



NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term One, 2026

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

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou e te Whānau,

What a positive and calm beginning to the year we have had so far. The children have come back rested and ready to get into their learning, and the classes are humming.

You may have seen in the media over the past months that the government has made school attendance one of their priorities. They have set a target of having 80% of students attending over 90% of the time and have made this an urgent priority. As part of this target, it is now mandatory for schools to implement an attendance management plan. Please keep an eye out, as elements of our attendance management plan will be shared with you later in the week. It is really important to have an understanding of the processes that are in place to try and achieve this government target.

I would like to acknowledge all those parents who have put their hands up to help out with our sports teams this term. The timeframes for getting players, coaches, and teams organised and registered in competitions have been tight. Thank you for ensuring we have teams entered and our kids are involved and gaining all the benefits that being in a team game brings.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ryan Fraser



It is great to see everyone back, and so many smiling faces.

A big welcome to Louis Imbruglia, our new caretaker. Louis is working hard in the gardens and keeping them looking amazing!

Polo tops are now back in stock in all sizes for anyone wishing to purchase a new top.

We are still awaiting an order of Polar Fleece as we have run out in size 8 currently. They have been a very popular item with the colder than usual summer weather.

A reminder to please return the completed **2026 Contact details, Medical and Permission Update forms** which were sent home last week. Thank you to those families who have already returned them.

Scholastic orders are due back on Friday if not ordering online.



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.

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.

Important Term 1 Dates for the Diary

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

February 2026

Tuesday 17th - BOT Meeting

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

Friday 20th - Scholastic Orders due back.

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: I have a neck and no head, a body and no legs. 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.

Answer: A bottle.

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>

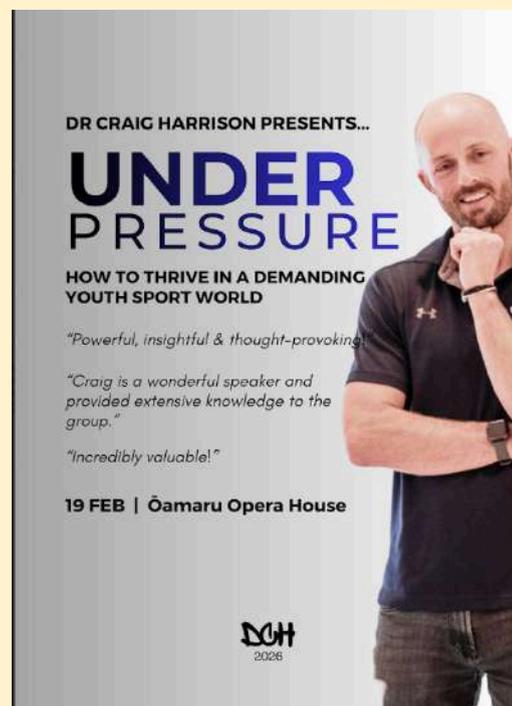
This session will explore the realities young people face in modern sport, including increasing expectations, early selection, and performance pressure, and how these can impact confidence, enjoyment, and wellbeing.

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

Women's BOXFIT

Wednesdays 5:20pm
@ St Luke's Church Hall
Age 15 +

Direct message via FB or text
Tasha -0273030873 for more info
Gloves & Pads available to use

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 k.holland@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 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.



“

"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!"

”

INTERSCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN EVENT

PALMERSTON-WAIHEMO



DATE: SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026
 TIME: 9:00AM
 VENUE: PALMERSTON SHOW GROUNDS,
 31 GILLIGAN ST, PALMERSTON
 ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 PER RIDER, PAYABLE TO PALMERSTON & WAIHEMO A&P ASSN
 BANK ACC. 06 0942 0371593 01
 ENTRIES CLOSE: FRIDAY 13th MARCH 2026 AT 5:00PM

