

# LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

*Ko nga akonga o He Puna Karumata  
He rangatira mo apopo*

Thursday 4 December 2025



## Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou “Seek learning for your wellbeing”



A very big congratulations to all the tamariki who graduated from Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi Children’s University last week. A partnership between Lincoln University and University of Canterbury, this is an internationally renowned outreach programme which aims to foster lifelong learning among young people and raise their aspirations for higher education. The children had to complete a minimum of 30 hours of learning activities outside of school to be eligible to graduate - tino pai rawa atu koutou! A big thank you to Mr Dean Paton for co-ordinating this mahi!



It’s beginning to sound a lot like Christmas! And we are barrelling at a very fast pace towards the end of the year – in fact this is our very last official newsletter for the term!

I have loved attending the special events this time of the year brings – we farewelled our Year 6 Leavers at a beautiful dinner and celebration last week – a huge thank you to the PTA for catering for this event, and to all our Leavers for their heartfelt speeches.

Yesterday the Waiwhio team welcomed the special people in their lives to school for the afternoon and entertained us with some beautiful singing and Christmas Carols – thank you Waiwhio Team!!!

I was also able to pop down briefly yesterday to see our Year 6 pupils from Room 14 and Room 15 taking part in their end of year Waterskills activities. There was a keen easterly blowing and I was so

impressed with the way the children were handling those yachts – first time sailors!! Thank you to Dean and the senior team teachers for providing our tamariki with this wonderful opportunity.

*Pictured below are the Waiwhio tamariki singing to their parents and grand-parents at their Special Person's afternoon.*



*Pictured below are the Year 6 children and teachers enjoying Waterskills at the Rakaia Lagoon*





*Pictures below of the Year 6 Leavers' Dinner held last week.*





Thank you all most sincerely for all your support over the year. It is truly humbling being the principal of a school where the community and tamariki live our values of care every day. As I am making my way through every child's report, I am so proud of all they have achieved. This is because we have exceptional teachers and amazing whānau, who believe in our learners and support them in everything they do – thank you!

For those leaving us at the end of the year, all the very best as you embark on the next stage of your educational journey. And for those remaining, we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 28 January 2026!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our final whole school assembly at Ellesmere College on Monday 8 December, starting at 6.00pm. Our last day of school is Friday 12 December, with school finishing at 12.00 noon.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday break. It is well deserved!

Nga mihi nui  
Lynda Taylor  
Principal

## **STAFFING FOR 2026**

This year we farewell Mrs Teresa Curtain-Geal who has been teaching part-time in Room 12 for the last two years. Teresa has been a real asset to our school, with her love of Te Reo and anything colourful including an array of gorgeous shoes! We also farewell Becs Wards, who has been part of the junior school assisting Whaia Jan teaching our roll growth class. Bec's enthusiasm for farming has washed over us all, and I loved seeing that enormous tractor on the field – not to mention the children! Thank you both for all you have contributed to our school in the time you have been with us and we look forward to welcoming you back in a relieving capacity next year!

Mrs Alison Harrington is also leaving us at the end of the year. Alison has been working two days a week in the Waikekewai Team for two terms, and the Waiwhio Team for two terms. Thank you for your gifting us with your artistic and musical skills Alison, and we wish you all the best for 2026.

We welcome Angela Berliner back from study leave. Angie will be re-joining the Waiwhio team teaching in Room 7 next year, while Tiffani Powell rejoins the Waikekewai team in Room 15 for the year. Mrs Mackenzie Scott will be Acting Team Leader in the senior school while Mrs McHaffie remains on leave.

We also welcome Caitlin Kippenberger back from maternity leave. Caitlin will be working two days a week releasing Whaia Jan and Ms Davison.

## **SERVICE ASSEMBLY**

Wednesday 10th December 9.30am - school hall. The service assembly is to acknowledge students years 3-6, for their participation in groups throughout the school. e.g. Road Patrol, Kapa Haka, Choir etc.

## **FINAL ASSEMBLY**

A celebration of the school year. Held at Ellesmere College on Monday 8th December at 6pm. We require all children to attend.



Fonterra visited our school assembly last Friday during our Special Clothes Day, where they counted all the cans and generous donations of food items. They kindly matched our total, bringing the grand sum to **1050 items**.

We were pleased to welcome the Ellesmere Food Bank to our assembly, where they gratefully received the donations.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously!**

## **STATIONERY GRANT**

Through our stationery provider, Qizzle, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Rapid Relief Team (RRT). Since launching their Stationery Program in 2020, Qizzle and RRT have shown unwavering dedication to supporting the education of young New Zealanders. They recognize the vital role school stationery and art supplies play in fostering students' learning experiences. A heartfelt thank you to Qizzle and RRT for their generosity and commitment!

