

29 October 2025

Week 4 Term 4

Newsletter 16



Te
Parito
Kōwhai
Russley School



Coming Up...

Tues 28 Oct	- Term 4b New Entrant class visit - Year 7/8 girls' self-defence
Wed 29 Oct	Assembly 2.15pm
Fri 31 Oct 	Russley senior athletics held at Avonhead School, events start 0945 hrs
Mon 3 Nov	Year 4 field trip to Antarctic Centre
Tue 4 Nov	Year 7/8 girls' self-defence
Wed 5 Nov	Christchurch Schools' Music Festival
Thur 6 Nov	- Te Kōhure TU3&4 to Taylors Mistake
Fri 7 Nov	Te Kōhure TU 1&2 to Taylors Mistake
Mon 10 Nov	NW Zone athletic sports
Fri 14 Nov	Canterbury Anniversary 
Tues 18 Nov	PTA 7.30pm
Fri 21 Nov	2026 New Entrant parents' meeting

Welcome to our brand new school



GRAND OPENING



Principal's Message

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nau mai hoki mai ki te kura Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School.

Well, spring has certainly dealt us a hand in the past few days, as the weather has been wildly fluctuating across NZ. Our thoughts go to those who are still contending with damage from recent storms; some still without power from a week ago.

I trust that whānau were able to take a small break across Labour Weekend and spend some time together.

School opening

Friday week ago saw us officially mark the opening of our new school buildings and play spaces. Kaumatua, Maaka Tau, blessed our school on behalf of mana whenua Ngai Tūahuriri. Former principal, Lex Telfer, officially opened the school and guests from previous boards, representatives of the Ministry of Education, contractors and associates, attended. Our kapa haka roopu performed beautifully at the event. The opening is a milestone in the history of our kura. We now look forward to utilising and enjoying the new spaces now that three years of disruption is over.

Value: Whanaungatanga

Term 4 is a great time to focus on whanaungatanga.



It is a time to enjoy the benefit of the relationships built over the year. It is also a time to work hard on maintaining positive connections with people as the busy summer season and end-of-year draw closer. Two of the E Tū Tangata values, 'We Succeed Together' and 'Others Matter' are key areas on which to focus attention. What we do and say impacts and influences others. If we support each other to be the best that we can be, we all benefit.

Senior Athletics

We go on an adventure to Avonhead School and Ferris Park this Friday for our Year 5-8 athletics, weather permitting. The change of location is necessary as parts of our field are unavailable due to ongoing construction. We look forward to seeing parents and supporters at Avonhead to cheer on the Russley children. Thank you to Avonhead School for its support. *#wesucceedtogether*

Device purchases through school

Thank you to those who have expressed interest in purchasing an ex-lease Chromebook for \$60. We are in the process of getting these devices ready to issue. We also have some ex-lease iPads for sale. These secondhand iPads come with a cover and are priced at \$150. They are not suitable for school use as a BYOD option, as all the apps have been removed and the devices have been taken off our school system. For details on how to purchase a Chromebook or iPad, see pg. 4.

Ngā mihi nui

Greg Lewis
Tumuaki
principal@russley.school.nz

Kōwhai Awards

Focus: Whanaungatanga

Te Kākano (Years 0-3)

Antonio Sosa, Hazel Theobald, Chester Whittle, Ella Whittle, Lilly Males, Marco Tran, Nathaniel Greaves, Saanvi Nain, Kyden Beattie, Ella McEwan, Gabriella Carmismith, Esmae Hoskin, Roy Lee, Lawrence Borrowdale, Gray Hoskin

Te Māhuri (Years 4-6)

Nora Yang, Bodhi Hill, Felicia James, Mimi Lan, Bridget Ireland, Riley Kim, Zaira Tucker, Leah Richards, Jacob Braggins, Charlie Green, Lucy Sparks, Evie Planicka

Te Kōhure (Years 7-8)

Theo Greenall, Millie-Rose Fitzgerald, Kordae Robertson, Haon Kang, Duo Xu, Finn Beedie, Isabelle Noble, Perez Scott

Te Tohu Kōwhai Winners

Te Kākano — Arthur Theobald

Te Māhuri — Maddie Todd

Te Kōhure — Georgia Blomquist



Te Kākano Field Trip to the Antarctic Centre



2025 end-of-year events

Friday 5 December

— Christmas picnic 5pm

Friday 12 December

— Prizegiving, 9.15am

Wednesday 17 December

— Year 8 leavers' assembly, 11.00am

— Leavers' farewell march, 12.15pm

— School closes for all students, 12.30pm

2026 year-start dates

Thursday 29 & Friday 30 January

— Meet the Teacher interviews

Monday 2 February

— Classes start

Russley Athletics
Years 5-8 @ Ferrier Park,
Avonhead School
Fri 31 October 9.45am
Years 1-4 onsite @ Russley
Fri 28 November

RUSSELY SENIOR (Years 5-8) ATHLETICS DAY Friday 31 October at Ferrier Park, Avonhead School

A reminder to take warm clothing—the forecast looks fine but cool.
Wear house-colour tops with running shorts/trousers and sports shoes.
Also take a sunhat, beanie, food, drink and any personal medication.

