounded amazing!



Missing named Polar Fleece. A polar fleece belonging to Edward has gone missing. Could we please ask all families to have a look in any polar fleeces that you have at home to see if your child has taken it home by mistake. If you find it could you please return it to Edward in Room 4. Thanks.





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.

8:40AM	Arriving before class starts means getting settled and ready for class
9:00AM	Arriving late means the start of the lesson could be missed and is likely to unsettle the class
9:05AM	5 minutes late a day means missing 3 days over a school year
9:10AM	10 minutes late a day means almost 7 schools days lost a year
9:15AM	15 minutes late a day means almost 10 schools days lost a year
	Arriving very late is recorded as an absence

Students that are late miss out on learning and can be a disruption to the classroom.
If a student regularly late it will affect their learning at 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.

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.

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

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

Wednesday 25th - Stock the Bus - mufti and donations of items for the bus.
Thursday 26th - Swimming pm.
Friday 27th - Year 8 - 9 Transition day at high schools.

December 2026

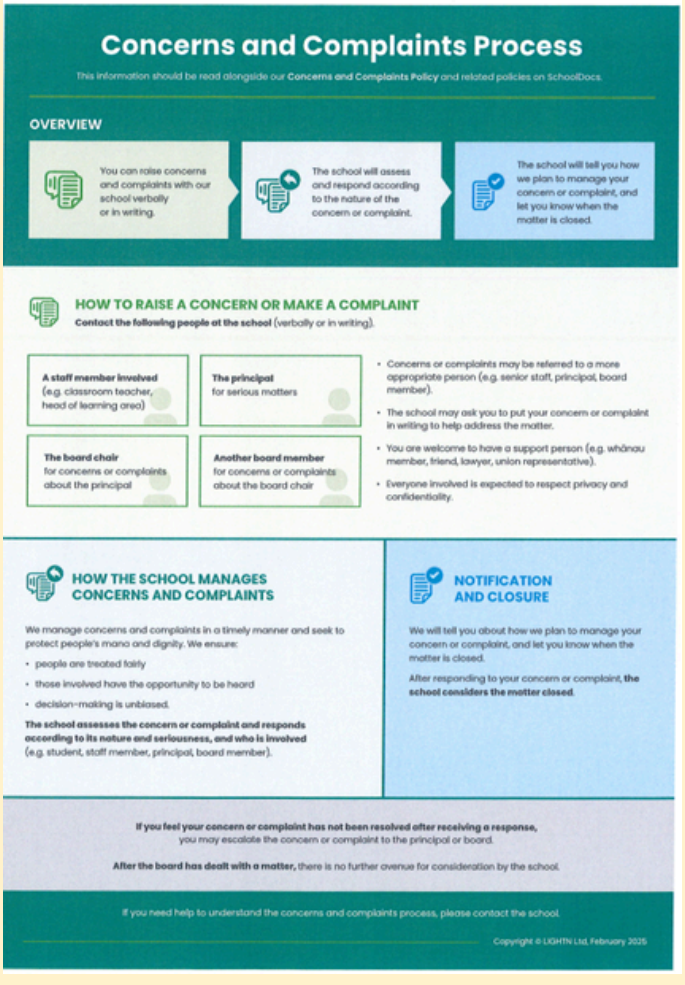
Thursday 3rd - Year 1 and 2 Big Day Out - Totara Estate
Friday 4th - Year 8 water day - Glenavy.
Tuesday 8th - BOT Meeting 5:30pm.
Wednesday 16th - Final Day of Term 4. Final Assembly and Prizegiving 11am at school. All welcome.

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.



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.

We're giving away $600 worth of Word Whizz Literacy Hubs to help your child strengthen their reading and spelling skills from home. Head to the Word Whizz Facebook page to find out how to enter and be in to win one of three prizes: https://www.facebook.com/wordwhizzonline/

Alternatively, you're welcome to share our giveaway post directly to your school's Facebook page. You can find it on the Word Whizz Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/wordwhizzonline/





BUDDY PROGRAM RAFT & KAYAK RACE



MAKE YOUR OWN RAFT AND RACE IT AGAINST OTHERS!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2027

KARITANE FISHING CLUB BOAT RAMP

FREE TO ENTER

ABOUT THE EVENT

Join us for an exciting afternoon on the water! The Buddy Program Raft & Kayak Race is all about teamwork, friendship, adventure, and fun. Children and families will enjoy friendly races, team challenges, and a chance to build confidence while paddling together in a safe and supportive environment.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Raft & Kayak Race
- Buddy Team Challenges
- Fun for all ages
- Prizes and Spot Awards
- Refreshments after the race
- BBQ

EVENT SCHEDULE

1:00 p.m.	Registration
1:15 p.m.	Safety Briefing
1:30 p.m.	Race Starts
3:30 p.m.	Prize Giving & Refreshments

PLEASE BRING

Water bottle, change of clothes, hat and sunscreen, comfortable clothing suitable for water activities, your team spirit and enthusiasm!

