

# COUNTRY DAY 2026

## LIFE ON PLANET EARTH

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER



# COUNTRY DAY - ON THE DAY

**10.00am** Morning Tea time for our children

**By 10.45am** All pets to be at school on the big field

**11.00am – 12.00pm** Judging begins. The judges are friends of our school from our Community.

**From 12.00pm** we will have lunch on the school side, feel free to bring a picnic lunch to have with your family; Performances from our Senior Kapa haka will commence. Cake viewing for the PTA Cake Auctions; Hall will be open to view the research projects, Art and Handwriting. The annual PTA Cake Auction will take place.

**1.30pm** Lamb Drinking Competition, Calf Drinking Competition, Dog races and Best Dressed Pet Parade.

## Some key points to be aware of:-

- **All pets** need to be at school by 10:45am for judging at 11:00am
- **Our judges** are local people who have had or continue to have an association with our school. Our judges have a set criterion to use for their judging. Judges enjoy talking to our children – we do ask parents/ caregivers to allow the children to answer the question. Things the Judge may ask include knowledge (bred, age, diet) Care and Attention (feeding times, sleeping, what does your pet need, grooming) and handling (what makes your pet happy/sad, games, what happens when strangers come).
- **Lunch** – We will have lunch on the school side. Staff check on animals during this time – it also gives the animals a break. The hall will be open to view the art and handwriting. It is also an opportunity to view the cakes which are part of the PTA Cake Auction and Bake a Cake Competition.
- **Best Dressed Pet** – We will give children some time to dress up their pet or pet cage. The children will then parade their pet for the secret judges to decide on the Best Dressed Pet' from each class. This will be the last event for the day. Please do not put your pet through unnecessary stress for this part of the day.
- **Lamb Drinking Race** – Please bring a bottle with 300mls of milk for lambs. This event is optional
- **Calf Drinking Race** – Please bring a bottle with 500mls of milk for your calf. This event is optional.
- **Dog Race** – Adult/Parent to have dog on leash and holding hand of child (see Picture in this booklet). This event is optional.

# DUNSANDEL SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

The Weekly  
Family Newsletter



## PARTICIPATE RESPECT INITIATIVE DETERMINATION EMPATHY



### Monday 14 September 2026

- Country Day; No Hot Lunch Friday this week.
- Safety Vests

### News and Notes from the Principal

Nau mai, haere mai.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa,

**Country Day is 4 sleeps away.** Country Day is this Friday and it's a day that has a special place on our calendar. I know we have excited children and staff who are looking forward to the day. On page 2 of this newsletter is the outline of the day – the full Country Day Information Booklet can be found on our school website (Our School – Country Day). This is our biggest day of the year, and we would love as many families as possible to come along and share in the day. This day is a day for our children and our school community. So come along and have a sausage, check out the art and handwriting on display in the hall. Catch up with old friends and introduce yourself to new friends. **AND** please keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

**All our Country Day information is up on our website – click the link on our home page.**

**Safety Vests** – We have exhausted our Spare Safety Vest supply – please have a check at home and in your child's school bag so we can have these returned to school.

**Hot Lunch Friday** – There will be **No** Hot Lunch Friday this week with it being Country Day.

**Assembly** – Thank-you to everyone who came along to our final Friday Assembly for the term. As always, we appreciate support.

**Canterbury Duathlon** - Well done to our captain Millie, and her teammates – Liam, Archer, Lewis and Jasper who competed at the Canterbury Primary Schools Duathlon at Ruapuna Raceway last Monday.

**Chocolate update** – We have officially sold out of the chocolates. A massive thank you for all your effort and support. Now is the time to bring all the money back to the office by Friday 18 September. Once all the money has been returned, we will draw the prizes. I look forward to seeing everyone at our Country Day on Friday.

Ngā mihi nui

*DRobinson*

Dave Robinson;  
Principal/Tumuaki/Punong-guro



# HELP!

WE HAVE EXHAUSTED OUR  
SUPPLY OF SPARE SAFETY  
VESTS.

PLEASE CHECK AT HOME  
FOR ANY SPARES YOU MAY  
HAVE SO THEY CAN BE  
RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE!



