



CHERTSEY SCHOOL

Newsletter 1
Thursday 5th February 2026



Chertsey
School

Kia ora e te whānau o Chertsey School

Welcome Back to 2026!

A very warm welcome back to all our tamariki and whānau. We hope you have all had a refreshing break and are feeling ready for the year ahead. We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and connection at Chertsey School.

A special welcome to all our new students and their families – we are so pleased to have you join our school community. We also warmly welcome Rose, our new teacher in Room 1. We are delighted to have her on board and know she will be a wonderful addition to our team.

This week our main focus is on helping students settle back into school, feel safe, and reconnect with routines, expectations, and each other. You will notice, however, that students will also be getting straight into their learning. With full and busy terms ahead, we make the most of every learning opportunity while ensuring our learners feel supported and confident.

We are always incredibly grateful for the support of our community. If you are able to help with fundraising at any stage throughout the year, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school, we would love to hear from you.

Finally, we are very excited to see Stage One of our new court is complete. We hope to hear that we have been successful in pending grant applications so that we can complete Stage Two.

Here's to a positive and successful year ahead, we're so glad to be back together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Claire Maria

Principal/Tumuaki

Term 1 Key Dates	
Thursday 5 th February	Newsletter 1
Wednesday 18 th February	Room 3 Collecting Sheep Manure for Camp Fundraising
Friday 20 th February	Assembly 2.30pm - All welcome
Friday 27 th February	School Triathlon & Whānau Picnic
Friday 27 th February	Newsletter 2
Friday 13 th March	Assembly 2.30pm - All welcome
Friday 20 th March	Newsletter 3
Tuesday 24 th March	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 3.15pm-7pm
Wednesday 25 th March	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 3.15pm-4.30pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of Term 1 Assembly 2.30pm - All welcome

2026 Dates

Term 1 (9 weeks)

Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April 2026 .

Public holiday: Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February.

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July 2026 .

Public holidays: Anzac Day – Saturday 25 April (Anzac Day observed on Monday 27 April) and King’s Birthday – Monday 1 June.

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September 2026.

Term 4 (10 weeks)

Monday 12 October to Friday 11th December 2026

Public holiday: Labour Day – Monday 26 October and Canterbury Anniversary - Friday 13th November

Room 1

Miss Rose



What's Happening This Month

Date: Hui-tanguru/February 5th

Kia ora everyone,

I'm very excited to be joining Chertsey School and beginning the year with Room 1! I'm really looking forward to getting to know all of our tamariki and connecting with families as we start this new learning journey together. It's going to be a fun and busy start to the year.

Classroom Kickoff Activities

We'll be starting the year with an All About Me topic. This helps children share who they are, build connections with others, and feel confident in our classroom. As I am new to the school, this is also a great way for me to get to know your children and support them in their learning and wellbeing.

What We Are Learning

Subject Spotlight: Social Sciences-

This term, we are discovering who we are as individuals, exploring our own unique identities, and uncovering the stories that shape us. We will also learn about the people, places, and history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Structured Literacy: In class, we will be practising reading, writing, and spelling every day. This includes learning new sounds, writing words and sentences, and building confidence in our reading.

Math : We are focusing on Number Knowledge, building strong foundations in counting, number recognition, and place value. Year 1: Numbers up to 100, Year 2: Numbers up to 120, Year 3: Numbers up to 1,000.

Student Spotlight

Room 1 Fun Facts

Room 1 has 23 students:

- Year 1: 6 students (3 boys, 3 girls)
- Year 2: 5 students (3 boys, 2 girls)
- Year 3: 12 students (6 boys, 6 girls)

We also welcome 5 new students to Chertsey School who are joining the Room 1 whānau!

Homework Help

Homework will be sent home on Mondays and can be returned to school on Fridays. It will be a small booklet that includes some maths practice, spelling words, and a reading log. Homework is intended to support children's learning in a relaxed way, helping them build confidence while also spending some quality time with whānau. The reading log can include children reading to someone or listening to a story being read to them.

Contact

Rose Jessep (Miss Rose)
rosej@chertsey.school.nz

Reminder

We will be swimming regularly this term, focusing on building confidence and comfort in the water as we prepare for the school triathlon. Please remember swimming gear everyday.

Room 3

Whaea Nin



What's Happening This Month

Date: Hui-tanguru February 5th

Nau mai, haere mai ki te tau kura 2026! Welcome to another exciting year of learning and growth in 2026. Let's get a sneak peek of what's to come!

Classroom Kickoff Activities:

We'll be kicking off with All About Me, building connections, learning about ourselves, setting goals, and building teamwork through fun and engaging activities.

What We Are Learning

Subject Spotlight: Social Sciences!

We are learning about who we are, where we come from, and how we belong, while discovering the stories and history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Structured Literacy: We are learning:

Y4 **ea** - long /e/ sound (eat)
- short /e/ sound (bread)
- long /a/ sound (steak)

Y5/6

igh - long /a/ sound (eight)
ie - long /e/ sound (retrieve)

Math: We are learning to read and write whole numbers up to 1,000 (Y4), 10 000 (Y5) and 1000 000 (Y6) representing them using base 10 structure.

