



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Thursday 5 February 2026

<u>Contact information:</u> Stuart Wilcox – Principal principal@geraldine.school.nz Office – Ph 03 693 8208 office@geraldine.school.nz Website: https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/		<u>Term Dates: 2026</u>	
Term 1	2 nd February - 2 nd April		
Term 2	20 April - 3 July		
Term 3	20 July - 25 September		
Term 4	12 October - 15 December		
<u>Important Dates:</u> Wednesday 11 th February – Back to School hui – 5-6pm Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th February – Year 6 Camp Lindisfarne Thursday 26 th February – Tangaroa Triathlon			

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau,

Welcome to 2026!

At the end of last year, I was proud to introduce our new school vision and logo. Throughout 2026, I will be referring to this often, as my hope is that our whole school community comes to truly live and breathe this wonderful vision and mantra.

We have thoughtfully woven our vision words, the **heart** of our **community**, **together** we **thrive**, into our school values so that they are clear, coherent, and meaningful for our tamariki. These values guide how we learn, play, and grow together each day.

I encourage you to take a moment to look through them below and begin using these beautiful words and phrases with your children at home. When school and home share a common language, our children thrive.

Be Caring and Have Heart – *Mā te ngākau aroha koe e ārahi*

Let a loving heart guide your decisions.

This whakataukī reminds us to lead with compassion, **care**, kindness, and empathy in all that we do.

Be an Achiever and Thrive – *Pai tū, pai hinga*

Through standing and falling, in time the work will be completed.

This speaks to perseverance—encouraging our tamariki to keep going, knowing that effort, resilience, and learning from mistakes lead to greater **achievement** and success.

Be Respectful Together – *He aroha atu, he aroha mai*

Love given, love received.

This whakataukī highlights reciprocity and mutual respect, reminding us that when we show care and **respect** to others, it is returned, helping to create harmony within our community.

Be Responsible to Strengthen Community – *He waka eke noa*

We are all in the same canoe.

This reflects our shared **responsibility** to support one another so that everyone can succeed.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us as we nurture these values together. When we are united in our vision, our children flourish.

This morning, we shared a wonderful **mihi whakatau**; warmly welcoming our new tamariki, whānau and kaiako to our kura. It was a special time for connection, helping to establish strong foundations and meaningful cultural ties.

We are incredibly fortunate at Geraldine Primary to have kaiako and whānau who genuinely value, welcome, and inspire our school community.

At the start of 2026 we have two new Kaiako (teachers) and two new Kaiāwhina (learning assistants) at Geraldine Primary School.

In room 7, teaching Year 1 and 2 is Anne-Maree Reith

In room, 5 teaching Year 5 is Ben Robertson

In our Tangaroa syndicate (senior) is Mandy Hewson, she is their designated kaiāwhina.

In Tane Mahuta syndicate (junior) is Jasmine Tunnicliffe, she is their designated kaiāwhina.

A huge welcome to these amazing role models and we can't wait to see how they inspire our tamariki.

Attendance at Geraldine Primary School

Regular attendance plays a vital role in learning, wellbeing, and success. Every day at school helps our tamariki access learning opportunities and reach their full potential.

At Geraldine Primary School, tamariki are expected to attend **every day they are able to**. Our attendance approach aligns with the Government's national target of **80% of students attending school more than 90% of the time**.

We work closely with whānau to promote positive attendance habits and understand that challenges can arise. Please keep in touch with the school if your child is absent or if you need support. We are committed to working together to remove barriers and support regular attendance.

Clear information about our Attendance Management Plan and the STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) framework can be found on our school website.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our tamariki thrive.

Attendance Update

At the end of Term 4, 2025, **76% of our tamariki were attending school more than 90% of the time**. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the strong partnership between home and school.

I am incredibly proud of this progress, and with your continued support, we can keep building on this momentum and moving closer to our attendance goals.

Thank you for helping our tamariki show up, engage, and thrive every day.

Back to School Hui – Tuesday 11 February

We warmly invite all whānau to join us for our **Back to School Hui on Tuesday 11 February**.
Programme:

- **5.00 – 5.15pm** – Sausage sizzle

- **5.15pm** – Welcome in the hall (Stu)
- **5.30 – 6.00pm** – Open classrooms
- **5.45pm** – Year 5 & Year 6 Camp Meeting (in the hall)

