



# NEWSLETTER

Week 7, Term One, 2026

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

## Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou e te Whānau,

I would like to begin this newsletter by extending my congratulations to our senior leaders for 2026. The applications I received this year were of a high standard and I believe the leaders will do a fantastic job throughout 2026 (Please see these below).

We had 3 teams represent the school at the North Otago Ripa Tournament last Friday. All of the teams performed exceptionally well with the Year 5&6 and 7&8 teams going through the day undefeated. Heavy rain meant that the day was cut short at lunchtime but all the children had a wonderful time. A big thanks to Tina, Rou and Kat for managing the teams (and standing out in the rain) and Mrs Hattingh for organising and entering the teams.

Finally, please remember that on Friday we have a teachers only day so that teachers and support staff can attend a conference. We hope that the conference will be inspiring and informative for the staff and new ideas and energy will be gained.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ryan Fraser

**Uniform Prices.** Due to one of our suppliers increasing their price for uniform we are having to raise the price. This will take effect from 1st April and is only for Polar Fleece at this stage. We make no profit from the sale of uniform, it is sold to families at cost. Please see below for new pricing.

Camps are always so exciting. Our Year 3 and 4 children had a blast in Dunedin in week 5 staying overnight at the Museum and having plenty of outdoor experiences. Thanks so much to the wonderful parents who accompanied the children, and to Miss Soper and Mr Chua who put in all the hard work to make it all possible.



## A massive congratulations to our School Leaders for 2026! 🌟

**Head Student** - Emma Shimauchi Moore

**Deputy Head Student** - Sadie Goodall

**Whanau Leaders:**

**Pohutukawa** - Franklin Hattingh and Indie Withers

**Kauri** - Bella Mackenzie and Madden Dark

**Rimu** - Louie Smith and Iyla North

**Manuka** - Emma Shimauchi Moore and Fletcher Diedrichs

**Kowhai** - Sadie Goodall and Meela Nehoff

**Sports Leaders** - Meela Nehoff, Louie Smith, Axel Withers, Lucah Fox

**Librarians** - Bella Mackenzie, Lera Muston, Madden Dark, Indie Withers.

A reminder for those children interested in participating in the University of Canterbury 2026 Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science Competitions. Please have your permission forms and payment back to the school office by Friday 27th March.

Regular attendance at school is very important.

8:40AM	Arriving before class starts means getting settled and ready for class
9:00AM	Arriving late means the start of the lesson could be missed and is likely to unsettle the class
9:05AM	5 minutes late a day means missing 3 days over a school year
9:10AM	10 minutes late a day means almost 7 schools days lost a year
9:15AM	15 minutes late a day means almost 10 schools days lost a year
	Arriving very late is recorded as an absence
Students that are late miss out on learning and can be a disruption to the classroom. If a student regularly late it will affect their learning at school.	

## 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.

Riddle answer: The Moon.

**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.

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website:

[ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar](http://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. 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.

#### UNIFORM PRICES

Polo top Size 6 - 16 \$32.50

Polo top Size S, M, L \$37.00

Polar Fleece Size 4 - 14 \$45.00 \$48 as at 1st April

Polar Fleece Size S, M, L \$54.00 \$57 as at 1st April

Sunhats \$23.00

A full range of sizes are now in stock in the office

**Meet and Greet**  
If you or your child is interested in learning to play beginner guitar, ukulele, piano, drums, I will be having a meet and greet afternoon at Community House to gauge interest.  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1 - 6 pm**  
Lee Clark, experienced Tutor, Police Checked, Testimonials available

**Musician Workshops at the Penguin Club**  
**Saturday March 21st**  
10:00 - 11:30 'Just Write the Song!'  
12:00 - 1:30 'Tell Your Story'  
2:00 - 3:00 'The Musician Mindset'  
**Sunday March 22nd**  
11:00 - 12:00 'Sing it Like You Stole It'  
12:30 - 2:30 'Record on a Shoestring'

**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](http://ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar)

#### March 2026

Friday 20th - NOPPA conference - Teacher Only Day. School closed.

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 am very old, but sometimes new. While I am never sad, I can sometimes be blue. I am never empty, but only sometimes full. I never push, I always pull. 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](mailto:homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz)

**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](mailto: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 they are 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.

Wild Dunedin – NZ Festival of Nature returns these Autumn school holidays (10–19 April) with more than 200 events celebrating the incredible wildlife and landscapes of our region. There are activities for the whole family, and many events are free.

Enjoy big days out at Tūhura Otago Museum, visit NatureDome at Forsyth Barr Stadium with Suzy Cato, take part in interactive experiences, enjoy a screening of *Happy Feet*, or join the Wild Ride along the Otago Harbour Cycleway with fun challenges and activities along the way.

