



CHERTSEY SCHOOL

Newsletter 6
Friday 12th June 2026



**Chertsey
School**

Kia ora e te whānau o Chertsey School

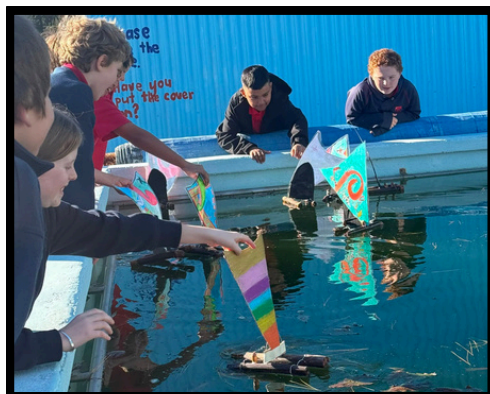
Nau mai, haere mai to our new whānau who have recently joined Chertsey School. We are very happy to have you as part of our Chertsey School and wider community.

We were incredibly excited to officially open our **new multi-sport court** with our sponsors and supporters in attendance. It has been even more wonderful seeing our tamariki out there every day enjoying the court. Already, we can see what a valuable facility this will be for both our school and our community for many years to come.

This week we also held our very first school **Spelling Bee** competition. The purpose of the Spelling Bee is to encourage our learners to apply the knowledge they are learning through Structured Literacy to spell words correctly and confidently. We have been absolutely impressed with our tamariki, who went above and beyond learning their words. Some of these spelling rules have not yet been covered in their classroom programmes, however our learners challenged themselves and embraced the joy of learning in the spirit of friendly competition.

We now look forward to our finalists competing against other schools on Tuesday 23rd June, as Chertsey School proudly hosts the very first **Inter-school Spelling Bee** competition. A huge thank you to our staff and whānau who have supported our learners both at school and at home. Your encouragement and support play such an important role in helping our tamariki grow in confidence and achieve success.

Claire Maria
Tumuaki/Principal
Chertsey School



Term 2 & 3 Key Dates

Friday 12th June	Newsletter 6
Tuesday 23rd June	Interschool Spelling Bee
Wednesday 24th June	Board Meeting
Tuesday 30th June	EPRO8 team in Ashburton
Wednesday 1st July	Matariki Whanau Day 12 noon
Friday 3rd July	Reports Published Last day Term 2
Monday 20th July	First day of Term 3

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



2026 MATARIKI

Chertsey School Matariki Celebration

12.06.2026

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Matariki is the Māori New Year and is an event to spend time together. To celebrate this, we are having our annual shared lunch and family activities. Children can wear mufti on this day and can dress up as a cowboy/girl. We invite all families, extended family and community members on Wednesday 1st July starting at 12 noon. We will be having a hāngi from the Kai Cooker and the school will be providing all meat and vegetables for this.

Timetable:

12 pm - Welcome & Kapa Haka performance

12.45pm - Shared Lunch

1.30pm - Matariki whānau activities

We ask each family to bring one of the following:

- **Side dish**
- **Dessert**
- **A dish from your culture/country**

Please fill in the form below and return it to school.

All parents, siblings and extended family are warmly welcome to join us.

If you have any further questions please feel free to come see us or send an email to principal@chertsey.school.nz

**Thank you for your ongoing support
Claire, Rose & Nerina**

Chertsey School Matariki Celebration 2026

Child's name: _____

There will be this many attending from our whānau _____ **(write number)**

We will be bringing _____ **to share (name of dish)**



SPELLING BEE



WAKA HAUORA

This term, we have been learning about the nine stars of Matariki and what each one represents. Through stories, discussions, and hands-on activities, students have explored the significance of each star and its connection to the natural world, the environment, and our lives. The star Ururangi represents the winds from the North, South, East, and West. Our Waka Hauora demonstrate how wind is used to move waka across the oceans, helping people travel, explore, trade, and connect with other communities.



PLANTING

As part of our Matariki learning, we explored the star Tupuānuku, which is connected to everything that grows in the soil and is harvested from the earth. To celebrate this special star, we planted bean seeds and began planting potatoes that will grow in our school vegetable garden. We are excited to care for our plants and watch them grow over the coming months!





