

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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

Thursday 26th February 2026



Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou

Ka whāngaia, ka tipu, ka puāwai
(That which is nurtured will grow, then blossom)



Kia ora e te Whānau

What a fabulous day it turned out to be for our School Swimming Sports last week – I was so impressed with all our swimmers and the grit and determination that was shown, alongside lots of smiles, laughter and encouragement! I know we will have some great results in our zone competition being held at Southbridge today! A huge thank you to Ms Davison for her organisation, to our teachers, and to our amazing parent helpers and supporters who helped ensure the day was a great success.

I know teachers have enjoyed meeting up with many of you at our Learning Conferences this week – thank you for putting aside time to attend and for sharing your children’s aspirations with us. This year, our priority is around teaching the refreshed mathematics and English curricula, with a specific focus on continuing the implementation of structured literacy practices. That is of course alongside our localised curriculum, and we are looking forward to our camp to Hanmer Springs for the senior school, a plant out day and visit to Fisherman’s Point for the Waiwhio Team, and a visit to the Waitatari awa for our Junior Team later this term.

Nga mihi nui
Lynda Taylor

LUNCH ORDERS NEW WEBSITE

Ellesmere Kitchen will continue to be our lunch provider however ordering a school lunch is now done via their new website - <http://www.ellesmerekitchen.co.nz>. Please do not use Kindo.

CHRISTCHURCH MUSIC FESTIVAL SPECIAL CHOIR AUDITIONS:

Auditions are now open for the **Junior Representative Choir (Year 5 and 6)** for the 2026 Christchurch Music Festival held at the Town Hall in November. This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a regional-level choir, meet other passionate musicians, and take your singing to the next level. You *don't* need to be part of our school's festival choir to apply — anyone with a love of singing can give it a go!

👉 For all the details on how to **join a representative group and submit your audition**, head to: <https://musicfestival.school.nz/representative-group-information/joining-a-representative-group/>



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 Kaimahi for Leeston School. Jordyn will be available to provide support, information, advice and guidance to parents and whānau. 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/>

HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER

Hot Cross Bun season is upon us, and we're embracing it with zero shame. Flavours: Traditional, Cranberry, or Chocolate. Each pack is \$5.20 — a small price for big bun energy. Orders are due by midday on 13 March.

Every pack sold helps support our school and the awesome things the PTA funds. Treat yourself and feel virtuous at the same time.

Order here: [Hot Cross Buns](#)

ERO PROJECT AI IN SCHOOLS

ERO's research centre wants to hear from parents and whānau about your experience at the school, as part of a project about supporting schools across the country. Here is the link to a 3-min survey: [Parent and whānau survey School supports](#)

In addition, ERO's research centre wants to hear from parents and whānau about their children's use of AI, as part of a national project. Here is the link to a 5-min survey: [Parent survey AI in schools](#)







WEETBIX TRYathlon

On Sunday 22nd February, kids of all sporting abilities gathered at Halswell Domain to swim, cycle, and run their way around the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon course. Participants could compete individually or team up in pairs, creating a supportive and fun environment where every child could achieve their personal best.

The atmosphere was filled with energy, encouragement, and celebration — a fantastic showcase of young Kiwis (including these Leeston Legends below) giving it a go and crossing the finish line with pride.



RESULTS LEESTON SCHOOL DUATHLON 2026

Year 6	Name	Time	Overall
1	Noah Rollo	31.35	1st
2	Flynn Taylor	34.30	2nd
3	Jack Hillier	36.10	5th
4	Clark Hunt	36.43	6th
Year 5		Time	
1	Gus O'Meara	35.13	3rd
2	Quinn Clark	35.41	4th
3	Riley Long	37.05	8th
4	Ava Wilson	41.51	10th
Participation		Time	
1	Maddox Harley	9.09	
2	Inti Calle Mostrey	9.18	
3	Tom Murphy	9.33	
Female			
1	Iona Stewart	41.23	
2	Ava Wilson	41.51	
3	Lila Calle Mostrey	42.48	



WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL WEEK

Next week (Monday 2 March) our school is participating in Walk or Wheel to School Week, a fun and action packed week that promotes walking and wheeling to school.

