

**To ensure our students are able to take their place in the world, they will be Resilient, Resourceful, Respectful and Responsible**

**Friday 2nd February 2024: Term 1 Week 1**

Welcome back everyone. It is an absolute pleasure to have your children with us in 2024. A special welcome to Brianna in Y1, and Adrian in Y6, and their families.



### **CLASSES**

This year we are managing our classes to best meet the needs of your children, and to make maximum use of the various strengths and talents of our staff.

Miss Van den Beld is teaching in Kakariki Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with Mrs Short teaching on Wednesdays.

Mrs Keenan is teaching in the Karaka space Monday to Thursday, with Mrs Short teaching on Friday. Mrs Craig teaches in the Whero space Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Our intention is that groupings of children within these two spaces will be flexible and change throughout the year.

### **STAYING IN TOUCH**

The school primarily uses **SKOOL LOOP** to send messages to parents. This is an app that can be downloaded onto your phone, or accessed through your laptop. Classroom teachers will be using **CLASS DOJO** to send class messages and notices. If you haven't already please accept the invitation to join up. I will be resending any unaccepted invitations, and also sending to our new families. This is also an app and works very well on your phones (Turn ON notifications, but turn OFF sounds if it bothers you. Teachers may send messages at any time.) You can also use Class Dojo to message teachers directly.



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**STRUCTURED LITERACY**

Gorge Road School's focus this year is to embrace the philosophy of Structured Literacy and present this consistently in our classrooms. This approach is based on science and research, and it has been shown that all children will benefit.

**PERSONAL DEVICES AND TOYS**

We discourage the bringing of personal items to school. Cell phones are only permitted by prior arrangement with the principal, and will be handed into the office at the beginning of the day to be returned by the duty teacher at the end of the day. If a parent needs to contact their child then please use the landline and leave a message if it is unattended. These messages are cleared at every break time.

**FOOD**

Hot lunches are available to purchase through the school office. The preferred method is for an adult to write the order on an envelope, and the money sealed inside, or paid at the time vis internet banking. We cannot run a credit system. We do have a breakfast club before school for any child who wishes to partake.

**SNACKS & BRAIN BREAK**

Sweets and chewing gum are not to be at school. Classes stop briefly around 10 o'clock for a 'brain break'. Children are encouraged to have such things as fruit, vegetables, cheese, or fruit yoghurt at this time because the next set opportunity to eat is not until after morning play at about 11:20.

**SWIMMING**

Children are asked to bring their swimming gear each day. If the opportunity to swim presents itself over the next week they will be able to go for a quick dip. However the following week Feb 12 on wards we intend to start school swimming sessions in earnest. Please watch newsletters, skool loop, class dojo, for any updates.

**GORGE ROAD & DISTRICTS SWIMMING POOL – Is OPEN!**

Please check out their Facebook page Gorge Road Community Pool for more information regarding key FOB purchases. There is a link for the rules and membership details that new and existing key holders are required to fill out.



<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Waitangi Day – <b>NO SCHOOL NO BUSES</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Fun Lunch
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	BOT Meeting 7pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Gorge Road School swimming - 12:30pm – 2:30pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	GRS Triathlon Helpers required, family welcome (PTA TBC)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Science @ Tok
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Southern Zone Athletics
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Southern Zone Swimming
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Structured Literacy
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Gorge Road School Triathlon
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Southland Athletics @ Surrey Park
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Southern Zone Triathlon @ Gorge Rd School. (PTA TBC)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter – Good Friday – <b>NO SCHOOL NO BUSES</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Monday & Tuesday – <b>NO SCHOOL NO BUSES</b>

**ABSENTEES:** To report an absence please phone the land line 032395763 opt 1 or 3 before 9.30am, text 0274674373, email [office@gorgeroad.school.nz](mailto:office@gorgeroad.school.nz) or use the **Skool Loop** (preferred option)

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**Lunch Food List**

Pies (Mince & Cheese)	\$1.50	Popcorn lightly salted 12g	\$1.00
Pizza (Ham/Cheese or Hawaiian,)	\$2.50	Choc chip Cookie	\$2.00
Moosies (Blue Lagoon, Strawberry or Chocolate)		\$1.00	
Juicies (wildberry, lemonade or tropical)	\$1.00	<b>IF in stock: Sausage Rolls (2 Pack)</b>	\$3.00

All lunch orders must come from home via a note/envelope **written by an adult**. Money can be paid in cash or via a bank deposit to 03 1745 0027472 00 with Name and lunch as reference. We will no longer use credits as money will be sorted on the day and sent home within the week. Mr Mason will take charge of doing the ordered lunches. **Please if ordering Juicies note down the flavour on order**

**BUS CHANGE** or picking up your child/ren. Please phone 2395763 opt 3 before 2.45pm.

**GORGE ROAD SCHOOL UNIFORMS**  
We no longer carry these in stock, they can be purchased from the UniformNZ website then collected at their shop which is now at 142 Otepunui Avenue <http://gorgeroad.uniformnz.com> this is the polo top we wear to sports day but can be worn every day as a uniform if you wish. Note the sizing is on the small side. **Also now loaded is the option to purchase a grey/red hoodie with logo on front. Price has increased since quote but should be around \$45 each.**







**Stay “in the loop” with our communication app!**

**Events | Cancellations | Notices**  
**Newsletters | Permission slips**  
**Instant notifications | Absentees**  
**Parent Teacher Interviews**

**Simple free download:**  
In Google Play & App Store search **‘Skool Loop’** & choose our organisation once installed.



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# Gorge Road School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

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If you would like to advertise on the Gorge Road School Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com)



To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Gorge Road School once installed.