

COMING UP

WELCOME TO 2026 AT DUNSANDEL SCHOOL



KEY DATES TERM 1 2026

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY - DAY 1 TERM 1 2026: COHORT ENTRY 1 T1 WK 1

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY - LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY - WAITANGI DAY: SCHOOL CLOSED

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY - SCHOOL PICNIC 500-700PM

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY - SENIOR SWIMMING SPORTS

MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY - PTA AGM 330PM

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY - ASSEMBLY R1 AND 2 SHARING

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY - ASSEMBLY R3 SHARING

MONDAY 2 MARCH AND TUESDAY 3 MARCH - LIFE EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH - ELLESMERE ZONE SWIMMING SPORTS

FRIDAY 6 MARCH - ASSEMBLY R4 SHARING

MONDAY 9 MARCH COHORT ENTRY 2 T1 WK 6

FRIDAY 13 MARCH - ASSEMBLY R5 SHARING

MONDAY 16 MARCH AND TUESDAY 17 MARCH - PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

FRIDAY 27 MARCH - ASSEMBLY R6 SHARING

FRIDAY 20 MARCH - YEAR 3-6 DUATHLON

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH - CANTERBURY PRIMARY SCHOOLS SWIMMING

THURSDAY 2 APRIL - LAST DAY OF TERM 1



OUR WEEKLY SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES WILL HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL UPCOMING EVENTS.

PARTICIPATE		RESPECT		INITIATIVE		DETERMINATION		EMPATHY		PRIDE	
	For our school Participate means JOIN IN.		For our school Respect means TREAT OTHERS LIKE YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED.		For our school Initiative means THINK FOR YOURSELF.		For our school Determination means TRY HARD AND DON'T GIVE UP.		For our school Empathy means THINK OF OTHERS.		PRIDE IN OURSELVES, OUR LEARNING AND OUR COMMUNITY.

School Picnic

All Dunsandel School families and staff are invited to a 'back to school' picnic on Thursday 12 February 5:00pm - 7:00pm, at our school. There will be a free sausage sizzle and the swimming pool will be open. Please remember to pack some extra picnic treats, a rug to sit on and sun hats. A great way to start the new school year and to catch up with others in our school community.



Wednesday 12 February 2026

500pm - 700pm



Dunsandel School Picnic THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2026

Family Name

Number intending to come to our School Picnic

.....

To be Returned to school

Emergency Contacts Form with After School routines, Bus service and Online consents	☒
Child Information Sheet	☒
School Picnic Return	☒

DUNSANDEL SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

The Weekly
Family Newsletter



PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY



Wednesday 28 January 2026

- Welcome
- Upcoming Events
- Absences
- Key information for the school year

News and Notes from the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa,

Welcome to the first weekly Dunsandel School News and Notes Newsletter for 2026.

There is a lot of information coming home today and I encourage you to take time to read through it all. **We welcome Miss McCloy back from Maternity Leave. I would also like to welcome all our new children and families to Dunsandel School** – we hope you enjoy being part of our school and community.

Our **Dunsandel School Information Booklet for 2026** has been sent home with this newsletter today. It can be found on our school website – under the Parent Information banner and there is also a link on the home page (www.dunsandel.school.nz). This booklet includes our Bus Service information and online release information.

Upcoming Events and Key Dates

Leadership Assembly is on **Thursday 5 February** we have our Year 6 Leadership Assembly starting at 1:45pm in the school hall. This is a special assembly for our Year 6 children where they will be presented with their School Leader certificates and badges. We will also announce our Bus Monitors, Librarians and School Council for 2026, and we will welcome new faces to our school.

Waitangi Day – We will be closed on **Friday 6 February**.

On Thursday 12 February we have a School Picnic from 500-700pm at school. My staff and I look forward to seeing you there. Thank-you to those who have responded to the email sent out last week. To help us with the sausage and bread buying please complete and return the form attached to this newsletter. Further information in the graphic is in this newsletter.

Senior Swimming Sports - Our annual **Senior (Year 3-6) Swimming Sports** will be held at Southbridge Pool on **Friday 13 February**. We hope to see as many parents and supporters there for our swimmers as possible. Some races will be combined/or straight finals due to the number of entries. We start at 10:30am with the 2 length finals (and any required one length heats) followed by our width programme. We will stop for lunch – we will have a free swim followed by the 17th annual

Parent/Staff Biggest Splash Competition and the Parent Relay Race. After lunch we will have the 1 length finals and House relays. It is expected that all swimmers stay until the completion of the day.

PTA AGM - Our PTA AGM is being held in the school hall on **Monday 16 February** starting at 330pm. The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and students through their fundraising and service efforts. I am sure they would love to welcome new parents and caregivers to join them!

School Stationery

Thank you to those who have organised stationery over the holidays. If you still need to purchase stationery, you will find the list on our website www.dunsandelschool.co.nz. You still have time to order through OfficeMax. All the information is on our website. Please only purchase the items on the list.