There is so much to explore these holidays. Discover the full programme and book your events at [wilddunedin.nz](http://wilddunedin.nz).



A flyer titled '2026 School Update Oamaru Area'. It features a 'Back to School' arrow graphic. The text includes: '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.' It lists a 'Local Community Clinic' in Oamaru (43 Exe Street, Ph: 434 6170) and a 'Mobile Dental Unit' in Waitaki Valley (Kurow) (1 Settlement Road, Ph: 027 479 1733) from 2 November to 4 December. A call to action says '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'. A note states '\*Dates subject to change For appointments outside these dates please call 0800 672 543'. Logos for Health New Zealand, Community Oral Health Service, and Talkteeth Southern are at the bottom.


An advertisement for PropertyScouts Timaru. It features a profile for Mark Stone, Business Owner, with contact details: 027 4086 720 and [mark.stone@propertyscouts.co.nz](mailto:mark.stone@propertyscouts.co.nz). The PropertyScouts logo and tagline 'PROPERTY MANAGEMENT EXPERTS' are present, along with the slogan 'Your investment - our guaranteed commitment'. The website 'propertyscouts.co.nz/timaru' and 'Timaru' are listed. At the bottom, there are icons for YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, and a prompt to 'Check out our latest video' and 'Join our free monthly newsletter'.

Swim With Ash is coming to Oamaru running a two-day event for local swimmers and club swimmers.


Offering a Pop-Up swim club experience.

The Pop-Up Swim Club is ideal for adult swimmers and non-club swimmers who are confident swimming lengths and want guided, structured sessions without the commitment of a swim club.

Offering club swimmers an open club invite stroke clinic. The Stroke Clinic is a technique-focused session for club swimmers, open to swimmers from all swim clubs, providing detailed stroke analysis, individual feedback, and skill refinement. Coaches are welcome to attend and take part, creating an opportunity for collaboration and shared learning.

 Where: Waitaki Aquatic Centre - Oamaru  
When: 28th & 29th March (Sat-Sun)

 Pop-Up Swim Club  
Saturday 28th: 2pm-3pm  
Sunday 29th: 9am-10am  
\$20 for one session  
\$35 for both sessions

 Club swimmer stroke clinic  
Saturday 28th: 3pm-5pm  
Sunday 29th: 10am-12pm  
\$50 for one session  
\$90 for both sessions

#### About Coach Ash

Ashleigh is an experienced competitive swim coach based in Central Otago. Currently head coach of Alexandra Swimming Club and Cromwell Swim Club. Coach Ash is passionate about supporting rural communities by creating accessible, high-quality swim opportunities close to home, helping swimmers of all ages grow in confidence, skill, and enjoyment in the water.

Register now by filling out the google form below.

<https://forms.gle/4mtFW1VVRJfRZKK1A>

For more information about Swim With Ash, check out the link below to the website.

[https://coachashleighswimm.wixsite.com/swim-with-ash?utm\\_source=ig&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=link in bio&fbclid=PA\\_dGRleAPvf1NleHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAafd6igERdKToiDwgbofq0cq9n2Zrk97q477FhKtLeslQ8sKmmgOQ13m3dZC9g\\_aem\\_h511QzR2vu92JeV2sU7hIA](https://coachashleighswimm.wixsite.com/swim-with-ash?utm_source=ig&utm_medium=social&utm_content=link%20in%20bio&fbclid=PA_dGRleAPvf1NleHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZA8xMjQwMjQ1NzQyODc0MTQAAafd6igERdKToiDwgbofq0cq9n2Zrk97q477FhKtLeslQ8sKmmgOQ13m3dZC9g_aem_h511QzR2vu92JeV2sU7hIA)

**OSCAR@Fenwick**  
Out of School Care and Recreation

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A WINZ SUBSIDY

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-13.

During term time we offer -

- BREAKFAST
- AFTERNOON TEA
- ASSISTANCE WITH HOMEWORK
- DROP OFF/PICK UP FROM SCHOOL
- A VARIETY OF DAILY ACTIVITIES.

BOOK VIA -  
Enrolmy.com/oscar-fenwick

ENQUIRIES -  
021 156 5871  
oamaruoscar@gmail.com



## Active Kids Waitaki Holiday Programme

### April 2026

Waitaki Community Recreation Centre | Monday - Friday 13 April to 17 April; 9.30am - 12.30pm | Primary & Intermediate-aged children



**WAITAKI COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE**

Registrations open now [www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc](http://www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc)

\$10 per child per day  
Regos open now. Places are limited to 40 children per day.  
To register, go to [www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc](http://www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc)  
For more info contact the Rec Centre 4346932 / 021 08150688

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9.30am - 12.30pm  
Different activities each day!