

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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

Thursday 12th February 2026



Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou



Our new school year is well underway and it's been awesome catching up with students and our school community. It's been a busy start with all of our students settling into new routines and everyone participating in swimming programmes. School events are already happening as we enjoyed many of the Waikekewai team display determination and success as they took part in our school duathlon. Congratulations to all who took part and a huge thank you to our parents and supporters who took on marshalling duties, it's much appreciated.

Mrs Taylor has had some time away this year as she cared for her father Allan who has sadly passed away. Allan may have been known to some of you in our community as he supported school events. Our thoughts are with Mrs Taylor and her whanau at this time and we look forward to seeing her back at school.

I'd also like to acknowledge Springston School as they deal with the tragic loss of one of their students. Our school has many connections to Springston through former colleagues and students and our thoughts are with them at this sad time.

We look forward to seeing you at our first school assembly on Friday where we will acknowledge all of our Year 6 students taking on leadership roles as well as next week's swimming sports for the Waiwhio and Waikewai Teams.

Nga mihi nui
Dean Paton

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL
Mia McDonald and Soloila Vuibau

LEARNING CONFERENCES

This year we are combining our 'Meet the Teacher' evening with Learning Conferences in Week 5 – an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher one on one, and for you to share with us the goals and aspirations for your child for 2026. These will be held on the 24th and 25th of February and we will send through the booking link closer to the time. Please note that school will finish at 2pm on both of these days and school primary buses will run at 2pm.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Issue 1 of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club is now available. Book online with the current issue number 1 – www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz. Orders close **3pm, Thursday 19th February**. No late orders please.

MANA AKE

Mana Ake is an early intervention programme for primary schools which promotes wellbeing and supports positive mental health for students in Year 1-8. Jordyn Rooks is the new liaison for Leeston School. Jordyn will be available to provide support, information, advice and guidance to parents and whanau. Please let Megan in the school office know if you are wanting to catch up with Jordyn. For further information take a look at their website <https://manaake.health.nz/>

MANA AKE

We have our final ONLINE course option this term, live online for sign-ups now.

[To sign up please click here to be directed to our website.](#)

Group	Location	Dates	Day/Time
Tuning Into Kids <i>(tailored for parents of 5-12 yr olds)</i>	ONLINE – Via Zoom	Wednesday 18th Feb – Wednesday 25th March	Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm

Some info regarding the programme:

*Please note these programmes are delivered by the Mana Ake Canterbury/ Kaikōura region and are open for parents who live in these areas.

For other parenting course options please reach out to your local service providers.

Join us for Tuning in to Kids and Tuning in to Teens, 6-session group programmes designed for parents and caregivers of children aged 5-13 years old.

These sessions focus on practical skills to navigate the ups and downs of your parenting journey.

- Learn how to better understand and manage emotions, for both you and your child.
- Discover ways to strengthen your relationship through emotional moments.
- Get tools to help children express and handle their feelings.
- Gain strategies for problem-solving and setting appropriate boundaries.

Each session includes videos, group discussions, role-playing, and home activities.

SCHOOL FOOTWEAR

Just a reminder that **Crocs are not considered appropriate school footwear**. Children may wear sport shoes, black/navy leather shoes or sandals.

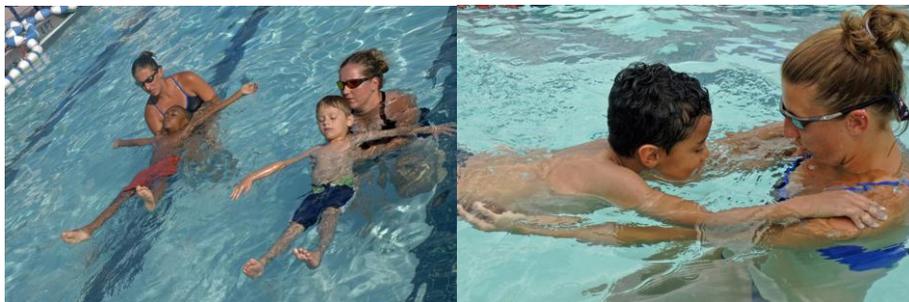
NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT LEESTON SCHOOL

The PTA purchased a defibrillator last year, and it's now available for anyone to use during school open hours. We hope you never need it, but it's reassuring to know it's there. You'll find the defib on the wall to the right of the first doors as you enter reception foyer.

A huge thank-you to everyone who has donated to the PTA. Your support helps us do genuinely useful things for our school and wider community — even the life-saving kind.