Section 1: Years 7 – 13

1 DRESSAGE TEST Dressage NZ
 NZPC 1 – 11 (2018)
 (1 point penalty if Dressage Test is read)
 1 ROUND SHOW JUMPING (TAM5 IJO)
 TEAM FANCY DRESS (points towards trophy)

Years 7 – 13 CLASSES	JUMP HEIGHT
1	50cm
2	60cm
3	70cm
4	80cm

Section 2: Years 8 & under

1 DRESSAGE U.S. Lead Rein Test
 (This test can be read and on or off lead
 at any break in movements)
 PONY CLUB GAMES OR JUMPING
 TEAM FANCY DRESS (points towards trophy)

YEARS 8 & under CLASSES	JUMP HEIGHT
5	poles
6	40cm
7	50cm
8	60cm

Information about the interschools Equestrian event and entry forms are available in the school office.

WAIKAI DISTRICT COUNCIL presents
OAMARU'S FRIENDLY BAY FAMILY FUN DAY
 Free
 Saturday 07 MARCH 2026 10.30AM - 2.30PM
 BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR CLASSIC FAMILY FUN AND WHĀNAU WELLBEING

Oamaru Chinese Association

warmly invites the Chinese Community and friends

CHINESE NEW YEAR YEAR OF THE HORSE POTLUCK DINNER

WHEN: Saturday, 21st February 2026
 TIME: 6.00pm
 VENUE: Fenwick School Hall
 25 Arun Street, Oamaru
 Hall Entrance is on Hull Street

SHARED MEAL - Please bring a plate of food to share

- Bring your own plates, utensils etc
- Chinese Tea, Fruit Juice provided
- Fun and games to entertain
- Come and meet new and old friends

MORE INFO CONTACT: Janice Burnett 027 441 7480 or Sandra Tonkin 027 778 9753

Everyone's Welcome

Back to School 2026 School Update Oamaru Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year! The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.

Local Community Clinic:

- Oamaru
 43 Exe Street;
 Ph: 434 6170

Mobile Dental Unit:

- Waitaki Valley (Kurow)
 1 Settlement Road; Ph: 027 479 1733
 *From 2 November – 4 December

Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media

*Dates subject to change
 For appointments outside these dates please call 0800 672 543

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora | Community Oral Health Service | Talkteeth Southern

Oamaru Swim Club invites you to Fast and Furious

Come and experience swim racing in a fun and supportive environment!
 Open to all swimmers 8+ years who can swim 25m+

Friday 6th March
 Warm up 5.30pm
 Racing 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Enter using the google form link on the Oamaru Swim Club Facebook event page or pick up an entry form from the pool reception. Email your entry form to oamaruswim@gmail.com or drop back to the pool reception.

** Entries close Wednesday 4/3/26 **

FIL PAPA KAI O 8 HOUR SCHOOL COMP

7-12 YRS KIDS TRACK / 13 YRS+ MAIN TRACK 4/8 HRS
 1 & 2 HOUR LOOPS
 RIDE SOLO OR IN A COMPETITIVE OR SOCIAL TEAM

14TH MARCH 2026
 WILLOW PARK, OAMARU

WIN A BIKE! Thanks to Victor Nelson Cycles & Gear
 WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE SHIELD & GLORY?
 Register now at www.papakai8hour.nz

ENTRY FEE: \$10 7-12 YRS / \$20 13 YRS+ / RIDER

Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram @papakai8, Twitter @papakai8, YouTube

FUNDRAISER FOR PAPA KAI O SCHOOL

2026 OUT OF HOURS MUSIC AND ART CLASSES



ALL NORTH OTAGO CHILDREN
(AGED 8 -12 YEARS)
ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL.
HOSTED BY WESTON SCHOOL.



MUSIC CLASSES
UKULELE/GUITAR/DRUMS
CHANTER/BAGPIPES/VIOLIN
AND ART CLASSES



SIGN UP TODAY!

To enrol copy this link to your browser:
<https://forms.gle/YvWMAXIDSCz5V7848>

LIMITED SPACES. CLASSES ARE MADE ON A FIRST IN FIRST SERVED BASIS

ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20TH OF FEB.