Uniform

You can purchase our school uniform from our supplier <https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz/241-dunsandel-school> School hats are compulsory during Term's 1 and 4 – we have a limited supply at school for \$13, if your child doesn't have a hat, they are required to play in the shade.

Absences

All NZ schools are required to have an attendance as per Ministry of Education requirements. We are required to publish this plan on our website – you can find this on our school website at <https://dunsandel.school.nz/attendance-at-school>

It is expected that parents will make every endeavour to have children at school before classes begin. Children need time to prepare their belongings first thing in the morning, and this should be kept in mind. If your child is to be absent from school, please ring the school office or use the school app service before 8:55am so the school is aware of your child's whereabouts. All Absences are marked electronically at the start of the day – if your child arrives late to school, they must go through the office and let Mrs Pluck know they have arrived. For safety reasons, you will be contacted by the school if we are unsure of the whereabouts of your child.

For 2026 we are required to submit our attendance records to the Ministry of Education each day – this includes if a child is late to school.

Information

With this newsletter is

- Our Green Emergency Contacts form – please fill in both sides and return to the school office as soon as possible.
- The Child Information Sheet can be returned to your child's class teacher.

Enjoy the first week back in school routine.

Ngā mihi nui



Dave Robinson; Principal/Tumuaki/Punong-guro

Key information to start the School Year

Staffing

We will have **six classrooms** operating in 2026 – our staffing is based on school roll numbers.

Room 1 – Mrs Lizzie Ewing (Year 0/1)

Room 2 – Mrs Anna Robinson (Year 1/2)

Room 3 – Miss Tracey Harrold (Year 2/3)

Room 4 – Miss Esther Weir (Year 3/4)

Room 5 – Miss Kate McCloy (M,T,Th,F) and Mrs Jane Righton (W) (Year 4/5)

Room 6 – Mrs Kim Jones (M, T, W, F) and Mrs Linda Douglas (Th) (Year 5/6).

We have been fortunate to receive some extra staffing for Structured Literacy teaching again this year - Mrs Linda Douglas will continue to do this work. Mrs Jane Righton and Mrs Donna Webb will be teaching in class that attract Beginning Teacher Release, Special Needs release and Deputy Principal Release.

Our Support Staff are – Mrs Felicity Pluck (School Secretary), Mrs Mel Stenhouse (Learning Support Co-ordinator), Mrs Sonia Colenso (Principal PA), Mrs Heather Burgess (Teacher Aide), Mr Craig Happer (Teacher Aide/Sports Support/Caretaker), Mrs Liz Hurst (Teacher Aide), Mrs Kath Gilmour (Teacher Aide/Library), Mrs Georgina Luvenitoga (Teacher Aide) and the PRIDE Lion Roary (Mascot).

Online Release Information

Our school has a website and dedicated school Facebook page on the internet. Please read and complete the consent form on the Emergency Contacts form page 2. We found in 2025 our Facebook posts which included photos of our events with the children were well received and enjoyed by our community.



In the interest of safety and security we require parents to give consent before publication – we update every year so the consent you give is up-to-date and current for the year.

Safety Vests

All children are issued with a school safety vest when they begin school. This is expected to be worn when your child is travelling to and from school whether it be by bus, car, bike, walking etc. Also, they are to be worn on school trips. These can be washed at home.

Please ensure your child looks after their vests as they cost \$20 to replace.

Health and Safety

We have a child at Dunsandel School who has an allergy to peanuts and peanut base products. If this child comes into contact with peanuts or peanut based products, even touch some peanut residue left on surfaces, they can have a life-threatening allergic reaction.

To avoid such an emergency, we are asking for your help.

We recognise that many children love peanuts and peanut butter. However, we ask that, whenever possible, you would limit the amount of peanut butter you send to school with your child. Also, if your child has eaten peanut butter or any peanut based products before going to school, we ask that you ensure that your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed prior to leaving the house, so that any residual nuts on hands is not accidentally transferred to items in the classroom causing accidental exposure.



At school the staff will be:

- Continuing to encourage all children to wash their hands after they have eaten
- Wiping down tables and surfaces after lunch
- Discouraging children from 'sharing' or swapping food
- Making the children aware of how we can help each other and keep each other safe.

If you ever bring any treats to school to share with the class, please ensure that it does not contain peanuts or peanut based products.

We want to provide a safe and healthy environment for all our children, so we appreciate your co-operation with this potentially life-threatening situation. We will continue to regularly monitor these measures.

End of Day Procedure

Our end of day procedure (3.00pm) is as follows:-

- Bus children meet in the school hall in their bus teams where they will be organised by teachers and the bus monitors.
- Children being picked up from school, walking home or biking home are to leave through the gate at the end of the school hall. This is so all children can be sighted by a staff member.

