



**Newsletter
Week 2
Term 4 2026
Leading Our Learning - Whai Akoranga**

**Let's stay
on...
Together
Respectful
Adaptable
Creative
Kind**

Thursday 22 October 2026

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers, and Ward School Whānau,
Welcome to Term 4. This year has flown by, and I am sure this term will be no exception. Term 4 is always full on and jam-packed with exciting opportunities. Our Year 3-5s will soon be off to their Bridge Valley Camp, and it won't be long until we farewell our Year 8s with their final camp and prize-giving ceremony. We are looking forward to a great final term of 2026!

Athletics

Tomorrow we will head to Seddon School for our athletics day. Thank you to the whānau who have offered their support with travel and helping on the day. We know there is a lot happening this term that requires your support, so thank you for that.

On **Tuesday, November 3rd**, our Year 5–8 students will be participating in the annual Rural Athletics Day in town. Please note that this is a **compulsory school event** organised as a core part of our Physical Education curriculum. It is designed for every child to participate, try their best, and experience success in a supportive environment. It is expected that all students attend. We fully recognise that arranging transport to town can place an extra burden on busy schedules. Parent transportation remains our primary option for getting the children to and from the event; however, to ease the strain, we are currently getting quotes to see how much it would cost to charter a school bus. If we move forward with a bus, we will need to pass a cost along to families on a per-child basis. Once we have the exact pricing, we will share the details. If you haven't returned your permission slip yet, please get this in to Miss Benseman as soon as possible

Marlborough Kids Duathlon

A massive thank you to our families who took part in the Marlborough Kids Duathlon. Thanks to your efforts, Ward School was awarded the highest percentage of participation for the small schools award. We have \$500 to spend at Mitchell Sports and are looking to purchase some Hockey balls, basketballs and athletics equipment like shot put and discus

Reading Resources

A big thank you to TEAM for funding our new decodable reading books for older students. They arrived last week and have already been put to great use in Wave Pool and Reef. They will be a fantastic resource for all our tamariki as they move through the school.



Wave Pool Camp

Wave Pool are getting very excited about their upcoming camp. Next week (from Wednesday), Miss Beseman and I will take the class to Bridge Valley Camp, which is located close to Nelson. It will be a fantastic opportunity for team building, adventure activities and experiencing time away from home. Thank you to Miss Benseman for all her hard work and organisation, and also to the parent volunteers who make these experiences possible. Look out for some pics in our next newsletter

Assemblies

Assembly times for this term have been set. You can find them on the website calendar and in the important dates section of this newsletter. The irregularity and changing days is reflective of the very full schedule we have for Term 4. We still feel these are incredibly valuable opportunities to share student success and love it when Whānau are able to attend.

Pool

Term 4 also brings the sunny weather, and we will be looking to get our pool open by the week of November 9th. Once the pool is open, keys will be available for hire from the school office.

Attendance

I want to take a moment to share a snapshot of our attendance data from Term 3 and talk openly about where we are and where we hope to head together.

As a reminder, "regular attendance" is defined as students being present at school for 90% or more of the term, with the national target set at 80%. In Term 3, our regular attendance dropped to **33%**, down significantly from **78%** in Term 2.

We know Term 3 brought a heavy round of winter bugs, and we appreciate every family keeping unwell children at home to prevent illness from spreading through classrooms. We also recognise the realities of rural life and rural family schedules—not all travel or work commitments align neatly with school holidays. While in-person classroom time is vital for keeping learning on track, we fully acknowledge that family trips and off-site experiences offer rich, invaluable learning opportunities of their own.

However, the statistic I am most determined for us to shift together is the **21% of unverified absences**.

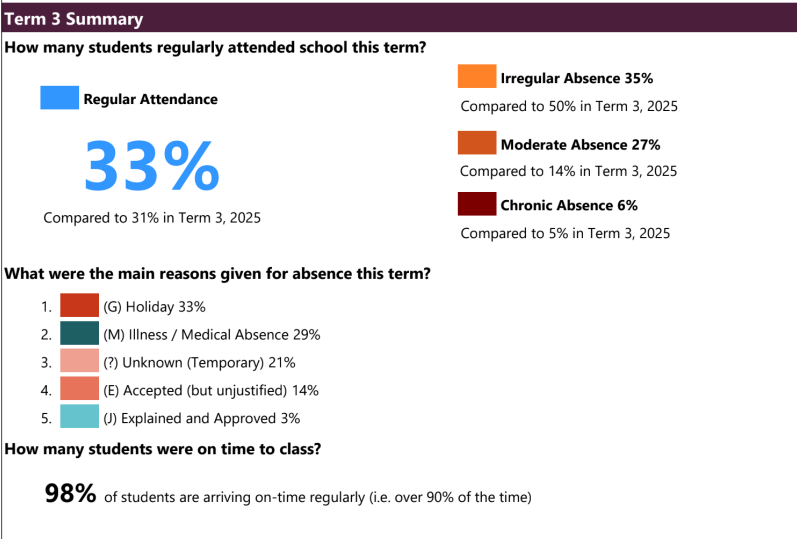
When a student is absent without a confirmed reason, our admin team spends a significant amount of time following up with phone calls and messages. When we can't reach a family, that absence must be officially recorded with a **"?" (Unknown)** in our system.