## PTA News and Notes

Hello Everyone

How excited are we for Country Day.

I'm super excited to see all the pets, the Kapa Haka performances, the sausage sizzle, cupcakes and, of course, the much-anticipated cake auction!

We're still looking for a few bakers to help provide the judges' morning tea, so if you're able to whip something up, please get in touch.

We're also looking for a few extra helpers on Saturday 19th to lend a hand with our catering event. If you have some spare time and can help out, we'd love to hear from you!

Tomorrow is the last chance to get your King Seeds and Lily bulb orders in. Please email your orders to [ptadunsandel@gmail.com](mailto:ptadunsandel@gmail.com) or drop them into the school office.

A huge thank you, as always, for your amazing support of the PTA. We can't wait to see you all on Friday and enjoy a great Country Day together

Shae Brown  
PTA President

## PRIDE Awards

**Room 1 – Cohen** - Cohen, you are a gem. 💎 You have made such a super start to life at school. You tackle every new challenge with such a positive attitude and always try your absolute best. 🐼 You follow instructions like a superstar, and you're getting so good at blending sounds to make words when you read—wow! You're also super neat when you write both your numbers and all your letters. You take great pride in the way you go about everything at school. Not only that, you are a wonderful friend to everyone. Cohen, you are one cool cucumber. Thank you for being such a great member of the Room 1 team - you're a super star! ★

**Room 3 – Blake** - Blake, this PRIDE award is for you, for all the determination and enthusiasm you show towards your learning. I have been impressed by the way you keep working at tricky tasks and even have time to help those around you. You are a reading expert, finding out all sorts of cool information and you are really getting into solving maths puzzles quickly. Blake I love that you are so kind and caring and that you are always looking out for everybody. I am proud to be your teacher!

**Ilah-Rose** - Ilah-Rose what an awesome term you are having. You have been putting a lot of effort into your learning and what fantastic success you are having. Your reading is expressive and you can expertly work out tricky words. I am proud of you for the way you have taken care when doing your Country Day art and handwriting and you can be proud of how they look. I love your creativity and the wee crafts you make are very cute. Ilah-Rose don't ever stop being the enthusiastic, confident, kind girl that you are, because the world needs more people like you.

**Room 4 – Raiden** - This PRIDE award goes to you, Raiden, for all of your respect, empathy, participation, and determination. You bring so much kindness, hard work, and honesty to our class each day. I love how you are always striving to do and be your best. You show so much determination within your learning, you are always giving everything a go, believe in yourself, and give 100% to each task. On top of always trying your hardest in learning, you are a respectful and thoughtful friend. You show deep empathy by checking in on others, treating everyone with care and ensuring that every



person in our class feels included and valued. I also love how you are always showing respect by being honest and standing up for what's right. Your positive attitude and great character make our class a better place to be, Keep shining Raiden!

**Room 5 – Marcus** - Marcus, this award goes to you for being such a PRIDE role model in Room 5 recently. You consistently take the initiative to prepare yourself for learning and have created a focused, positive workspace to ensure that you get the most out of your time. Your contributions to class discussions are thoughtful and valuable, and your caring nature and love of fun make you a fantastic friend to your classmates. Marcus, you are so clever and capable of accomplishing big things—keep bringing this determination to everything you do, and the sky will be the limit!

**Christyn** - Christyn, you should be so proud of how hard you have worked on your handwriting and art in preparation for Country Day! You have spent hours ensuring your handwriting reflects your absolute best effort, and the finished product is beautiful. Your artwork shows how carefully you considered every single brushstroke—I can't wait for everyone to admire your hard work on Country Day! Christyn, you are such a supportive, encouraging friend to everyone in our class. You are everyone's biggest cheerleader, and I know no one will ever feel sad or lonely with you around. You are a star, Christyn, keep up the fabulous work.

