



CHERTSEY SCHOOL

Newsletter 5
Friday 22nd May 2026



**Chertsey
School**

Kia ora e te whānau o Chertsey School

Swimming Week was a fantastic success, and it was wonderful to see our tamariki making so much progress throughout the week. We noticed growing confidence in the water, improvements in skills, and many children challenging themselves to step outside their comfort zones. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by everyone.

We are also excited to now have access to **House of Science Kits at Chertsey School**. This is something we have been trying to access for a number of years, and thanks to a new national initiative, all schools can now benefit from this fantastic programme. House of Science provides hands on science learning resources and equipment that bring science concepts to life through engaging, practical activities. Every three weeks, a new science kit will be delivered to our school, giving our tamariki exciting opportunities to explore and investigate different areas of science. It has been wonderful to see students already making links between their science learning and our **Matariki** topic this term. We are looking forward to celebrating Matariki later this term, with more details to come soon.

There is also plenty of excitement around our **new multi sport court**, with the turf currently being installed right now. Our tamariki can hardly wait to use it. It has been fantastic seeing students out practising their ball skills during break times, and the excitement has grown even more through our basketball lessons with **Summer from Mid Canterbury Basketball**. We are hopeful everything will be completed by next week so our children can begin enjoying this amazing new space. We are also planning a special opening later in the term with all of our wonderful sponsors and supporters who have helped make this project possible.

Our tamariki have also really impressed us with the effort they are putting into learning their spelling words in preparation for our first ever **Spelling Bee**. It has been wonderful seeing their enthusiasm and determination, and we are looking forward to what will be a very special event for our school.

Claire Maria
Tumuaki/Principal
Chertsey School

CHERTSEY SCHOOL 03 3022727, 83 HIGH ST, CHERTSEY 7772,
ASHBURTON



Term 1 & 2 Key Dates

Monday 4th - 8th May	Swimming at EA Networks
Friday 15th May	Pink Shirt Day - Gold Coin Donation for NZ The Mental Health Foundation Assembly 2.30pm
Wednesday 20th May	Board Meeting
Friday 22nd May	Newsletter 5
Monday 1st June	Public Holiday King's Birthday - No School
Friday 5th June	Assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 9th June	School Spelling Bee Competition
Friday 12th June	Newsletter 6
Tuesday 23rd June	Interschool Spelling Bee
Wednesday 24th June	Board Meeting
Tuesday 30th June	EPRO8 Team @Ashburton Intermediate
Wednesday 1st July	Matariki Whanau Day 12 noon
Friday 3rd July	Reports Published on Hero Last day Term 2

2026 Dates

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

Chertsey Board

Congratulations to Katrina Davis who is our newly elected Staff Representative for our School Board.

Chertsey Board:

- Andrew Scott: Presiding Member
- Claire Maria: Principal
- Lynley Procter: Parent Representative
- Fares Alsharif: Parent Representative
- Melanie Flintoff: Parent Representative
- Katrina Davis: Staff Representative

Kia ora e te whānau,

An update regarding 2026 changes to curriculum and reporting.

Over the past year, the New Zealand educational landscape has undergone significant shifts due to national directives regarding the NZ curriculum, particularly in English and Mathematics as well as Te Marautanga. Alongside these curriculum changes, the Minister of Education has introduced new requirements for how we must assess your children's progress.

While much of this national framework is still being finalised, I want to share what we know so far. It can be challenging for schools when significant changes affecting classrooms are first communicated through media announcements; however, we are committed to keeping you as informed as the current flow of information allows.

What is Changing?

- 1. Year-by-Year Learning:** In the new curriculum, learning is set out in a fixed year-by-year format, with specific requirements for achievement at each year level. This is a significant philosophical shift from our previous model which acknowledged that children progress at different rates from different starting points.
- 2. New Progress Descriptors:** The Ministry has replaced broad curriculum bands with five specific progress stages: Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, and Exceeding. These are the specific terms we are now directed to use to assess your child's journey. Since we are required to assess using these terms we have chosen to use them within our reporting.
- 3. Increased expectations for achievement:** The new curriculum significantly raises the expectations for achievement at each age. The Minister has lifted the floor, meaning the milestones for being "Proficient" or at the expected level are higher than previously.

For example, in Year 2 mathematics/pāngarau, students are now expected to:

- Fluently solve addition and subtraction problems within 100 (previously, the focus was often on mastery within 20, moving toward 100 by Year 3);
- Recall basic addition and subtraction facts to 20 with automaticity (e.g., $8 + 7 = 15$ or $14 - 6 = 8$ without counting on fingers).
- Understand and work with fractions like thirds and quarters of a whole and of a set, a significant jump in abstract thinking for seven-year-olds.