We are not here to judge the reasons for your child's absence; life happens, farm and family schedules shift, and plans change. Our primary goal is simply to ensure our safety and reporting records are accurate and complete.

How you can help: Whenever your child is going to be away—for sickness, appointments, or travel—please let us know as soon as possible. You can notify us via:

- 1. **The Skool Loop App** (*Quickest and easiest option*)
- 2. **Email**
- 3. **Phone Call** (*Please leave a message if we are away from the front desk*)

Thank you for your partnership, understanding, and ongoing support. I know we can work together to bring our attendance and communication figures right back up for Term 4.



Harold The Giraffe

Next week we will be having Life Education visit the school from Wednesday to Friday and working with Reef and Rock Pool. This visit ties in with our health education, where the topics covered will be around building positive relationships, good friendships, recognising bullying behaviour and aspects of digital safety. If you have any concerns or questions about the visit, please reach out to your child's teacher. Note that Wave Pool will not be participating as they are away on camp.



Just for Laughs! (aka Mr Sangster's Dad Joke of the week!)

Why didn't the sun go to university?

Because it already had a million degrees!

Ngā mihi nui,

Aaron Sangster - Principal/Tumuaki

Together



Respectful



Adaptable



Creative



Kind



Important Dates

Date	Event
Oct 12	Start of Term 4
Oct 23	Ward/ Seddon Athletics
Oct 26	Labour Day Holiday
Oct 28 - 30	Wave Pool Camp
Nov 2	Marlborough Anniversary Holiday
Nov 3	Rural School Athletics - Yr 5-8
Nov 5	Rock Pool Assembly
Nov 6	Rock Pool Big Day Out
Nov 9-13	School Book Fair
Nov 13	Wave Pool Assembly
Nov 20	Kapa Haka performance - Kaikoura
Nov 25 -27	Year 8 Camp
Dec 3	Reef (Yr 8s) Assembly
Dec 15	Last day of Term/ Prizegiving

 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

Week 5

Come and browse our amazing range of books!

Tuesday 10th

★ Come as a Book Character! ★



Thursday 12th

Bring your favourite picture book to share with a buddy and a mug to have a Milo or hot chocolate. ★



Buying books supports
our library
to get new books!



Lights Over Marlborough

Fireworks

spectacular

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Sat, Nov 14

A WHITNEY STREET SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

From 6.00pm (Gates open at 5.30pm)
A&P Park, Maxwell Road

(Postponement Day: Sunday November 15, 2026)

Admission: Adults & Children 5 & over: \$10
Family of Five: \$40 / Children under 5: FREE

For more information go to facebook.com/LightsOverMarlborough

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A WINC fundraiser for Whitney Street School



Be protected against **meningococcal disease**



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Meningococcal disease is a serious and potentially fatal bacterial infection that could affect you. It can cause two very serious illnesses – meningitis and blood poisoning – but you can be protected.

Meningococcal vaccines are **FREE for rangatahi aged 13-25 years** in their first year of close-living situations (including up to 3 months before), such as boarding schools, halls of residence and military barracks.

To get the best available protection against this preventable disease, you should ensure you are fully immunised against Meningococcal disease **before** moving into the close living facility. Rangatahi require a single dose of the MenACWY vaccine and two doses of the MenB vaccine given 8 weeks apart. The MenACWY and first dose of MenB vaccines can be given at the same time.

Talk with your usual health provider or visit [Book My Vaccine](#) to find where to go for Meningococcal vaccination.

Where to get the vaccines in Marlborough:

- Your GP
- Community Pharmacies
- Book My Vaccine (QR code)

Where to get more information:

- Meningitis Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand
- Health New Zealand - Meningococcal Disease
- Immunisation Advisory Centre

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora



Ward School

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