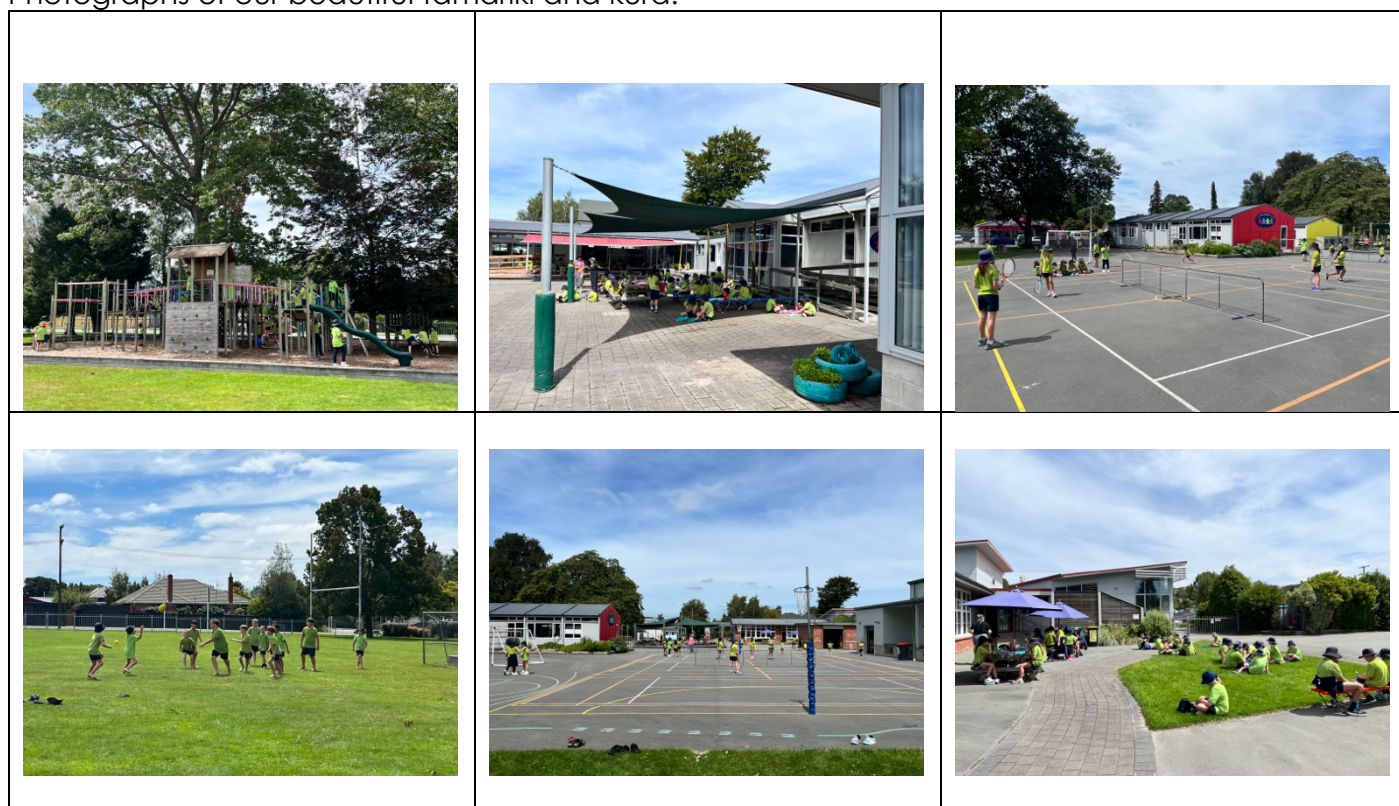
On Thursday 29th January our student leadership team took part in a full day of leadership, connection and fun. A huge thanks to Barker's for talking to our leaders and supplying lots of yummy kai.

Term 1 is always busy with lots of swimming, camps, establishing routines and lots of new learning. It is essential to keep up to date with our facebook page, skool loop and our newsletter which is every fortnight. Please remember my door is always open.

Thanks so much in advance.

Stu Wilcox

Photographs of our beautiful tamariki and kura.



School Notices

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Please update us. We need to be able to contact parents/caregivers in case your child is unwell or injured.

SCHOOL HOURS

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am and finishes at 2.45pm. Please note that there is no teacher supervision for children who arrive at school before 8.20am.

Uniforms

The Warehouse has advised that they are expecting to have stock of our Green Polo Shirts, size: 6, 10 & 12 instore next week.

Sizes 5 & 8 are enroute to the embroiders and are expected instore in 2-3 weeks.

Home and School News

Welcome Back from GPS Home & School!

The GPS Home and School Committee is looking forward to another busy year supporting our school and we would love to welcome some new faces to the team.

Our **first meeting for the year** will be held on **Monday 23rd February at 7:00pm in the school staff room**. We meet once a month or so and support the school through a range of fundraising activities. We're a friendly bunch, so please come along if you'd like to learn more about what we do — everyone is welcome!

🌟 Major Fundraiser Approaching - Watch This Space

We have started planning our **first major fundraiser for the year** and more details will follow soon 😊

🍖 Volunteers Needed - Sausage Sizzle 2026

This year we are calling out for new sausage sizzle superstars who would like to join our Friday crew. This runs from 11:45am to 12:50pm (approx) on Fridays. If we have enough on the crew it might only be once per term you are called on.

If your family is new to the school and would like to meet new people, this is for you!

No experience needed, you will be put with someone who has experience and so you can learn the ropes.

If you are interested or would like to find out more please get in touch with our **AMAZING Sausage Sizzle Coordinator, Paige McDonald** 0274 229 374.

👕 Second-Hand Uniforms

Don't forget that **second-hand GPS uniforms** are available for a **gold coin donation**. Please see the school office if you'd like to view what's available.

📅 17 Reminder

Home & School Meeting
Monday 23rd February, 7:00pm
School Staff Room

We'd love to see some new faces — hope you can join us!

Community Notices

SJ Café
Social Joining
Every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon

What to expect – a perfect time to work on a puzzle, play cards, or a board game, bring your own activity/craft, or just turn up for a chat.
Be in the company of others in a relaxed and casual atmosphere.
No need to register -just turn up!

Tea and coffee provided

Transport by arrangement

Contact 027 432 2518 or northaorakicommittee@stjohn.org.nz

Location St John Geraldine, 124 Talbot Street, Geraldine

CHILDRENS ART CLASS

- x Drawing techniques
- x Suit ages 8 – 10
- x Structured Lessons
- + limited to 6x Students
- x Duration 4x weeks
- x Saturdays 10am - 11.30

WAYNE PATRICK Studio

11a Royal Arcade Timaru

E: waynepatrick@xtra.co.nz
T: 027 6060833