



NEWSLETTER

Week 1, Term One, 2026

(03) 433 1366 email: office@ardgowan.school.nz

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou e te Whanau,

It is wonderful to have the school filled with the sound of children running, laughing and chatting once again. Over the past few weeks the space has been so unnaturally quiet as the teachers and I have been preparing for the year ahead.

It was great to see those of you that could make it along to our 'Meet the Teacher' day on Monday. We hope the time was well spent and it eased any worries or concerns children had about starting back. I also wish to extend a huge welcome to all of our new akonga/learners and their whanau. It is wonderful to have you as part of the Ardgowan School community.

We also welcome Louis Imbruglia to our team. Louis has been appointed as our groundskeeper, so be sure to say hello if you see Louis working around the grounds when you pick up or drop off your tamariki.

As we settle into 2026 please keep an eye out for your child's classroom newsletters. These will be valuable for you to learn more about any classroom specific routines and activities that are coming up.

Ka mihi nui,
Ryan Fraser

Welcome back everyone!!

Just a reminder...

NZ Police have advised the following:

For the first two weeks of the Term 1 2026, Police will be conducting targeted safety patrols around schools at the start and end of the day. From the 26th of January 2026 – 9th of February 2026 Oamaru Police, alongside partner agencies, will be running a back-to-school operation.

The aim of this operation is to protect children and enhance public safety within school zones through vigilant speed enforcement.

The Waitaki District community should expect to see an increased Police presence during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up hours.



Your generous donations helped greatly - Thank you so much to all families who donated items.

Oamaru Combined Churches Christmas Parcels Trust

Adrienne Wylie, 21B Argyle Street, Weston, Oamaru 9401

Phone (03) 434 8436 Cell phone 027 327 8589

30th January 2026

To whom it may concern:
Ardgowan School.

On behalf of the above Trust and in deep appreciation I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the most generous donation of a variety of grocery items collected by your school towards the Christmas parcels delivered last month. We provided parcels for 159 families. There were 264 adults and 344 children and teenagers with all of these receiving an appropriate gift.

A large Christmas hamper of food was also delivered to each family.

This would not have been possible without the generosity and kindness of local Churches, Schools, businesses, organisations and individuals.

Sincerely

June Jones
Communications Officer

On behalf of Adrienne Wylie (Chair)
Oamaru Combined Churches Christmas Parcels Trust.

School Notices

Ardgowan School Sunhats are mandatory for ALL children to wear during Terms 1 and 4. Hats are available for purchase at the school office in 4 different sizes for \$23 per hat. Please make sure your child's hat is clearly named as they are easily misplaced.

Drink bottles - these are a must for all children to have every day while at school. Please ensure their drink bottle is full of water, and is in their bag every morning.

Signing out - If your child is leaving school early, or you are collecting your child during school time for any reason, please ensure you come to the office to sign them out. Should we have an emergency, it is vitally important that we know whether your son / daughter is on / off the school grounds.

POLICE VETTING for parents and caregivers.

If you would like to accompany the children on school trips and camps it is a requirement by law that all parents / caregivers be police vetted, and that the vet be current with our school. If you would like to be police vetted to enable you to join in these activities, please contact the school office. We have forms available on paper, or can email out to you if you prefer. Vetting lasts 3 years and there is no cost to you. A primary and Secondary form of ID must be provided on application.

A couple of reminders for families around drop off and pick up times.

The Drop and Drive area is to be used for Drop and Drive only - NO PARKING.

The car park is for parking to drop off and pick up your child only - NO DROP AND DRIVE.

Please help to keep the children safe by using both areas for their intended purpose only as it creates frustration for other users when they are used inappropriately.

Please drive carefully when in and around our school.

A. A mirror.

UNIFORM PRICES

Polo top Size 6 - 16 \$32.50

Polo top Size S, M, L \$37.00

Polar Fleece Size 4 - 14 \$45.00

Polar Fleece Size S, M, L \$54.00

Sunhats \$23.00

Uniform is available to purchase at the office.

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar under the **News and Events Tab** at the top. It is regularly updated with as many dates as possible but please be aware some dates - especially those further on in the year, may change.

SCHEDULE OF LUNCHES TERM ONE 2026

MONDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. (Kowhai, Manuka, Kauri).

Items to be securely wrapped in tin foil and named with a vivid. No Bowls as they take up too much room. Items can be taken to class on the morning and put in the class tray to be transferred to the pie warmer. Please have items defrosted.