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Jo Scott +021 268 4780 | Vaughan Hill 0277422737

STOCK THE BUS



STOCK THE BUS IS COMING YOUR WAY, AND WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR SCHOOL OR KINDY ON BOARD – LITERALLY!

Dunedin	Wednesday 25 November 2026
Oamaru	Wednesday 25 November 2026

Climb aboard, meet our festive characters, and (if possible) bring a donation in a reusable bag.

PLEASE DONATE

Toiletries (eg. deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary items)

Christmas treats (eg. chocolates, chips, biscuits)



Presbyterian Support Otago

NO TOYS AGAIN THIS YEAR.

With support from RITCHIES

Oamaru Multisport Club DUATHLONS & FUN RUN SERIES

Run Ride Have Fun!



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.

FUN RUN

Distances for the Fun Run are **2.5km, 5km or 10km**

DUATHLON

Distances for the Duathlon:

- **Off the Couch** – 2km run, 5km bike, 800m run
- **Weekend Warriors** – 2km run, 12km bike, 2.5km run

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.

All welcome – come and be part of the fun!

NORTH OTAGO'S MOUNTAIN BIKING CLUB

is holding another fun

CHOCOLATE FISH SERIES IN NOVEMBER



DATES: 15th, 22nd & 29th November 2026

VENUE:

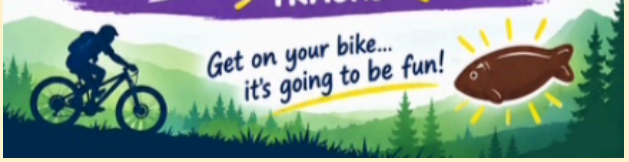
Willowpark Trails, Papakaio
(entrance is opposite the Papakaio School)

START TIME:

9.30am for children

10am for students who are more advanced riders and adults

THERE IS A CHOICE OF EASY OR MORE TECHNICAL TRACKS



Get on your bike... it's going to be fun!





This is a wonderful FREE community event, bringing everyone together to celebrate the festive season while supporting local families and enjoying some Christmas fun!

Event details:
Date: Friday 27 November 2026
Time: 7–9.30pm
Location: Lower Thames Street, Ōamaru

What's happening?
Free bouncy castles, face painting, sausages and popcorn (7–9pm)
Sustainable Christmas Market featuring our local schools (7–9pm)
Live music from Fondue Party (7–9.30pm)
Christmas Tree Lighting by Mayor Mel at 9.30pm

Giving back to our community
We're also encouraging families to bring along a non-perishable food item, a wrapped child's Christmas gift or a monetary donation, if they're able. These donations will help support local families in need this Christmas.

It's a lovely opportunity for our community to come together, celebrate the festive season and support one another.

🎄🐑 **CALLING ALL LITTLE FARMERS & ANIMAL LOVERS!** 🐮🎄

The North Otago A&P Association is getting into the Christmas spirit, and we'd love YOU to join us!

We'll be taking part in the **Oamaru Christmas Parade**, and we're inviting children from across North Otago who have pet lambs or calves to register their interest in joining our Christmas float!

Whether you joined us at our recent Pet Day or simply have a much-loved farmyard friend at home, we'd love to hear from you.

It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our rural community, showcase our young animal lovers and spread a little country Christmas cheer! ❤️

🎅 **Interested in joining us?**

Please send us a Facebook message or email **oamarushow@xtra.co.nz** with your child's age, the type of animal they'd like to bring and a contact number. Participation with animals will be subject to parade approval and animal welfare requirements. Further details will be provided to interested families.



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



Pop-Up Art Gallery!

Exhibition is now OPEN!

Fundraiser for the Rec Centre

Support our local artists

Displays – LEFT & RIGHT along the hallways and in the Aerobics room

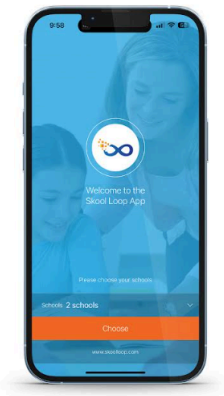
Inquiries to Di 021 01850688

08150688





Downloading the Skool Loop app
a step by step guide



NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379

SKOOL LOOP

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

To subscribe to groups as an exisiting user:

1. Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
2. Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
3. Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
4. You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