Contact

Nerina Hawkins (Whaea Nin)
nerinah@chertsey.school.nz

Student Spotlight

Fun Facts

Room 3 has 16 students:

Year 6: 3 students (3 boys)
Year 5: 8 students (4 boys, 4 girls)
Year 4: 5 students (2 boys, 3 girls)

2026 House Captains

Somerton: Hunter & Sara

Dromore: Ben & Dom

Pendarves: Airom & Isaac

Homework Expectations

- Homework Given: Monday
- Time to Complete: Monday - Thursday
- Focus: Return homework book to school everyday. Test: Friday

Tip for Students:

Practice a little every day – read your words aloud, write them in sentences, or play word games to help you remember them! [MOE Portal for Maths Practice](#)

Reminder

Make sure you have your swim gear & hat at school everyday and are ready to focus for the new school year.

Welcome to Our New Students and Staff



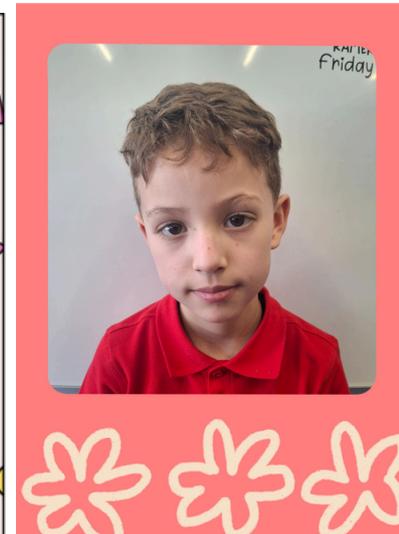
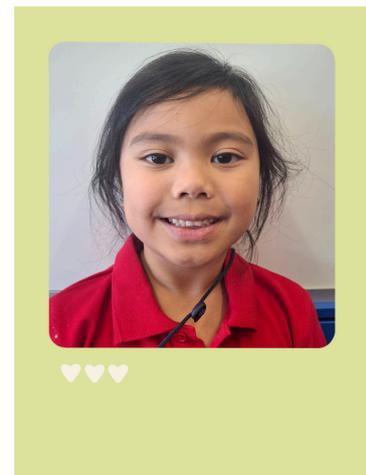
We are delighted to warmly welcome our new students and staff to Chertsey School for 2026. A special welcome to **MacKenzie, Jana, Jad, Samantha, Leyland, and Karlos**. They have all had a fantastic start to the year, and we are very pleased to have them as part of our kura.

We are also thrilled to see **Miss Rose**, our new teacher in Room 1, making such a positive and energetic start in the junior room. The learning environment she has created is already setting our youngest learners up for success.

This year, we are pleased to welcome **Ms Helene** to our team as our Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) and Classroom Release Teacher. Helene has worked at our school in past years and her role is invaluable in supporting both our learners and staff across the school.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead, filled with enthusiastic learners, dedicated staff, and strong partnerships with our whānau.

Together, we will continue to grow, learn, and celebrate as Chertsey Champs!



Chertsey School Triathlon

& Whānau Picnic

Friday 27th February

Triathlon start time: 12.30pm



We're excited to invite all our whānau to join us for our Chertsey School Triathlon, followed by a relaxed whole-school picnic lunch. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate effort, participation, and fun together as a school community.

What's happening?

Our school triathlon will begin at 12.30pm

- Whānau are warmly invited to come along and cheer on our tamariki
- After the triathlon, we'll share a picnic lunch together
- The BBQ will be available if you'd like to bring something to cook
- There will be games and activities for both children and adults

We'll finish the day with our Triathlon prizegiving.



Bikes & Helmets

If your child would like to use their own bike, please ensure it is:

- Dropped off at school by Wednesday 26th February
- Clearly named
- Sent with a helmet

Bikes and helmets will be provided by the school for children who do not have their own

Parent & Caregiver Participation

Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to participate in the triathlon and take part in some friendly competition with our staff.

You are very welcome to compete as an individual or as part of a team.

Participation is completely optional and all abilities are welcome. The focus of the day is on fun, encouragement, and community.

What to bring

- A picnic lunch for your whānau
- Something to throw on the BBQ if you wish
- A blanket or chair to relax and enjoy the afternoon

We're looking forward to a fun, inclusive afternoon of sport and connection.

We hope to see lots of whānau there to support our tamariki!

Together we grow, learn, and celebrate as Chertsey Champs 



Nourishing Our Tamariki at **Chertsey School**

At Chertsey School, we are incredibly fortunate to have the support of several generous organisations and local businesses who work together to ensure our tamariki are provided with three meals a day.