Questions to kruddenklau@weston.school.nz

EXCELLENT TUTORS, SMALL CLASS SIZES.
MUSIC CLASSES JUST A \$20 DONATION ANNUALLY!
ART CLASSES APPROX. \$60 PER HALF YEAR, FOR MATERIALS.

COLOURING COMPETITION

WESTON CHURCH FAIR

- THEME:** EASTER
(All Age Groups can choose one of two pictures to colour)
- CATEGORIES:**
- 0 - 5 Years Old
 - 6 - 8 Years Old
 - 9 -10+ years
- PRIZES:**
- Category 1)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- Category 2)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- Category 3)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- JUDGE:** Sharon Walsh-Grieve
- DELIVER TO:**
- Weston Church Office - Wednes. 10am-4pm
Friday 10am-4pm
 - OR
Post to: Weston Church
48 Main Street
WESTON 9401
 - OR
Come to the Fair and Drop it off before 12 noon
- WESTON CHURCH FAIR**
28th March 2026
10.30-1.30pm

The prizes will be given out at the Fair at 1.15pm
The Judge is Sharon Walsh-Grieve

Colouring competition posters are available at the school office.

Ōamaru to Palmerston Community shuttle

Runs Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Tuesday and Saturday morning

Ōamaru - Palmerston - Dunedin

Shuttle leaves Ōamaru 9.30am
Shuttle arrives Palmerston (Bond St) 10.55am
Connects with Orbus Route 1 bus,
which leaves Palmerston 11am
Bus arrives Dunedin Bus Hub 12 noon

Palmerston - Ōamaru

Shuttle leaves Palmerston 11am
Shuttle arrives Ōamaru approx. 12.10pm

Tuesday and Saturday afternoon

Ōamaru - Palmerston

Shuttle leaves Ōamaru 5.45pm
Shuttle arrives Palmerston... approx. 7pm

Dunedin - Palmerston - Ōamaru

Bus leaves Dunedin Bus Hub 6pm
Bus arrives Palmerston (Bond St) ... 7pm
Transfers to shuttle
Shuttle leaves Palmerston 7.05pm
Shuttle arrives Ōamaru 7.45-8pm

Thursday morning and afternoon

Ōamaru - Dunedin and return (shuttle)

Morning: leaves Ōamaru at 9am and departs
Dunedin for return trip approximately 11am
Afternoon: leaves Ōamaru around 1.30-2pm
and departs Dunedin for return trip at 3.30pm

All times will be confirmed on booking

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Ōamaru:

- North End car park (Frome Street)
- Eden Street bus stop
- Awamoa Park bus stop (just beyond NPD)

Other locations:

- Maheno (SH1 just past Maheno Tavern)
- Herbert (opposite the old shop)
- Hampden (police station)
- Moeraki (pub)

FARES Ōamaru - Palmerston - Dunedin

Shuttle van - one way Koha \$5, cash only.

Orbus fares - one way

Bee Cards are available for purchase from your Orbus driver (\$5 plus minimum \$5 top-up credit, cash only).

Concession	Registered Bee Card	Cash
Under 5	Free (no Bee Card required)	Free
Child (5-18)	\$1.50	\$3
Adult (19+)	\$2.50	\$3
Community Connect	\$1.25 - register and load your Community Connect concession onto your Bee Card for this to apply.	\$3
SuperGold (65+) Peak hours	\$2.50	\$3
SuperGold (65+) Off-peak hours	Free - register and load your SuperGold concession onto your Bee Card for this to apply.	\$3

Bus and Bee Card info: orc.govt.nz/OamaruShuttle

This service is a six-month trial run by Ōamaru-Palmerston Community Shuttle Group volunteers, supported by Otago Regional Council, and is not a hospital shuttle. The trial ends in April 2026 - the schedule may change during this period.

To book the shuttle, call 027 214 4131

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Regional
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