Move It Monday - Blast off the week with an active adventure! Walk, wheel, skip, or scooter your way to school and start the week with an active commute!

Travel Together Tuesday - Celebrate by walking and wheeling to school with friends and whanau.

Wheels Wednesday - Bring your wheels to school for lunch time riding. Please don't forget your helmets!

Thoughtful Thursday - Help the planet. Active travel supports a healthier environment. What else can you do to help?

Funky Feet Friday - It's time to dress up those feet. Decorate your shoes, wear something wild, or strut in your silliest socks. Glitter, feathers, gumboots, anything goes!

Leeston School Families, Teachers & Friends



Country in the Country would love to invite the Leeston School community to join us for an unforgettable afternoon of live country music, carnival fun and family friendly entertainment right here in Leeston.

BUY A TICKET. SUPPORT THE SCHOOL.
\$10 from every ticket sold goes directly to the school community. Tickets are available to purchase at the school office.

COUNTRY IN THE COUNTRY 2026
Ellesmere Showgrounds, Leeston
Saturday | 14 March 2026 | 1:00PM

Festival Highlights:

- ✓ Family concert experience
- ✓ Fun carnival attractions
- ✓ Family picnic welcome
- ✓ BYO food & non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ Food carts & drinks available on site
- ✓ Entertainment for all ages
- ✓ Children 17 & under go FREE

We can't wait to see you all there!

Facebook: Country in the Country

This event is taking place on the 14th March 2026, it is for all ages and under 17s are free of charge. Tickets cost \$77.00 for general admission and \$50.00 for senior citizens.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website for further term updates

26 Feb	Zone Swimming Newsletter
27 Feb	Whole School Assembly - Waikekewai Waiwhio Trip to Fishermans Point
2 - 6 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 Speech Competition Waitātari Poetry Competition
25 March	Canty Swimming
26 March	Newsletter Waitātari Poetry finals
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



Here is a link to the short video we made to share this exciting news:

<https://busybumbles.co.nz/>

(The video is on our main BBs website page, just scroll down to view and click Unmute to listen)

The updated [Terms & Conditions](#) will come into effect on Monday 20th April, the start of Term 2.

Sweet changes are on the way!

EFFECTIVE TERM 2, 2026

OSCAR SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE

- Reduced fees.
- More flexibility with cancellations.
- No charges for public holidays.
- Healthy snacks included at all After School Care sessions.

Designed to make Busy Bumbles even more flexible, family-friendly, and supportive.

www.busybumbles.co.nz

Selwyn's Biggest Children's Day

SELWYN PARENTING NETWORK

Proudly sponsored by Arbor Green

FOSTER PARK ROLLESTON

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

11AM UNTIL 3PM

<https://eptrust.nz/ept>

Presented by Ellesmere Promotions Trust
the Great Ellesmere

FREE EGG HUNT

8 - 9AM, 5 APRIL 2026
Anderson Square,
Leeston

Find them all -

- get a free marshmallow easter egg
- go in the prize draw

Prize Draw for each age group donated by First Class Accounts

Two Age Groups

Ellesmere Promotions Trust
present the 15th



21 March 2026

10am - 3pm

High Street,
Leeston

Free Entry
Free Entertainment



Vendor Registration
bit.ly/Vendor_Rego

190+ vendors - craft & food



EllesmereBins



2026 Pre Season Training

Registrations close Sunday 01st March

Sessions held at Ellesmere College Courts

Players are required to attend a minimum of 2 sessions

Year 5&6

3.30 - 4.30pm

MON 23RD Feb
MON 02nd Mar
MON 09th Mar

Year 7 & 8

5.00 - 6.15pm

MON 23RD Feb
MON 02nd Mar
MON 09th Mar

Yr 9 to Seniors

6.45 - 8pm

MON 23RD Feb
MON 02nd Mar
MON 09th Mar

Wet Weather updates will be advised on our FB page

Head to our website for all details:

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/ellesmerecombinednetball/>

Any queries please

email: ellesmerecombinednetball@gmail.com