Our Breakfast Club is supported through **KidsCan and the KickStart Breakfast programme**, which provides Weet-Bix and milk each morning. Alongside this, KidsCan also supplies shoes, jackets, socks, nit treatment, and many of the additional food items that help our children start the day well fed and ready to learn.

We are also very grateful to **Kai for Kids Charitable Trust**, who continue to provide fresh fruit and other morning tea items, ensuring our tamariki have healthy food available throughout the morning.

This year, our school lunches are provided by **Subway and Pita Pit**. Subway has very kindly offered to supply all lunches for the first few weeks of the year while Pita Pit comes on board. We truly appreciate the generosity and flexibility shown by them.

Together, all of these organisations ensure our children have access to nutritious meals every day. As educators, this means we never have to manage learning alongside hunger – something that makes a significant difference to wellbeing, engagement, and progress.

We also love seeing the growth in our students' eating habits. While some children may initially be reluctant to try new foods (especially vegetables), many quickly become accustomed to – and even enjoy – a wider variety of healthy options.

Please encourage your children to eat the lunches provided at school and to keep an open mind about trying new foods.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in nourishing our tamariki – your support helps our children learn, grow, and thrive as Chertsey Champs 🌟





Chertsey School Board

At Chertsey School, our Board plays an important role in supporting the strategic direction, wellbeing, and success of our kura. The Board works closely with the principal, staff, and community to ensure the best possible outcomes for our tamariki.

School Board Policies & Login

We have a School Docs site that contains our key governance documents, including policies and procedures.

Website: <https://chertsey.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Username: chertsey

Password: champs

We encourage parents and caregivers to have a look through these documents to better understand how our school operates and the responsibilities of the Board.

Our Current Board Members

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents and community members serving on our Board this year:

Presiding Member: Andrew Scott - bot_andrew@chertsey.school.nz

Principal: Claire Maria - principal@chertsey.school.nz

Parent Representatives:

Lynley Procter

Selected Representatives:

Fares Alsharif

Staff Representative: (Nominations will open shortly)

We thank our Board members for the time, care, and commitment they give to our school.

Upcoming School Board Elections

School Board elections are coming up soon. Eligible parents and caregivers should have already received an email with information about the election process and important dates.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office or speak with Andrew or Claire.

Why Join a School Board?

Being on a school board is a rewarding way to contribute to your child's education and the wider school community. Some of the benefits include:

- Having a voice in the strategic direction of the school
- Helping shape decisions that impact student learning and wellbeing
- Gaining insight into school governance, leadership, and finance
- Developing new skills and confidence
- Building strong connections with staff, whānau, and the wider community
- Making a real difference for current and future students

If you're passionate about education and community, we would love to see you consider becoming involved.



Attendance Matters at **Chertsey School**

Last year we were incredibly proud to see a significant improvement in student attendance, and we are keen to continue building on this positive momentum in 2026.

In Term 4 2024, 56% of our students were attending school regularly. **By Term 4 2025, this had increased to 80%** – an outstanding achievement and a real credit to our tamariki and whānau working together.

In line with Ministry of Education expectations, **our goal is for student attendance to be above 95%**. Being at school every day supports learning, wellbeing, friendships, and helps tamariki develop strong routines that set them up for success both now and in the future.

This relies on a shared commitment between school and whānau:

- **Children should attend school every day unless they are unwell**
- **If your child has an appointment during school hours, they can be picked up from school or dropped back afterwards.**
- **Holidays should be taken during term breaks**

We do offer attendance incentives, but these are not about improving data alone. They are designed to encourage positive habits, responsibility, and pride in regular attendance. Tamariki who achieve 100% attendance each term receive a small gift as a way of acknowledging their commitment and effort.

Our next step is to continue strengthening daily attendance routines across the school. By working together – school and whānau – we can support our children to be present, engaged, and ready to learn every day.

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu - With feathers, the bird will fly.
When our tamariki are present every day, they have the tools they need to succeed.

Together we grow, learn, and celebrate as Chertsey Champs!



Thank you to those members of the community that have contributed to our school through Fuel for Schools and [Fern NZ](#). The funding from this initiative means that our school can redeem from a range of sports, technology, literacy, music and vegepod packages which will be hand delivered by our local Rural Sales Manager.

Our school has been nominated by these local businesses/farms that receives bulk fuel deliveries from Fern. For every 100 litres of bulk fuel they purchase, 50 cents is donated to our school.

Thank you from Chertsey School!

- **GF & AJ Biggs**
- **Hewson Farms (NZ) Ltd - Potato Sheds**
- **Hewson Farms (NZ) Ltd**
- **Greenline Ag Limited**
- **NZSF Canterbury Farms -Kotare Petrol**
- **NZSF Canterbury Farms -Kotare**



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Hewson Farms
AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS

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Our mission is to produce great produce in a sustainable manner.
We adopt best practice arable and vegetable farming technique and harness the latest ag technology to achieve this. Our farming systems ensure the quality of our produce and the safety of our team.

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