

Kia ora and welcome to Term 1.

What a wonderful start to the year we have had. This is always such a happy time, with friends reconnecting and new faces joining our school whānau, both staff and students. We have begun the year with 176 students, which means we are operating eight classrooms. We are delighted to welcome 15 new students and five new staff members, who are already settling in beautifully and learning the Ashely Way. It was especially lovely to formally welcome everyone with a mihi whakatau last Friday.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to host our community picnic — a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. This event is being run by our wonderful PTA, and this year they have added a small-wheels roller disco on the netball court. Scooters, skateboards, roller skates, and rollerblades are all welcome (please note, no bikes). Alongside this, the ever-popular ice cream and coffee van will be back, providing the perfect way to finish your picnic tea. Cash is preferred, as EFTPOS will be available but may not always work.

We look forward to seeing you all there and sharing this special time together.



### Welcome Back

The PTA would like to invite you to

# JOIN US FOR A FAMILY PICNIC!

Bring your own picnic dinner and share in some games with our school community.

**FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY**  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Coffee cart & ice creams available to purchase Cash is best, EFTPOS available (limited Wi-Fi).

Feel free to bring along your "Little Wheels" scooters, skateboards, and skates, for some roller fun alongside the picnic.



Welcome to Ashley Rakahuri School:

Pictured:

Everleigh, Zyra, Clyde, Lavinia, Olivia, Rilee-Jae, Louis and Maddox.

Also a warm welcome to:

Henry, Annabel, Eli, Leia, Bertram, Layla and Ariana.

We are excited to have you join our school whānau.



My name is Brenda Fordyce, and I will be the Learning Support Coordinator in 2026. I am excited to be part of the Ashley Rakahuri School community and am really looking forward to meeting and getting to know our students, whānau, and staff, and supporting students in their learning journeys. I have enjoyed working in a variety of roles throughout my career, including working in Learning Support last year, which I found especially rewarding. I live in the Ashley area, and my youngest child attended Ashley Rakahuri School nearly 20 years ago, so it feels very special to be returning to the school community in this role. I enjoy knitting/crochet especially for my grandchildren, reading, and most of all being with my family. My husband and I live on a block of land and enjoy the life style this provides.



Kia ora, my name is Lexi. I have spent many years working with tamariki in a variety of roles, including as a teacher aide, nanny, lifeguard, and swimming teacher. I am passionate about helping children feel supported and valued and believe strong relationships with students and whānau are key to helping children thrive. In my spare time, I love swimming at the beach and spending time with my 3 dogs Alfred, Terrance and Ally. I love the arts from painting and drawing to dancing and singing ( even if I'm not very good ) and spending time with family and friends. I'm grateful to be part of this school community and look forward to getting to know everyone.



Hi, I'm Carolyn Lever. I have worked in a variety of learning support roles in local primary schools over the past 18 years, and I am now excited to join the team at Ashley Rakahuri School as a Learning Assistant.

Originally from Nottingham in the UK, I immigrated to New Zealand in 2004 and currently live at Pegasus with my wonderful partner, Paul and our four feline friends. In my spare time, I am an avid hiker and keen quizzier and, when cat servant duties allow, I enjoy spending time gardening and relaxing at home.



Kia ora my name is Catherine Graham and I am excited to have the opportunity to be a release teacher at your school! I will mostly be working in Kererū class and also in Tūī every second week.

I am married to Scott and we have two teenage girls, Jessie and Ellie. We live on a lifestyle block near Setton.

We love going on adventures as a family. Tramping, biking and camping are the best. Last year we explored Sydney before our eldest girl left home!

I love art, music, reading, sport, animals and am very much a people person. I am particularly passionate about supporting children to develop a love for learning and a sense of belonging within the school environment.

I look forward to meeting you all in week 4 after I have recovered from my ankle operation!

