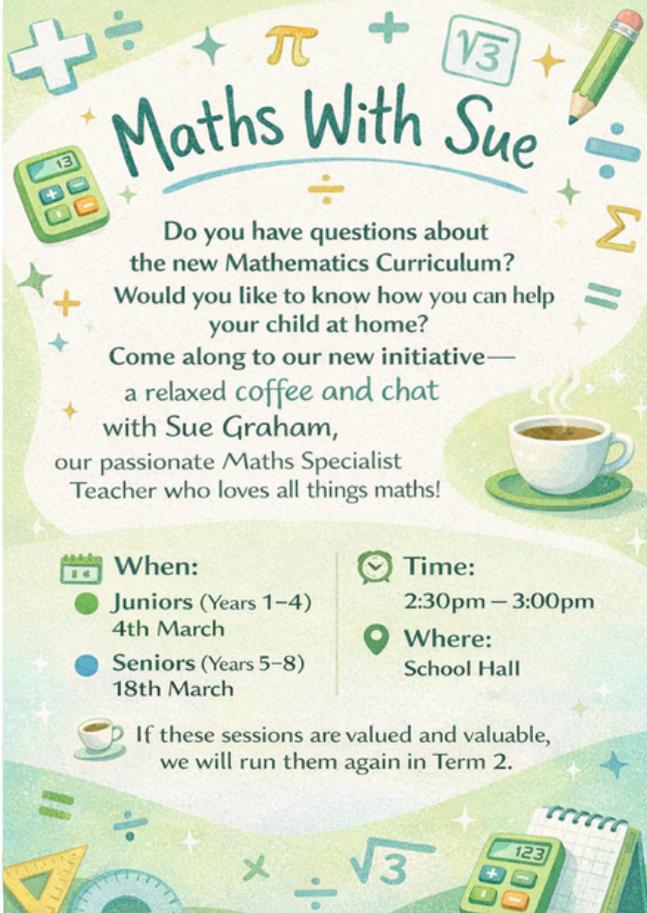


Kia ora whānau

As will have seen in the eMail sent earlier this week the pine trees at the back of the field are coming down on Saturday. This means that the school will be closed to the public for health and safety reasons all day Saturday. Once the trees are down our next step is to complete drainage work in the field, with a long term goal of havng the field more usable in the winter months. At this stage we will be looking for help with diggers so please watch this space if that is something you think you may be able to help with. The final step with this is to relevel the field in 2027.

Our specialit literacy and mathematics teachers are keen to connect with whānau to help support learning at home and so please make the most of the opportunites provided to come along and meet with them. If these sessions are well supported we will hold more in the terms following.

**Reminder:** Please do not decide at home time that you are going to “help” by taking other people’s children home with you. If there is not a prearranged “playdate” with the parents of the other child DO NOT assume that it will be okay to take them. It is extremely worrying for parents when they come to collect their child and they are not here.



**Maths With Sue**

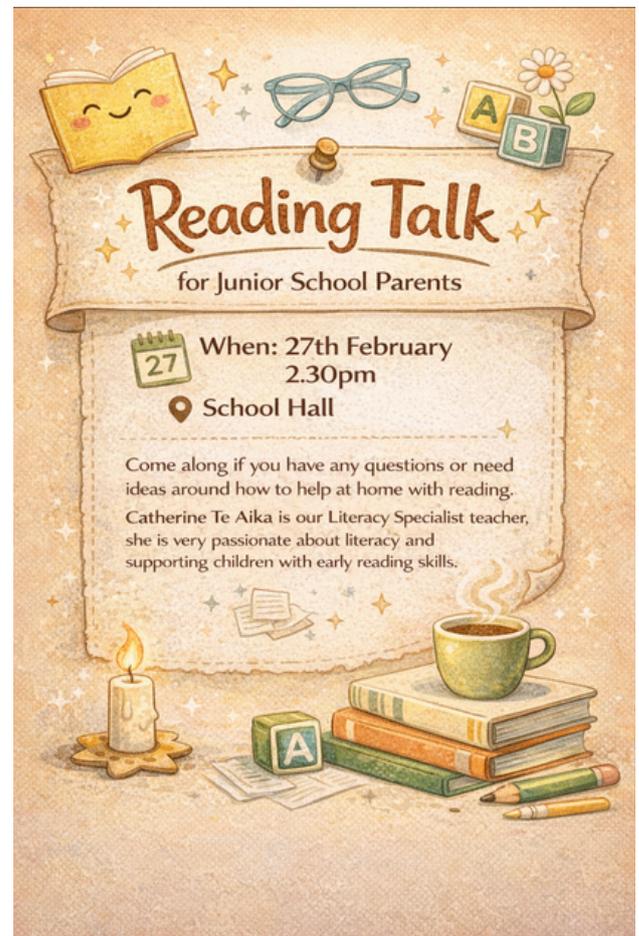
Do you have questions about the new Mathematics Curriculum?  
Would you like to know how you can help your child at home?  
Come along to our new initiative—  
a relaxed coffee and chat with Sue Graham,  
our passionate Maths Specialist Teacher who loves all things maths!