**Room 6 – Ozy** - Ozy, you are a wonderful member of Room 6. You enter the classroom each day with a big smile and a warm greeting, setting the scene for an excellent day. Your great sense of humor brings such positive energy to our classroom. You have a wonderful ability to connect with anyone and instantly lift the room. Ozy, I have loved seeing you grow in confidence to step up and challenge yourself to share your ideas and opinions during class discussions. Your energy, determination, and positive attitude make our classroom such a fun place to be. Awesome work, Ozy!

**Miah** - Miah, what an absolute shining star you are in Room 6! You set your sights high and consistently strive for excellence in everything you do. Your dedication, focus, and drive are truly inspiring—you always make sure you thoroughly understand your learning and take immense pride in crafting top-quality work. I love your fearless attitude and passion for trying new things! Whether you're giving it your all on the sports field representing Dunsandel School, beautifully leading waiata at Kapa Haka, or shining brightly with a solo performance at Strum, Strike, Blow, you bring boundless energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for being such an extraordinary role model—keep reaching for the stars, Miah!

## Calendar

[Click here](#) for our School Calendar on Google. School Calendar can be accessed on our School App.

## Buying Uniform

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.

.....



***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.***

## Dunsandel School

Irvines Road, RD2  
Dunsandel 7682  
Phone 03 3254079

[www.dunsandel.school.nz](http://www.dunsandel.school.nz)

### Office Email

[admin@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:admin@dunsandel.school.nz)

### Principal

Dave Robinson

[principal@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:principal@dunsandel.school.nz)

### Deputy Principal

Tracey Harrold

[tracey@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:tracey@dunsandel.school.nz)

### School Secretary

Felicity Pluck

[felicity@dunsandel.school.nz](mailto:felicity@dunsandel.school.nz)

### Board Presiding Member

Mick O'Connor

### PTA President

Shae Brown

### School Account Number

Board of Trustees 02-0860-0049250-00

## Community News and Notes



# ELLESMERE A & P SHOW

\*\*\*\*\*

## SCHOOLS SECTION

OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF CLASSES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO ENTER

**SECTIONS INCLUDE:**

- Floral Art
- Technology/Decorative Arts & Crafts
- Cooking
- Pet lamb, sheep, goat & calf

**PRIZES IN EACH SECTION**

**HOME INDUSTRY & HANDCRAFTS**  
FREE ENTRY  
1st \$5, 2nd \$3 & 3rd \$2

**LAMB, SHEEP, GOAT & CALF**  
ENTRY FEE \$2  
1st \$10, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$5 & 4th \$2



# SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER<sup>20</sup>

GATES OPEN 8AM - ELLESMERE SHOWGROUNDS, 1650 LEESTON ROAD, LEESTON

For more info & how to enter go to [www.ellesmereshow.co.nz](http://www.ellesmereshow.co.nz)





**kidsfirst**  
kindergartens

## SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

Kidsfirst Kindergartens Burnham

16 Ruru Street, Burnham Camp, Burnham  
021 740 629    [burnham@kidsfirst.org.nz](mailto:burnham@kidsfirst.org.nz)



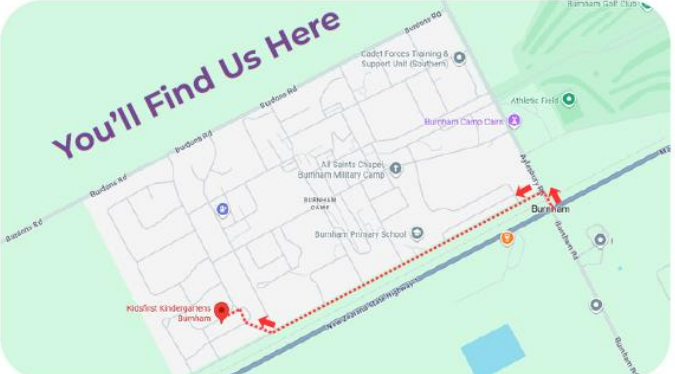
## 20 HOURS FREE

FROM 2 YEARS OLD UNTIL SCHOOL

Conditions apply



- Natural forest-bush area
- Safe and engaging outdoor play
- 100% Fully Qualified Teaching Team



## APPLY NOW

<https://kidsfirst.org.nz/kindergarten/burnham/>