TUESDAY - OWN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY - OWN LUNCH

THURSDAY Subway orders every week **STARTING WEEK TWO**. Please have orders into the school office by Wednesday mornings. Order envelopes are available at the school office. Correct cash please.

FRIDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. (Rimu, Pohutukawa).

Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle at all times of the year. Our school promotes healthy eating whenever possible, a piece of fruit each day, and choosing healthy snack options for your child's lunchbox is a great way to ensure they get the best out of their day. It also greatly helps to cut down on the amount of plastic packaging we have to send to the tip each week.

Changed your address or phone number? Please let the office know.

Correction of Futsal dates in emailed permission slip. The correct start date for Futsal is 16th February - Our apologies for any confusion.

Important Term 1 Dates for the Diary

School website calendar: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

February 2026

Thursday 5th - Swimming 12:30pm.

Friday 6th - Waitangi Day - School closed.

Friday 13th - Swimming 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Tuesday 17th - BOT Meeting

Friday 20th - Swimming 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Friday 27th - Swimming 12:30pm - 2:30pm

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd - Zone swimming sports

Thursday 5th - Friday 6th - Year 3 & 4 camp - Dunedin.

Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th - Year 7 & 8 Technology - OIS

Wednesday 11th - North Otago Swimming Sports

Friday 20th - NOPPA conference - Teacher Only Day

Monday 23rd - Otago Anniversary Day - School closed.

Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th - Year 5 & 6 camp - Tirohanga.

Thursday 26th - Friday 27th - Year 8 WRSN camp - Camp Iona.

Monday 30th - Thursday 2nd April - Year 7 & 8 camp - Waihola.

Tuesday 31st - BOT Meeting.

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday - School closed. School holidays start.

Joke / Riddle of the week: If you drop me I am sure to crack, but smile at me and I will smile back. What am I?

The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.

ARDGOWAN HOME AND SCHOOL

If you wish to be a part of any of our events or know of a way we can help within our school community please don't hesitate to reach out, we'd love to hear from you.

homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz

Tina Gosney - 0272709293

Tina Gosney / Anna Waite - President

Lauren Hewett - Secretary

Tina Gosney - Treasurer

Absentees. Please inform the school via email, phone or Skool Loop if your child is going to be absent or late to school for any reason. Please expect a phone call or email from our school office if you have not contacted us - this is to ensure all children are safe, and is a Ministry of Education requirement which all schools must follow.

Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of sickness and let the office know.

School and Community Feedback Our Board of Trustees really values feedback from our school families and community. If you have any comments or feedback please feel free to email feedback@ardgowan.school.nz all communication is treated confidentially

BUS FAMILIES. If your child is getting off at a different stop in the afternoon to what they would normally, please give Pearsons a call or inform the school office so we can let the bus driver know. For safety reasons he is unable to drop children off at alternative stops unless prior parental permission is given

PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE BERM! Our neighbours across the road have a lovely area of grass in front of their house, but vehicles parked there cause a considerable safety hazard to the residents and other road users. Tyre marks on their lawn are not appreciated. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Under Pressure: How to Thrive in a Hyper-Competitive Youth Sport World

-  Oamaru Opera House
-  Thursday 19 February 2026
-  6:45pm–8:30pm
-  Event details & tickets:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/under-pressure-how-to-thrive-in-hyper-competitive-youth-sport-world/oamaru>

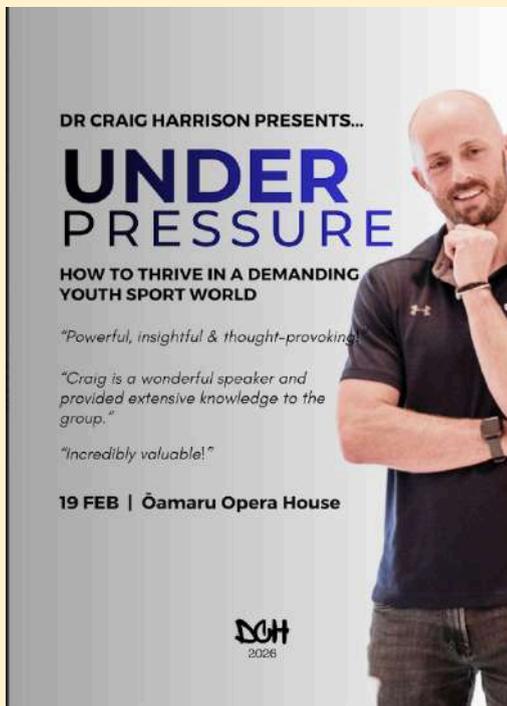
This session will explore the realities young people face in modern sport, including increasing expectations, early selection, and performance pressure, and how these can impact confidence, enjoyment, and wellbeing.

