

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

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025: Term 1 Week 1**

Kia ora, welcome back everyone to another fun filled year of learning.

This year we welcome Belinda Knapp as classroom teacher in Kakariki (Y0-2/3). She is supported by Jo Cheesbrough, and Sue Shaw as Teacher Aides.

Sheree Keenan is teaching in Karaka (Y3 – 6), supported by Lachie Morton.

Moira Short is working in both classrooms at differing times during the weeks.

You'll find Brandan Mason keeping things running smoothly in the office.

And I am filling the role of Principal once again.



You will be aware that the Government required schools to change their maths and literacy delivery to a Ministry-approved structured programme. Thus we are all coming to grips with a new system.

Also of importance is the need for all absences to be explained before 9:15 each day.

The Ministry is gathering attendance data daily and have said they will follow up unexplained, trivial or truant absences. PLEASE make sure you avoid a visit from the attendance officers and let the school know.

The BEST way to explain an absence is via **SKOOL LOOP**. This is by far the best app ever. You can install it on your phone. It gives you access to newsletters, and important notifications will come through it, and we use it to book parent interviews. Plus it is free to download and use, and has a 'no data' option.



[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.parentteachercalendar&hl=en\\_NZ&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.parentteachercalendar&hl=en_NZ&pli=1)

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

WAITANGI DAY      6 February      NO SCHOOL

TEACHER ONLY DAY 7February      NO SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING    17 February    These are public meetings, but if you wish to attend please let the office know prior to the day.

CAMP 25-27 February. Potentially Years 4-6, depending upon numbers. TBC. Dunedin

Parent help is sought for this. Contact the office if you are interested.

\$125 per child/adult.

**World  
Wetlands Day**

**2 February 2025**

**Protecting wetlands  
for our common future**



If we have too many offers there will be a ballot to reduce number to the needed amount

Forms will go home next week.

We will get some swimming dates sorted and advise you all next week of the upcoming days.

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A large vegetation fire in mixed scrub and wetland which grew to 1200 hectares yesterday at Southland's Tiwai Peninsula is contained and has "not grown further" overnight.

The fire grew fivefold in size thanks to hot, windy conditions on Thursday afternoon, but was contained by the end of the day, Fire and Emergency NZ said in an update this morning.

At its height, 60 firefighters, eight fire trucks and 10 helicopters were battling the blaze.

Incident controller Hamish Angus said 35 firefighters would be on site today with support from five helicopters, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and local forestry companies.

"Our focus today is on knocking out those remaining hotspots."

He said winds were expected to pick up over the next few days and that Fire and Emergency NZ want to make sure nothing left at the site could get the fire underway again.

"It's too early to say what caused the fire, but we will have fire investigators here today looking into that."

The fire is burning on DOC land, and Murihuku operations manager John McCarroll said yesterday that it was a "huge blow".

"Awarua has a significant number of biodiversity values and is used by a lot of wading birds for flocking and feeding, including the endangered Southern New Zealand Dotterel / Pukunui.

The DOC website said the [Awarua-Waituna wetlands](#) are one of the largest remaining wetland complexes in the country and that it is important for its biological diversity and cultural values.



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LUNCH FOOD LIST

Pies (Mince & Cheese) or Mince	\$1.50	Popcorn lightly salted 12g	\$1.00
Pizza (Ham/Cheese) or Hawaiian	\$2.50	Choc Chip Cookie	\$2.00
Juicies (wildberry, lemonade or tropical)	<b>\$1.50</b>	Small Sausage rolls not always in stock	<b>\$3.00</b>
Moosies ( <b>Strawberry</b> or Chocolate)	<b>\$1.50</b>	Toppas not always in stock	<b>\$3.00</b>

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**

Upcoming Events Dates subject to change	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	TOD – <b>NO School – No Buses</b>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	First day of term
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	Waitangi Day <b>NO School – No Buses</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	<b>TOD</b> -On site reorganising the resource (purple) Rm <b>NO School-No Buses</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	SB meeting 7pm Staffroom ( <b>BoT</b> )
Tues 25 – Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Camp 2025
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	SZ Triathlon
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	SZ Athletics
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	COL TOD <b>NO School – No Buses</b>
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Southland Athletics
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	GRS Swimming
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term 1
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>ANZAC Day</b>
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> of April	First day of term 2
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	SZ Cross Country
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Southland Cross Country
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Matariki <b>NO School – No Buses</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Last Day of Term 2
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	First day of term 3
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	SZ Moffet Cup
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	COL TOD <b>NO School – No Buses</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	First day of term 4

**ABSENTEES:** To report an absence please use the **Skool Loop** (preferred option) or phone the land line 032395763 opt 1 or 3 before 9.30am, text 0274674373 or email [office@gorgeroad.school.nz](mailto:office@gorgeroad.school.nz) It is a Ministry requirement to have a reason recorded for the absence; e.g. appointment, sick, dentist...

**SCHOOL UNIFORM TOPS:** 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 Otepunu 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. We also have the option of a grey/red hoodie with logo on front. These hoodies are warm and the perfect garment for these cooler days.





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