**When:**  
● Juniors (Years 1–4)  
4th March  
● Seniors (Years 5–8)  
18th March

**Time:**  
2:30pm – 3:00pm

**Where:**  
School Hall

If these sessions are valued and valuable, we will run them again in Term 2.



**Reading Talk**  
for Junior School Parents

**When:** 27th February  
2.30pm  
**Where:** School Hall

Come along if you have any questions or need ideas around how to help at home with reading. Catherine Te Aika is our Literacy Specialist teacher, she is very passionate about literacy and supporting children with early reading skills.

## Meet the Team

As we have so many new families in the school I am going to introduce the staff over the next few weeks so that you have an idea of where they fit in the school and to get to know a little more about them. This week it is the senior leadership team.



**Linda Horne**  
Principal

Kia ora koutou. My name is Linda and I have the privilege of being the Principal of our wonderful kura. I am looking forward to this year as we work to further deepen the connections we have with whānau and our students. We have an exceptional staff group with 14 teachers in various roles, 5 learning assistants, two of which have Limited Authority To Teach, our wonderful executive assistant and caretaker. As a group they are so passionate about doing all they can to support your children in their learning journey.

I grew up in Loburn on a sheep farm, attended Rangiora High School and now live in Rangiora. I have two children who have both left home and are engaged living their best lives. When not at school I love spending time with my family, getting to the beach, reading, watching movies and a lot of sport - especially rugby and league. I have two cats that think they rule the house - and they probably do.



**Juanita O'Loughlin**  
Deputy Principal, Junior Syndicate Leader, Year 2  
and 3 Teacher

Kia ora , my name is Juanita O'Loughlin and I will be working with the wonderful children in Harakeke Kererū. I am looking forward to working alongside you and your children this year. I also hold the roles as our Junior syndicate leader and Deputy Principal and you will often find me out in the school veggie patch helping children to grow some delicious food!

I live in Leithfield on an acre of land (one very big garden) with my husband Clint and our two boys, Liam who is just entering Year 13 and Ben who is beginning Year 11 at Rangiora High School.

When I'm not at school, I love to relax by reading a good book, watching a movie, baking and spending time with my family getting outdoors-either pottering in the garden or exploring the many wonderful tracks that we have in our region either by walking or mountain bike. I am currently looking forward to walking the beautiful Abel Tasman track in April, when I hope the weather will be a little more settled!

## Lance Taylor

### Year 8 Teacher and Senior Team Leader

Kia ora koutou, ko Lance Toku ingoa, No Mata-au ahau. E noho ana ahau, ki Kaiapoi toku kainga anaeanei. My names Lance and I'm from Balcutha but currently live in Kaiapoi. I'm the year 8 teacher in Tōtara and the senior team leader. I'm very passionate & energetic and that's the way I like to teach. I like to have plenty of fun but also a 'get down to business' attitude. My strengths are in maths, physical ed and Te reo Māori. I put a big emphasis on developing a strong classroom culture where students are kind, can learn and develop key skills such as perseverance and resilience. I believe that developing 'good humans' is equally as important as the academic side of things. I look forward to reconnecting with our community throughout the year.



What a fabulous turnout we had for our first STEM challenge of the year. The tamariki had to design a tin foil boat that would float and hold coins. They gained an understanding that the size of the boat affects how much weight it can carry. We had tears in foil and boats that quickly sank but like true scientists, they went back and gave it another go. Isaac had an impressive 51 coins in his boat before it sank. I was super impressed by the positive engagement of this group and it was nice to spend time with tamariki from across the junior school. Mrs L.