MORNING EVENTS 9.45am – 1.40pm

	Event 1 9:45am	Event 2 10.20am	Event 3 10:55		Event 4 11:55	Event 5 12:30pm	Event 6 1.05pm
Year 5	Distance races	Sprint Heats	Shot put	Morning break 11.30–11.50am	Discus	Long jump	High jump
Year 6	Discus	Shot put	Sprint heats		High jump	Distance races	Long jump
Year 7	High jump	Discus	Long jump		Sprint heats	Shot put	Distance races
Year 8	Sprint heats	Distance races	High jump		Long jump	Discus	Shot put

Lunch break 1.40pm

AFTERNOON EVENTS 1.50pm — Year 5-8 sprint finals

Russley School Dates 2026

Meet-the-teacher Thurs 29 / Fri 30 January

Term 1, 2026

Mon 2 Feb — Thurs 2 April

Term 2, 2026

Mon 20 April — Fri 3 July

Term 3, 2026

Mon 20 July — Fri 25 Sept

Term 4, 2026

Mon 12 Oct — Tue 15 Dec

Closed on:

Waitangi Day

Fri 6 February

Good Friday

Fri 3 April

Easter

Mon 6, Tue 7 April

ANZAC observed

Mon 27 April

King's Birthday

Mon 1 June

Matariki

Fri 10 July (in holidays)

Labour Day

Mon 26 October

Can't'y Anniv

Fri 13 November

Year 5/6 Field Trip to Taylors Mistake — a study of the rocky shore



Camp 2026

All students in Years 5–8 will go to camp in term one 2026. Teams Kōhure and Māhuri will both be going to separate camps for two nights on 25–27 March. Year 5/6 to Woodend, and Year 7/8 to Hanmer Springs.



Teachers estimate that camp will cost about **\$210 per Year 5/6** student and **\$260 per Year 7/8** child. Fees must be paid in full prior to departure. For families that find the cost a challenge, we suggest that parents set up an automatic payment of \$10 per week which would put them in a good position to have paid the bulk of the cost by the time camp comes around.

2026 Camp Parents Required

We seek expressions of interest from parents/caregivers who wish to assist as parent-helpers at their children's camps in term one next year.

Next year's Year 5/6 students will go to camp at Woodend from 25-27 March. If you wish to be considered for the Year 5/6 camp, please click this form: <https://russleyschool.apps.school.nz/sa-forms/33jn7t>.

Next year's Year 7/8 students will go to camp at Hanmer Springs from 25-27 March. If you wish to be considered for the Year 7/8 camp, please click this form <https://russleyschool.apps.school.nz/sa-forms/5nsd7e3>.

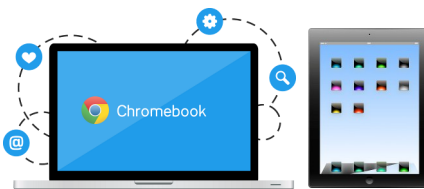
Huxster

Russley was represented by a group of 38 cyclists who opted to race in the Huxster mountain bike event at McLeans Island last week. Students raced with a partner in a relay-type format, completing multiple laps of the forest course. Some students biked up to 30km in gale force winds.

In fact, the extreme wind gusts caused officials to call an early finish to the event. At times the kids were hardly moving on their bikes! Despite the conditions, some competitors still managed to achieve personal best results.



Secondhand Devices for Sale



Russley School has a number of second-hand Chromebooks and iPads for sale. These are student devices that are at the end of lease, and are available for sale in good second-hand condition. Chromebooks come with a power cord, iPads come with a cover but neither have warranties or guarantees. Before sale, each device will be checked, wiped clean of user-installed apps and data and restored to original factory settings. Families may purchase multiple devices if they wish.