Expectations for Year 4 Writing have shifted toward formalised structure much earlier than previously. An 8 or 9-year-old is now expected to:

- Write multi-paragraph texts: Independently construct texts ensuring every paragraph contains a distinct topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.
- Master advanced mechanics: Consistently apply speech marks, possessive apostrophes (e.g., the dog's bowl), and correctly spell tricky homophones like their/there/they're.
- Use complex linking language: Deliberately use transitional phrases (e.g., together with, this means that) to connect abstract opinions with concrete reasons.

Writing requires immense cognitive load. If your child is an imaginative storyteller still untangling homophones, the new framework may categorise them as "Developing." Please look past the label. We are dedicated to helping them meet these targets without stripping away their confidence or love for writing.

4. Standardised Assessment Tools: In line with national requirements, students in Years 3–8 must now be assessed twice yearly using one of 3 assessment tools. We are trialling the new Smart Tool alongside some of the tools we know well. This tool is currently being scaled and initial assessment results will not be available until next term. We are also using Phonics Checks/Hihira Weteoro for younger learners.

While we fulfill these obligations, our teachers will continue to use and value holistic evidence -classwork, observations, and kōrero - that we know truly capture a child's growth and progress.

Reporting

You will notice changes in your child's report at the end of Term 2. It is important to note that we are still awaiting clarity on how data feeds into these new formats. We are essentially navigating these new tools in real-time.

Our Staff

This is a period of significant change for our teachers as they continue to learn new curriculum content, adapt established teaching programmes to align with updated requirements, and become familiar with new assessment tools and reporting processes. While there is a lot to take on, our staff remain committed to providing high-quality learning experiences and support for every child. I am incredibly proud of the way our team continues to embrace these changes while keeping our students at the centre of everything they do.

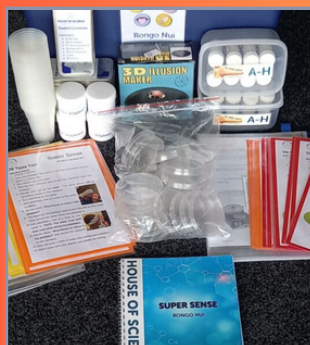
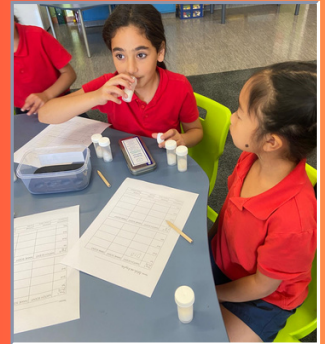
Parent Portal

We do encourage you to use the tools on the [Parent Portal here](#). We appreciate your support as we comply with these new requirements while striving to maintain our school's uniqueness and school values.

**Ngā mihi nui,
Claire Maria**

HOUSE OF SCIENCE

Our tamariki enjoyed the first House of Science kit, which has focused on exploring our senses and how they help us understand the world around us. Through a range of hands on activities, students investigated how smell, taste, touch and sight work together, discovered how our brains interpret information, and explored how what we see can sometimes be misleading through optical illusions. It has been wonderful to see students asking questions, making observations, and developing their curiosity and understanding through practical science learning.



THE NOSE KNOWS STUDENT WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a block containing eight scent bottles.
2. Remove one of the bottles from the tray, carefully unscrew the lid and sniff the inside of the bottle.
3. Screw the lid back onto the bottle and place it to one side.
4. You must now check the other bottles in the tray until you find a match for this scent.
5. There should be four pairs of bottles when you have finished matching the scents.
6. Check your answers against the teacher's list to see if you have matched the scents correctly.

Can you name each scent?

Do any of the scents remind you of a particular person, place or situation?

Do they bring back a special memory or a specific?



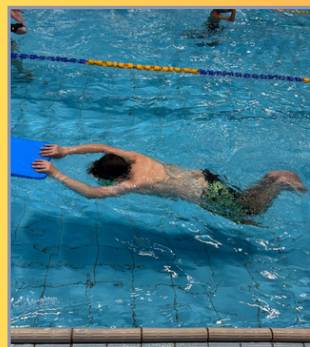
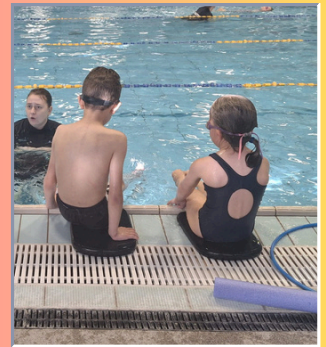
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our tamariki have been enjoying learning basic basketball skills with Summer from Mid Canterbury Basketball. This term they have been focusing on developing control while dribbling, and it has been impressive to see students practising these skills repeatedly during their break times. The excitement around basketball has continued to grow, and our tamariki cannot wait to put their new skills to use on the new court once it is complete. We also introduced a new game this week called Multi Sport, where students had an absolute blast playing a range of different sports. Not only did it create plenty of fun and laughter, but it also created meaningful experiences and memories that students were able to take back into the classroom and use in their writing.