Craig will unpack what's really happening under pressure and share practical ways parents, coaches, and athletes can better understand it, respond to it, and build the skills that support confident, resilient, and adaptable young people both in sport and beyond.

This talk is well suited for:

- Parents wanting to better support their young athletes
- Coaches working with youth across any sport
- Teen athletes navigating performance environments

Craig is the mentor for our Youth Athlete Development Programme, and we're excited to support and promote this opportunity for the wider Oamaru community.



**WEDNESDAY
4:30 PM**

Kids BOXFIT

Train in a fun, supportive and safe environment

- Boxing techniques
- Cardio exercises
- Strength building
- Paired, group environment, great for making new friends
- 45 min session time
- Age 9 - 14

Boxing gloves & pads available to use!

Term 1 now open for registration

Sign Up Now

📞 Tasha - 0273030873

📍 Saint Lukes Church hall



FLIPPABALL

WHO: YEARS 5&6
YEARS 7&8

WHEN: TERM 1 2026

WHERE: WAITAKI AQUATIC CENTRE

For more information please contact your school or contact
Kerry Holland kholland@waitaki.govt.nz
Candy Hamilton c.hamilton@waitaki.govt.nz



Flippaball

Introduce to water polo

- Fun teamwork sport
- Modified for beginners
- Enhances ball handling and improves endurance

Rules
Using One hand passing the ball down with one hand
using two hands
Shallow water allowing players to stand with no walking
Teams of 6 field players and 1 goalie in two 10-minute halves
Non-contact sport



Luzette.co.nz

ART CLASS

Join an art class to explore creativity in a supportive environment for all skill levels.

PAINTING • DRAWING • CLAY MODELING

**TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY
3:30PM-5PM**

4 Harbour street, Oamaru

Only

\$220

8 weeks

OPEN REGISTRATION UNTIL MONDAY 2 FEB

More Information:

www.luzette.co.nz



Luzette's Skills & Tech class

**SKILLS & TECHNIQUES
STARTING 3 FEB
2026, 8 WEEKS**

8 weeks - \$350

EVERY TUESDAY 6PM-7:30PM

Book now! www.luzette.co.nz



All Materials included

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES TERM 1

After school art classes are back for 2026!

We are so excited to have all the art loving, creative looping, crazy craving, colour blocking, exploring mischiefs, mistake makers Adventurers BACK!

Starting on 3 February 2026, and running for 8 weeks. You can choose to come on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 3:30-5pm.

These classes are best suited for ages 5-10 or those looking to have fun while learning the basics about art elements, all while strengthening fine motor muscles and creating muscle memory, key later on in artists life.

More than art classes, our classes are a great way to build your child's confidence, giving them freedom to make mistakes and explore materials and formulas in a safe loving environment

Lessons are based on an EPIC curriculum (Elements and Principles Intergration Curriculum) All Materials are included!

Luzette

www.luzette.co.nz
[@luzette_art](https://www.instagram.com/luzette_art)
luzetteart@gmail.com



SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES CLASS

**TERM 1
BEST SUITED AGES
11-17**

If your child has a good understanding of art & art elements, this is the class for them!

We have had so much feedback on this class! Artistic kids at school need the extra time, space and discipline to be free to create and learn and explore art techniques and that is exactly what we provide. Looking back at my schooling I had art as a subject and had at least 2 to 3 days a week devoted to art at school. These days the school system or just not allowing that.

That is why we have created this class, my students and their parents have given me feedback from school, letting them now that they are at least 2-3 years ahead. This is amazing feedback and the reason we need to continue investing in our children's artistic futures!

We take in depth looks at different mediums and how they are best applied and executed.

We focus on each individual's skills and how to use them alongside different mediums to their full advantage.



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"Also I really want to say a huge thank you!! Brooke is usually very shy and she came out of your class super happy and excited to go back! We have been working towards building her confidence and I really feel like your class gave her a wee boost!"

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