The expectation is that all children will leave the school grounds via the gate at the end of the school hall after school. On the emergency contacts form there is a section that asks you what will be the normal procedure for your children be on each week day. If there is a change to this, it is important you let the school know eg

when sports practices start. We are aware that circumstances change each term (eg sports practices) so we will ask you each term what the normal procedure will be for your child.

School Donations

For 2026 we will continue to be part of the School Donations Scheme which means we will not be asking for donations or fees for normal everyday school curriculum activities.

Schools are still able to ask for contributions for overnight camps and also extra-curricular activities that are outside the core learning programme. In addition, parents are still expected to purchase stationery items for their children. Your school account will be sent home twice a term – online payments can be paid online or at the school office. Our school account number is at the bottom of the school newsletter; please ensure you use your child's name for reference.

Our school will still be able to fundraise through existing channels and organisations, including our PTA. Our PTA are highly valued members of our school community and make regular significant contributions to a range of important experiences. Going forward we will continue to rely on our PTA contributions and I urge you to support future PTA events. In helping to support the PTA you will be helping to enrich the learning experiences of all our children.

During the year the school will organise their own fundraiser event for example, the chocolate fundraiser or school calendars. This happens in Term 3, so keep an eye out for that.

PTA News and Notes

Kia ora everyone!

Before the chit-chat, important notice! PTA AGM Monday 16th February, 3:30pm at the school hall - please come along if you're keen to help out, no jobs given to anyone who doesn't want them but there are definitely openings for new faces/positions to step into!!

Welcome to the 2026 school year from PTA!! Hope everyone had wonderful holidays, and there was some form of rest and relaxation in there, despite the rainy days/hail etc. If it makes anyone feel better about the lack of summery weather, our whole visit to Fairbanks (Alaska, where I'm from) was part of the second longest sub-zero (F) temperature stretch there since 1904 - I think the warmest it got while we were home was -24C, which was only a day or two and felt tropical by comparison to the -40s. It's nice to be back to some sunshine! For all of you parents out there starting your primary school journey today - welcome to the club and congratulations - you've landed in a truly awesome school community here at Dunsandel School. If you're new to the area, huge welcome too - hope everyone finds their feet this week, maybe easier with the shorter week. If you are keen to help out with PTA things, come along to a meeting (doesn't have to be AGM!) and see what we're about, or have a chat to a current PTA member for their take - if you'd like to get in touch with us via email, it's ptadunsandel@gmail.com, or messaging our Facebook page works too.

Dunsandel School PTA is an awesome group of parents who tackle lots of fundraising so that we can fund cool extras (education outside the classroom - trips to neat spots like Lake Rua, Orana Park, Ashburton pools, schoolwide music program, extra funding for classroom resources for the teachers, PRIDE Tshirts, and one offs such as new mats and projector for hall, TVs for classrooms etc). PTA fundraising takes many forms - catering jobs, quiz night, calf fundraiser, and a few others - at any rate there are plenty of jobs to go around, and the more the merrier - many hands make light work. I'll be stepping down from my role at AGM as I've not got anyone left at school now - so there will be at least one gap to fill, and it's a fantastic group of folks to work with if you're thinking you'd like to help out in some way. 16th February, 3:30pm at school (so kids could play outside and it's not over the witching hour/bedtime like we've done in past - trying a brave new thing with a different time slot for AGM!!

Hope to see you there!

Katharine Sheppard

PTA President

Calendar	Dunsandel School
Click here for our School Calendar on Google. School Calendar can be accessed on our School App.	Irvines Road, RD2 Dunsandel 7682 Phone 03 3254079 www.dunsandel.school.nz
Buying Uniform	Office Email
Go to the Mainland Uniforms website - personalised page for our school: - https://www.mainlanduniforms.nz/241-dunsandel-school This link is also on the home page of our school website.	admin@dunsandel.school.nz Principal Dave Robinson principal@dunsandel.school.nz Deputy Principal Tracey Harrold tracey@dunsandel.school.nz
<i>We are a 100% smoke free school in accordance with the Smokefree Environments Act. This means the whole school is smoke and vape free - indoors and on the school grounds.</i>	School Secretary Felicity Pluck felicity@dunsandel.school.nz Board Presiding Member Mick O'Connor PTA President Katharine Sheppard School Account Number 02-0860-0049250-000
Community News and Notes	



First Light Farms

INVITES YOU TO

BEEF, BUBBLES & BOUQUETS

First Light Farms warmly invites you to join us for an evening of good food, great company and a little creativity. Enjoy bubbles on arrival, a shared Wagyu beef dinner, and finish the night by creating your own bouquet to take home.

Who this evening is for

This event is designed for women who are part of an active farming operation. If farming is part of your day-to-day life or business, we would love to hear from you. The evening will have a particular focus on dairy and beef farming operations.

TO REGISTER:
lucym@firstlight.farm
027 272 8199
RSVP by 27th Feb

11TH MARCH
START AT 6PM

THE AFTER HOURS STYLIST
59 CHARWELL LANE PREBBLETON