SWIMMING

Our tamariki had a fantastic week at Swimming lessons at EA Networks and showed huge progress throughout the week. It was wonderful seeing their confidence in the water grow as they developed important swimming skills and challenged themselves to try new things. Children were reminded of the swimming levels they are working towards, from Funky Frogs and Starfish through to Goldfish, Pesky Penguins, Super Salmon, Outstanding Otters and beyond. Having goals to work towards helps motivate our learners and celebrate the progress they are making. We encourage parents and whānau to head down to the pools whenever possible so children can continue practising their skills and further develop their confidence in the water.



MULTI-SPORT COURT

Our new multi sport court is almost complete, and the excitement around school continues to grow. It has been amazing seeing our tamariki making the most of the court already by practising their ball skills and enjoying their basketball sessions. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Fonterra, who this week generously granted us \$4,000 towards the final stage of the project, as well as providing two netball post protectors. This project has been an incredible journey and another wonderful example of supportive organisations backing our school and community. We are incredibly grateful to all of our sponsors and supporters who are helping us create world-class facilities for our tamariki at Chertsey School.



CHERTSEY HOME & SCHOOL

Welcome to Chertsey School

from the Chertsey Home and School Group

Mel Flintoff- Chairperson

Liz Waugh- Treasurer

Amber Wood - Secretary

WHAT and WHY

The Chertsey Home and School Group is made up of parents, caregivers, and whānau of Chertsey School students. The purpose of the group is to provide funding for the extra opportunities and resources that are not government funded.

Examples of what Home and School has supported in the past include:

- School devices
- Morning sandwiches
- Bus costs to EA Networks swimming lessons
- Subsidising sports tops
- Leavers' jerseys
- Literacy resources and books
- School Camp

Home and School also helps organise events and activities such as school discos, BBQs for events like Cross Country and Pet Day.

HOW

To provide these extras, we carry out fundraising throughout the year. Involvement from all families is valued. This does not mean you need to help with every fundraiser, but we encourage everyone to support where they can. Many hands make light work, and more fundraising means more opportunities and extras for our tamariki.

MEETINGS

Home and School meetings are held approximately once each term. All school families are welcome to attend. As a member of the Chertsey School community, you are automatically part of the Home and School Group. At meetings we discuss fundraising ideas, organise events, and plan ways we can support the school throughout the year. Meeting dates and times will be advertised through the school newsletter and our Messenger group.

MESSENGER

We would love to have all families connected through our Messenger group as it is an easy way to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, fundraising, and ways to get involved.

If you would like to be added, please send a text message with your name.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or fundraising ideas.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Catering in Mayfield Tuesday 16th June. We need help on this day or the night before preparing meals. Please let us know if you can donate food or help out.

Kind regards,
Mel Flintoff
Chairperson
021 361 154



Support Our Tamariki!

DELICIOUS.
QUALITY.
REAL FRESH.

PASTA FUNDRAISER

ROOM 3 CAMP FUNDRAISER

We're raising funds to help Room 3 students attend their camp to Auckland – an exciting opportunity to learn, explore and create memories that will last a lifetime.



WE DELIVER!
*Anywhere in
Mid Canterbury!*

We'll deliver your order straight to your farm.

Order Here!
SCAN THE QR CODE



OR VISIT:

<https://raiseit.co.nz/cs-room-3-pasta>



Macaroni Cheese
\$21.99



Beef Lasagne
\$24.99



Chicken & Basil Lasagne
\$24.99

Thank you!

Your support helps give our tamariki experiences they'll never forget.
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ROOM 3!



KidsCān



AGRIGHT



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua

LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

MEC MEC
MARTIN EXCAVATING + CONTRACTING LTD **QUARRIES**

U-TOW[®]
NEW ZEALAND

 **THE LION
FOUNDATION**

 **Community
TRUST**
Mid & South Canterbury

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



GREENLINE AG
SPRAYING

FOR ALL YOUR BROADACRE SPRAYING
REQUIREMENTS

ADVICE, CHEMICAL SUPPLY & SPRAYING

Greenline Ag is a family owned and operated agricultural broadacre spraying business established in 2014 by Tel & Kat Green, operating throughout Mid Canterbury

As a small business we can understand each customers' spraying requirements and provide a personal and tailored service

With over 20 years of spraying and crop management experience Tel can also offer cost effective agronomic advice and chemical supply

Contact

Tel: 027 233 4716

Email: teltelgreen@hotmail.com



Hewson Farms



We nurture our land.
We value our people.

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.

Phone: 302 2799

Email: r.hewson@xtra.co.nz

Address: 721 Chertsey Road

Pendarves, RD 7,
Ashburton 7777