## **SPORTS UPDATE**

### **Canterbury Athletics**

We held our final Canterbury event last Wednesday. Although the day began overcast, the sun soon broke through, creating a fantastic atmosphere for everyone involved. It was wonderful to have three relay teams from Leeston School, all of whom represented our school with enthusiasm and sportsmanship....Leeston legends! A special thank you to Camilla Connell for her helping to prepare the relay teams.

The best result from our athletes was Zya for getting 6th in the long jump with 3.74m!!! Great effort Zya!



Year 6 relay team: Visori, Koby, Louis and Brody



Year 5 relay team and some of our lovely supporters!

**LOST PROPERTY**

Please take a minute to look over the lost property outside the office.

If anyone has accidentally picked up the buddy to this sandal please return to the office .





# LATE NIGHT UNIFORM SHOPPING

We're opening late on Friday, 5th December for  
Leeston Consolidated School students and whānau.

Plus, we'll have extra uniform consultants in-store on Friday, 5th  
December and all day Saturday, 6th December to assist with all  
your school uniform needs — including fittings.

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**When:**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Open:**

**9am-5pm - normal hours,  
5pm-8pm - late night with extra  
uniform consultants**

**9am-4pm with extra uniform  
consultants**

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**We look forward to welcoming you instore!**



**455 Blenheim Road, Sockburn**

**P: 03 5955766 | E: [christchurch@nzuniforms.com](mailto:christchurch@nzuniforms.com)**

# Leeston School Term Dates

# 2026

## **Term 1**

Wed 28th Jan – Thurs 2nd April 10 weeks

## **Term 2**

Mon 20th April - Fri 3 July 11 weeks

## **Term 3**

Mon 20th July - Fri 25th September 10 weeks

## **Term 4**

Mon 12th October – Fri 11th December 10 weeks

### **Teacher Only Days**

<i>Friday 15th May</i>	<i>School Closed</i>
<i>Monday 22nd June</i>	<i>School Closed</i>
<i>Monday 21st August</i>	<i>School Closed</i>

### **Public Holidays - School Closed**

<i>Waitangi Day</i>	<i>Fri 6 Feb</i>
<i>Easter Good Friday</i>	<i>Fri 3 April</i>
<i>Easter Monday/Tuesday</i>	<i>Mon 6/7 April</i>
<i>Anzac Day</i>	<i>Monday 27 Apr</i>
<i>King's Birthday</i>	<i>Mon 1 June</i>
<i>Matariki</i>	<i>Fri 10 July</i>
<i>Labour Day</i>	<i>Mon 26 Oct</i>
<i>Canterbury Show Day</i>	<i>Fri 13 Nov</i>

- Please note that there may be an additional 1-2 teacher only days set during the year: We will endeavour to give at least 1 term's notice of any TOD once they are confirmed.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website and Edge App for further term updates

5 December	Whole School Assembly - 11.30 Yr 5 Beach Education Leeston Santa Parade - 6pm
8 December	Waterskills catch up day if needed Final Assembly 6pm at Ellesmere College
9 December	9.30am - 2026 Class transition session 12.30pm - School wide water fun session
10 December	9.30am - Service Assembly 10.30am - Parent Helpers Morning tea in library 11.15am Class Transition session
11 December	11.30am - Leaders Lunch 12.45pm - 2026 Class transition session Last day for College buses
12 December	Last day of term - 12noon finish (Primary buses will be running at 12noon)

### COMMUNITY NOTICES



Summer is coming and so are the good times at BBs!  
Busy Bumbles' Holiday Programmes are open for bookings — and this year, we've made it even easier for families to enjoy the fun!

#### Buzz-tastic Summer Holiday Special:

**Full Day (7:00am – 6:00pm): ONLY \$55** (save \$15)

**School Hours (8:30am – 3:00pm): ONLY \$40** (save \$20)

OSCAR SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

*\*Additional costs apply for Excursion & Incursion Days.*

BOOK here: <https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles?emyatb=4w7ygdi834#/name/%25holiday%25>

More information and activity overviews can be found at:

<https://busybumbles.co.nz/our-programmes/holiday-programmes/>

Get ready to buzz into summer. Book your space online today, or contact our friendly team to learn more:

[www.busybumbles.co.nz](http://www.busybumbles.co.nz)

[admin@busybumbles.co.nz](mailto:admin@busybumbles.co.nz)

03 347 3031

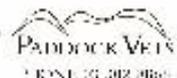


# Molloy Agriculture Adventure Race

**Sunday 15th March 2026**

**3 and 6 hour rogaine options available for teams  
Plus new 2km dash and 5km cross country run!**

This event is a fundraiser for the Methven Community Pool Committee. Held at Mt Alford Station expect hills, farmland, pockets of native bush, rocky outcrops, and awesome views over the plains!



**Visit [crazykeaevents.nz](http://crazykeaevents.nz) for more  
information, or find Crazy Kea  
Events on Facebook**