WAITĀTARI SWIMMING DEMONSTRATION



The Waitātari team invites all parents/whanau to see their child's school swimming lesson. Please note the time for each class. Each lesson takes 30 minutes. Please check with your child's teacher for the exact lesson time.

Where: Leeston Learners Pool, Chervier Street
When: Monday 16th February (Water Safety Lessons) OR Tuesday 17th February 2026
Times: Rooms 1, 2 and 6 - 12.00 until 1pm
Rooms 4 and 5 - 1pm until 2pm

PARKING IN FRONT OF GATES

Please do not park in front of the Johnston Street gate in a way that restricts vehicle access. If parking nearby, ensure enough space is left for our lawn-mowing contractors to safely enter and exit. We have experienced ongoing issues with vehicles parking too close to the gate while socialising after school with their children or at the school pool, causing contractors to be delayed while waiting for access. Thank you for your cooperation.

Teacher Aide Position Leeston Consolidated School

A fixed-term vacancy exists starting 23 February 2026 to 11 December 2026, five days a week, 9.30 – 2.00 term time only. Empathy, good communication skills and ability to work both independently and as part of a team essential. Skills in supporting children with structured literacy and numeracy an advantage.

Applicants to send their CV and details of three referees to principal@leeston.school.nz Further information available by ringing the Principal (03) 3243493
Applications close 4pm
Monday 16th February

Lynda Taylor
PRINCIPAL

Waitekewai (Years 5 and 6) & Waiwhio (Years 3 and 4) Swimming Sports 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Where: Leeston Consolidated School Pool
When: **Wednesday 18 February (week 4)**
Postponement Day: Thursday 19 February

Children from rooms 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15 will be involved in the school swimming sports.

The swimming sports will be split into **two sessions. The competitive swimming will start at 10.00am and the non-competitive will follow in the afternoon.** The competitive swimming sports will start at 10.00am. The non-competitive swimming sports will start at 1.00pm. In the morning, the children from the Waitekewai and Waiwhio Syndicate, who are **able to swim a length or more, will** compete in the swimming competition. We will time the 2 length events in order to send the fastest children to the zone event.

On the day children will need to bring the following:

- Togs and at least one swimming towel
- Warm clothing and a t-shirt (can be their house colour) for between events
- Drink & some food to eat at the pool
- Sun block
- Long hair tied up or wearing a cap
- Sun hat

Children need to stay at school for the day. That means if they swim in the morning they go back to class for the afternoon.

Children must wear their school uniform to school, however, to encourage pride in our house system children are allowed to wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house, at the pool. The colours are D'Arcy = yellow, Pultney = blue, Market = red and Selwyn = green. This is just for fun and not compulsory.

The **medley event** (3 x 1 length) will be held on **Monday 16 February (week 4) at 9.30am.**

As with each school sporting event I will need the assistance of some parent helpers. If you are able to help, please fill in the slip and return to Carol Davison, Room 10 by **Wednesday 11 February**. To be eligible for further competition, children must compete in the **2 LENGTH EVENTS**. Remember, the year 5 and 6 swimming cups are up for grabs so children need to swim their hardest!! (Ellesmere Zone Swimming will be held at the Southbridge Pool on Thursday 26 February.) This includes year 4 children. The Canterbury Swimming event is on Wednesday 25 March at the Selwyn Pool (Rolleston).

Thanks for all your support.

Carol Davison
Sports Co-ordinator

.....
I can help out at the Competitive Swimming Sports morning session on Wednesday 18th February starting at 10.00am

(name) _____ (mobile number) _____

I can help for the medley event Monday 16 February at 9.30am

(name) _____ (mobile number) _____

Please return this notice by Wednesday 11 Feb or let Ms Davison know ASAP. Thank you!

Waiwhio & Waikewai School Swimming Sports

Wednesday 18 February

PP Thursday 19 February

Please note these times are only approximate

Approximate time	Events	Year levels
Competitive		
Starts at 10.00am		
10.00am	1 length freestyle	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
10.20am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths freestyle	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
10.40am	1 length backstroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
11.00am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths backstroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
House Relay		
11.20am	1 length breaststroke	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
11.40am	Girls Championship Boys Championship *2 lengths breaststroke 2 lengths Butterfly	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6
<p>Lunch 12.00 - 12.40pm (allows time to get pool ready for afternoon session) Waiwhio back to class and children get changed inside. Line up on their numbers ready to walk over to the pool.</p>		
Non-Competitive		
Starts at 1.00pm		
1.00pm	Width Swimmers: there and back 1. Kickboard - front and back 2. Noodle - front and back 3. Streamline- front and back 4. Freestyle 5. Backstroke 6. Combination - freestyle & backstroke	Year 5 & 6 Get changed and back to class Year 4 & 3
1.30pm	Water Confident Swimmers: 1. Running race - there and back 2. Noodle race 3. Noodle streamline 4. Kickboard - streamline 5. Freestyle 6. Backstroke	Year 4 & 3
2.00pm	Obstacle course around the pool & free swim	