## What's Happening This Year

This year we have a number of opportunities for your children to opt into at break times. Below are the ones that are guaranteed to be taking place:

Junior Jump Jam with Whaea Caitlin  
Senior Jump Jam with Miss Bruerton  
Jump Jam Leaders with Mrs Meehan  
STEM club for juniors with Mrs Layton Term 1/4  
Production Props - seniors T2 with Mrs Layton  
Garden club with Mrs O'Loughlin  
Chess Club with Mr Lynskey  
Enviro Club with Miss Bruerton  
A talent quest in Term 3 open to all

Alongside this we have invested in new PE equipment so that each class now has their own supply that they can use. This is already making it easier to keep track of and giving children more access to the equipment. As an aside they are also learning the importance of returning the gear as once it's gone it's gone.

## Our Values and Vision

### Our REACH Values

**Respect - Whakautē**  
Show Manaakitanga with integrity, sincerity, and respect towards yourself, others and the environment.

**Excellence - Kairangi**  
Strive to be better than the day before in order to achieve your personal best.

**Ngākau Aroha - Empathy & Compassion**  
There are many expressions of love, including caring, giving hospitality to visitors, helping and being considerate.

**Courage - Māiatanga**  
Challenge yourself to come out of your comfort zone. Move forward. Speak up. Take action.

**Honesty - Ngākaupono**  
Being truthful to oneself.



### Our Vision

**'Better Together  
Mā te ngātahi, ka tutuki'**

This vision reflects everything we strive to do and be at Ashley Rakahuri School. We are committed to improving, with the interests and support of our whole community. Our tamariki are at the heart of our work, and everything we do aims to strengthen their academic, social, and emotional outcomes.



### Our Teams

#### Mānuka (Year 1-2)

In Mānuka, we really want to provide a smooth and successful transition for your child into primary school.

**Harakeke (Year 2-4)** We promote a positive, encouraging & inclusive atmosphere in an environment where every child is made to feel valued.

**Rākau (Year 5-8)** We all love learning for life and are keen to be 'better than before' every day, in everything that we do at school.

## Communication with Parents

We communicate with parents and carers in various ways, for example through our weekly newsletters, Facebook, Seesaw, parent evenings, learning conferences and notices. Parents are welcome to attend school assemblies.

The school's website has a wealth of information including our weekly newsletters, calendar, copies of key policies and curriculum information. [www.ashleyrasahuri.school.nz](http://www.ashleyrasahuri.school.nz)

Staff are always happy to meet with parents and carers to talk through any concerns. Please email or ring to make an appointment.



## Change of Personal Details/Numbers

Please contact the school if your address, phone numbers, emergency numbers or email address have changed.

This information is vital in case of an emergency. We will contact the number you have supplied us so it is always best to supply another number if the first one cannot be reached.

Please also update us on any new custody arrangements should they arise.



## Whānau Houses

We have a whānau house system so that children can work in whānau groups in a range of fun and educational settings.

The children are placed in four different houses grouped from Year 1 - 8.

Siblings will be placed in the same house. When your child starts they will be placed in a whānau house group.

Each house has three student leaders and at least two staff involved.



## School Bus

Children are eligible to travel on the bus if they are under ten years and more than 3.2kms from school and 10+ years, and more than 4.8kms from school. (in school Zone). It is the parents responsibility to pick their children up at their appointed drop off point.

Our bus monitor is John Lynskey, please email [j.lynskey@ashleyrasahuri.school.nz](mailto:j.lynskey@ashleyrasahuri.school.nz) for in zone bus enquiries or changes. You will also need to write a note or email stating any changes to your child's bus routine.





## ***Calendar of Events***

6th February Waitangi Day Holiday

9th February Teacher Only Day - Maths PLD

11th February Year 4-8 swimming sports at Dudley Pool

13th February - Welcome back to school PTA Community Picnic

2nd April Term 1 ends

3rd April Good Friday

3rd - 19th April - Term 1 School Holidays

27th April - SCHOOL CLOSED ANZAC DAY OBSERVED

29th May SCHOOL CLOSED Teacher Only Day

1st June SCHOOL CLOSED King's Birthday Observed

3rd July Last Day Term 2

3rd July - 19th July Term 2 School Holidays

28<sup>th</sup> August - School Photos

28th September - 11th October - Term 3 School Holidays

26th October SCHOOL CLOSED - Labour Day

**Please check out our website for more information on the school and keep up to date with what's going on by joining our Facebook Page.**