## Attendance Management Plan

Every school in New Zealand has to implement an attendance management plan this year to align with the governments target of raising attendance across the country. The plan itself is attached to the eMail with this newsletter in it and will also be uploaded to the website for your reference. Please make sure you read this as you will see that we are required to be in touch more often for absences. Holidays in term will be followed up with a letter requesting that you take no more time off in term time.

### Summary of our Attendance Management Plan



In line with the government's target of 80% of students regularly attending school by 2030. We're currently at

64% → 80%

Regular attendance<sup>1</sup> for 2025

Our school has a target of

Regular attendance by Term 4, 2030

Our **Attendance Management Plan** sets out

- Why attendance is a priority for our school
- Legal requirements about attendance
- Our expectations of students, parents and our school staff

This includes

- How we manage attendance in our school
- How we identify concerning attendance
- How we respond to absences at different thresholds
- How we monitor and review the impact of our actions
- How we give the Board assurance that the school is managing attendance effectively

Our school uses the **Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)** to guide when and how we respond to absences.

Good chance of success <b>GOOD ATTENDANCE</b>	Less chance of success <b>WORRYING ATTENDANCE</b>	Hard to make progress <b>CONCERNING ATTENDANCE</b>	Very hard to make progress <b>VERY CONCERNING ATTENDANCE</b>
0 1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13 14	15+
<b>If your child is regularly attending, you can expect</b> We will stay in regular contact with you about your child's attendance.  We will follow up to find out the reason when they aren't at school.	<b>If your child has some absences, you can expect</b> We will work with you to identify any barriers to attendance.  We may provide support to help them catch up and stay on track.	<b>If your child has many absences, you can expect</b> We will work with you to develop a plan to support their attendance and learning.  We may seek support of the Attendance Service or other agencies to remove barriers to attendance.	<b>If your child has a lot of absences, you can expect</b> We will continue to work with you to implement the plan to support their attendance and learning.  We will seek support of the Attendance Service or other agencies to support their return to school.

<sup>1</sup> "Regular attendance" means attending more than 90% of a term, or 9 days in a fortnight  
 Summary of our Attendance Management Plan template V2.0 Updated September 2025

## Community Survey Feedback

This week the focus is on giving feedback about **class trips and camps (EOTC)**, as there was a strong message coming through from the community that these experiences are highly valued for children. We wholeheartedly agree. As a school, we strongly value the opportunities to take children beyond the classroom, as real-life learning experiences are powerful, memorable, and often stay with children well into adulthood.

However, over time, organising trips outside of school has become increasingly complex. This is not because schools value these experiences any less, but because health and safety expectations, legal requirements, and associated costs have grown significantly. What may once have been a relatively simple day trip now requires extensive planning and documentation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff.

For example, even a short local day trip using private transport requires several layers of preparation. The process begins with a formal event proposal, which outlines the purpose of the trip and how it links to learning. This is followed by detailed RAMs (Risk Assessment Method Statements), which require staff to identify and plan for a wide range of potential risks – from medical needs and weather changes to transport incidents and emergency procedures. These documents must pre-empt every reasonable scenario that could occur while children are off site. Transport alone brings additional requirements. When parent help is needed, schools must collect and check current driver's licences, vehicle registration and warrant of fitness details, and ensure appropriate insurance is in place. For younger children, correct car seats are required, and careful consideration must be given to seating arrangements within vehicles. All of this information must be documented and checked before a trip can proceed.

Alongside the paperwork, there are also increasing financial pressures. Transport costs, entry fees, supervision ratios, and the need for additional staff or trained adults all add to the overall cost of trips and camps. Schools must balance these costs carefully while also being mindful of equity and ensuring experiences remain accessible to all students.

We share this information to help our community understand that while trips and camps remain a valued and important part of learning, the barriers to organising them are now much higher than in the past.

**We remain committed to providing these opportunities wherever possible and truly appreciate the support, understanding, and help from our families that makes them achievable.**



## ***Calendar of Events***

- 4<sup>th</sup> March - North Canterbury Swimming Sports  
23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March - Learning Conferences - Y4 (some) and  
all Year 5-8  
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.**