- **Children are expected to be at school for the whole day. If your child competes in the morning then they will be back in the classroom in the afternoon.**
- **Medley event (1 length backstroke, 1 length breaststroke & 1 length freestyle) will be held on Monday 16 February @ 9.30am.**
- **Ellesmere Zone Swimming Thursday 26 Feb @ Southbridge Pool.**
- **Please discuss with your child what event they are competing in.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website for further term updates

13 Feb	Whole School Assembly - Waitatari
17 Feb	Canty Triathlon Waitatari Swimming Demonstration
18 Feb	School Swimming Sports
19 Feb	pp School Swimming Sports
24 Feb	Learning Conferences 2pm finish
25 Feb	Learning Conferences 2pm finish
26 Feb	Zone Swimming Newsletter
27 Feb	Whole School Assembly - Waikekewai Waiwhio Trip to Fishermans Point
2 - 5 March	WOW Week (Walk or Wheel Week)
3 March	PTA Meeting 7pm
5 March	Waitatari Stream Trip Newsletter
6 March	pp Waiwhio Trip to Fishermans Point
9 March	Cohort Entry pp Zone swimming BOT Meeting 6pm
11 March - 13 March	Yr 5 & 6 camp at Hanmer Springs
12 March	Newsletter
18 March -19 March	Waiwhio - iBike
20 March	pp Waiwhio - iBike
23 March	Waiwhio and Waitātari Poetry Competition
24 March	Waiwhio and Waitātari Speech Competition
25 March	Canty Swimming
26 March	Newsletter
27 March	Whole School Assembly 11.30am Waiwhio
31 March	Padder Tennis
1 April	Whole School Speech and Poetry Competition
2 April	Waikekewai Camp Celebration Term 1 Finishes at 3pm
20 April	Term 2 Commences

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Now is the perfect time to secure the Before and/or After School care that you need for your child/ren in Term 1!

We have been planning another exciting and fun-filled programme for your children to enjoy in Term 1, which is open for bookings at the following link:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25term%201%25>

LEESTON RUGBY CLUB REGISTRATIONS

link to register for rugby this year

[https://auth.rugbyexplorer.com.au/register?clientId=portal&redirectPath=/](https://auth.rugbyexplorer.com.au/register?clientId=portal&redirectPath/)

Please send them our email addresses for queries:

Fee/Payment queries - leestonrfctreas@gmail.com

Other queries - leestonrfcsec@gmail.com

NELSON COACHLINES

WE ARE HIRING

Do you enjoy driving? Well we have just the job for you! Come join our team at SBL Group.

PERMANENT & CASUAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

You will be:

- A safe and confident driver.
- Have a Class 2 licence & P Endorsement, or willing to obtain and we can assist with this.
- Reliable, able to turn up consistently and on time.
- Able to pass a pre-employment drug test and police vetting.

Call Shalamar on 027 962 610 or email Derek at dereko@pacifictourways.co.nz

THE RHYTHMIC ACADEMY

Start something new in



2026

Selwyn



DAY: TUESDAY
LOCATION: SELWYN SPORTS CENTRE
CLASS TIMES:
4:30 – 5.20PM – BEGINNER
FOUNDATION AGE 4-6

5.30 – 6.30PM – SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT
AGE 7-10

Sign up for rhythmic gymnastics classes now  contact us below

TheRhythmicAcademy@gmail.com



FLEXIBILITY | CO-ORDINATION | GRACE | EXPRESSION | FUN | STRENGTH | FRIENDSHIPS

girls SMASH

Rolleston

Foster Park

Tuesday 4-5pm

24 Feb - 17 Mar

Years 3 - 8

\$20



REFER A NEW FRIEND FOR A BONUS GIVEAWAY

Register Now 



Music in the Park

Sunday 15 February, 1-4.30pm
 Anderson Square Leeston

FREE EVENT

Relax on the grass and enjoy an afternoon of live music. With talented local performers, a laid-back vibe, and entertainment for all ages, it's the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon with family and friends. Bring a picnic or indulge in delicious treats from our local food stalls.

 selwyn.govt.nz/summerinselwyn
 [WhatsOnSelwyn](#)



PRESENTED BY:  SUPPORTED BY: 

Summer in Selwyn

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 for more information, or find Crazy Kea Events on Facebook