Amy Riach · Jun 2 · 4 min read



Rural School Scores Big with New Sports Court



Agright Operations Manager, Mathew Bryant, marks the occasion with a group of very excited Chertsey pupils. All with a basketball each, because playing a game with just one ball is boring! Amy Riach

Bright blue astroturf and a brand new set of basketballs have made the children of Chertsey School into very proud athletes.

A new, multi-use sports court at Chertsey School was officially opened on May 27, and it's already making a difference for local pupils, said principal Claire Maria.

"It's just about really believing that kids in rural communities can have the same, if not better, than kids at other big schools in the city. And I think we really proved that being a rural school is no excuse for not having the facilities that you want your kids to have," Maria told the Guardian.

The new court, officially opened by Agright operations manager Mathew Bryant, is the latest in a series of improvements at the small rural school, which has a roll of just 37 students.

"When I first started here, we had none of those facilities, we just had an old wooden playground," Maria said.

"Once we got the first project underway, updating that playground, I realised that it's just a lot of paperwork and persistence to get funding, and once you find out where you can get that funding from, it really is just about not



Officially cutting the ribbon! Agright representative Mathew Bryant, with one of Chertsey's youngest pupils, 5-year-old Aizack.

Maria said the school's vision has always been centred on ensuring local children have access to quality facilities close to their classrooms.

But the courts will be available to everybody in the community to use, and Maria is "incredibly grateful" to the school board and wider community for backing every stage of the project.

"Our board is 100 per cent behind every project that we do. Everything we do is for the kids, and then the side effect of that is the community gets to use it as well," she said.

"We hope children and their families will also enjoy using this court after school hours, and that it becomes a place where skills are developed, memories are created, and many hours of fun are shared."

The idea for the court was inspired in part by Maria's own son, Tua, and his love of basketball. Tua spent "countless hours" outside, practising every day, Maria said.

"He was incredibly self-driven, but he also had something else that made a difference. He had access to facilities and opportunities to practice."

"I remember presenting this idea to the board, and I spoke about my son, how he would practice every day, and this means that kids in Chertsey can come after school and do the same thing," she said.

"I'll pitch for something, and anyone would think it's going to be in my backyard at home," she laughed.

"They can feel what I want for our kids, and everyone's completely behind it."



In on the first try! Pupils test out their netball skills, shooting without using the backboards at all.

The new court is already encouraging students to get involved in sport and activity, even those who may not have shown interest before.

“We got a new child two days ago, and one of the first questions we ask our new tamariki is, ‘Do you like sports?’” Maria said.

“This boy said, ‘No, no way.’ Then to watch him out there getting his shots in this morning, and see the smile on his face, was fantastic.”

“It’s just about giving them the opportunity. They might not like basketball or netball at all, but you just don’t know until you give them that chance.”

Maria also wanted students to understand the generosity behind the project.

“For me, days like this are really important for our kids, to know where it comes from,” she said.

“They need to know that without these people, this wouldn’t have been possible.”



The whole school, all 37 Chertsey pupils, celebrated the opening of the new school courts with a new waiata, performed to an audience of parents for the first time.

The project began taking shape in the middle of last year, after Maria attended a principals' conference.

"I thought it was going to be years away!" Maria laughed. "It was just a dream then."

But soon after, Matthew Bryant of Agright New Zealand, offered the school his support.

"We just really wanted to support the school in some way," Bryant said. And the new courts were the perfect opportunity.

Agright has committed \$5000 annually to the school, to continue until 2030.

"That's why we've honoured them with the logo on the courts," Maria said. "Although we've had lots of different organisations contribute, they've pledged continuous support, and that's so valuable."

Maria told the Guardian the overwhelming community support had been "very humbling."

"It's one thing to come up with an idea, but for your board to approve it, for the community to get behind you, that's amazing," she said.

"I think the key is everything's been student-centred."



AGRi



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua

LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



**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**



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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

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Hewson Farms



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We value our people.
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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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