To purchase a second-hand ex-lease device, please deposit **\$60** per Chromebook and **\$150** per iPad into school account:

TE PARITO KOWHAI RUSSLEY SCHOOL

03 0830 0307669 00

Reference: Insert the word CHROME or iPad plus your CHILD'S NAME.

Rotary Speech Finals

The final of this year's Bishopdale Burnside Rotary speech competition was held earlier this month at Cotswold School where Russley was well represented by a team of impressive orators including:

Year 4: Evie Robertson, Aiofe McDermott
Year 5: Jessica Pollard, Katherine Lord
Year 6: Isabelle Holmes, Harper Beckingham

Year 7: Lily Stack, Victoria Poh, Maggie Foley

Year 8: Henry Peters, Isabella Song, Ila Rutherford

NEW ENTRANT OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 6.30PM - 7.30PM

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN STARTING IN TERMS 1 & 2



Community Notices

NOW IN
ROOM 4

OSCAR & MSD
Approved
WINZ
Subsidies



Award Winning
Before & After School Care

[https://
www.busybumbles.co.nz/
Our-Locations/Russley/](https://www.busybumbles.co.nz/Our-Locations/Russley/)

Karate At Russley

Thursday evenings. Junior and senior sessions. Phone Hayden 021 412212 or email hayden@takecontrol.co.nz

Delta Rhythmic Gymnastics

Beginner classes five days a week with training venues in Bishopdale, Fendalton, Rolleston, Wigram/Halswell. Come along for a free trial. Email membership@delta.org.nz or check us out on facebook.

Riccarton Community Church—Riccarton Street Party

Live music, bouncy castles, activities and games for the kids, free candy floss and sausage sizzle, free pre-loved clothing, competitions and stalls. Sunday 2 November, 11.00am— 1.00pm, 44 Elizabeth St, Riccarton.

Babysitting and Tutoring

Year 9 student at RHS offers babysitting and tutoring to primary students. Ex-Russley student (Year 7 & 8 Dux) can assist with reading, writing, maths, and general homework support. Plunket babysitting qualified, offering fun, safe environment if you need a sitter after school, evenings or weekends. I live in Russley and can come to your home if it's nearby. Rates negotiable. Contact me at 021 083 61523 or email oliver@peters.net.nz.

BestStart Riccarton Park

Fabulous spring deals for new enrolments at BestStart Riccarton Park. 50% discount for the first 3 months for under 2s, 20 hours free for two year olds until they turn 3. 50% discount for the first three months for 3-5 year olds Get in touch to book a visit. Email riccartonpark@best-start.org. Ph 03 930 1780.

**JOIN US AT
DELTA RHYTHMIC
FOR A FREE
TRIAL!**

*50% off term 4 fees**

BEGINNER CLASSES
Monday 5pm Fendalton
Tuesday 4pm Breens
Wednesday 4pm Rolleston
Wednesday 4pm Wigram
Thursday 4pm Wigram
Saturday 9am Breens (waitlist only)

To register for a free trial check us out on Facebook or email us at membership@delta.org.nz

*50% off on term 4 fees for new recreation gymnasts
Terms and conditions apply

Dyspraxia Support Group

A charitable, non-profit organisation, committed to providing support, practical advice, and educational programmes for those who support and care for children, youth and adults affected with Developmental Dyspraxia/DCD. This neurological disorder affects at least 6% of the population. If you wish to learn more regarding our child and youth programmes in Christchurch or just learn about dyspraxia/DCD, email dysprax-ai CENTRE@xtra.co.nz or go to www.dyspraxia.org

Tweens & Screens

New, evidence-based and practical talk for parents of 10–12 year olds: *Tweens & Screens: Raising Screen-Smart Kids in a Digital World*. An honest look at what's really going on for tweens online, the pull of social media and gaming, why it's so hard for them to switch off, and the real impacts on sleep, play, friendships, and mental health. We'll explore research, real-life stories, and practical strategies.
Monday 3 November 7pm—8.30pm, Opawa Baptist Church. Tickets from \$16 at Humanitix. [Get tickets here](#).

Kidsfirst Kindergarten Avonhead

49 Staveley Street. Morning sessions 8.30am—12.30pm and full days 8.30am to 2.30pm. All qualified ECE teachers. Phone 348 6803.

Kidsfirst Kindergarten Broomfield

We have spaces available for 2–5 year olds. Come for a visit and have a look.
20 free hours for all children 2–5 years (t&c apply) 15/17 Pensicola Cr. Phone: 342 7136
broomfield@kidsfirst.org.nz

**30 HOURS
each week
FOR JUST
\$30**

**even for
2 YEAR OLDS**

*Conditions apply