

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

10th February 2026



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

It has been a very busy start to the 2026 year. The children are doing so well settling into their new classrooms and enjoying being back at school.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, newsletters will be sent out on Tuesdays now (previously Thursdays).

Today we held our annual maihi whākatau which is our low-key version of a powhiri. This is a wonderful way to welcome all our new students and staff (including all those who were new last year). It is an opportunity to discuss the importance of all our students and staff being 'one' at Richmond School.

Tomorrow night we are holding our annual 'Class Introductions'. Please attend if at all possible. This is for parents/guardians only.

In next week's newsletter I will include our 'Attendance' policy. Last year, the government gazetted the need for all children to attend 'regularly'. Attending 'regularly' means a child is at school 90% of the time. That is, in a 10 week term they are at school 90 days out of 100. So many of our children achieve this. The philosophy being - if a child attends 'regularly' they will keep up with their expected learning. Occasionally, children are genuinely sick and of course that is acceptable. Going on holiday is not an acceptable reason (and the school can't condone it). It is a legal requirement children attend school on a regular basis. More details about this next week and what the government wants to happen if a child is not attending on a regular basis.

In today's newsletter is our 'Children having cellphones at school' policy. The government implemented this national-wide last year. Our students have been super compliant with this. However, a few of our children in the senior part of the school have had them at school this year. Again, as a state school we must comply with the government's directive. If a child has a cell-phone at school then it must be handed to their class teacher before school and get it back at the end of the day.

In last week's newsletter, I reminded parents about observing parking and driving rules. Some are still flouting rules and are parking for longer than 2 minutes in the P2 carpark area in front of the school's Administration area, and also are stopping on yellow lines. The TDC parking wardens are already issuing tickets. Please comply with the law of the land rather than take the risk of being given a ticket. Many thanks.

REMEMBER the 2-minute parking rule outside the school office between 8.30am – 9.30am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm.

OLD DENTAL CLINIC, NEW ROOM 22

As you may have seen, we have converted the old Dental Clinic into a new classroom – Room 22. Mrs Hardiman’s New Entrant class is presently in Room 21 but they will be moving into the new room next week – and they are all very excited about this. The old Public Health clinic (on the western side of the old Dental Clinic) has been converted into a room for Mrs Numa (one of our two specialist Learning Support Co-ordinators). Janita is super happy with her new room. Darryl Bridge (AD Bridge and Sons Ltd) was our wonderful builder again. Darryl has upgraded our Administration area and Room 21 in the past few years. High quality work by Darryl’s team and sub-contractors. Many thanks to all involved.



CLASS INTRODUCTIONS EVENING

Wednesday 11th February (Week 2)

- 7:00pm: Year 0/1 (Piwakawaka) Syndicate
- 7:00pm: Year 2 (Tūi) Syndicate
- 7:30pm: Middle (Takahē) Syndicate
- 8:00pm: Senior (Kārearea) Syndicate

CELLPHONE POLICY

Banning the use of student phones at school H19

RATIONALE:

The government has introduced regulations that require all state schools to have student phones rules in place by the start of Term 2 2024 (29th April 2024).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is support and improve student engagement and achievement.

International research indicates some key challenges with cellphones at school such as being a major distraction for our students. These rules are designed to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

There will be some flexibility in the implementation of the rules based on our school's circumstances and the needs of our students. For example, exemptions may occur when a student requires a phone to support their health or learning needs.

GUIDELINES:

1. To ensure our students do not use or access phones (including smart watches) while they are attending school, including morning tea breaks and lunch-times.
2. Our approach is 'Away for the day', meaning the device should be turned off.
3. We strongly recommend students do not bring these devices to school with them. If a student does bring their cellphone for emergency contact or health reasons, these must be handed to the teacher for the day.
4. It is important to note that if students do make the decision to bring a cellphone on to the school grounds, they do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to any cellphone.
5. We understand that some parents like their children to have a phone to communicate with them after school, cellphones will be available for students during the afterschool pick-up time. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the front office.
6. There may be times when students will be able to access and use their cellphones. However, this is the exception and will always be monitored by teaching staff.
7. If cellphones are used for a learning activity, this will be at the teacher's discretion and the phone's use will be supervised by a staff member.
8. Students with additional learning needs who use cellphones in class to increase or improve their ability to participate and learn will be granted an exemption. In matters related to a student's immediate health and safety concerns, a parent or caregiver can apply at any time to the principal for a period of exemption (e.g., medical conditions or protection issues).
9. Whilst on school trips, phones should be switched off and placed in their bags. Permission may be sought to use the camera, but other mobile features should not be accessed.
10. If we see a student using a personal digital device inappropriately or without permission during the school day, teachers will confiscate it. After the student locks the device, we place it in the office to be collected at the end of the day by a parent or guardian.
11. Breaches of the cellphone rules include (but not limited to):
 - using the device when not permitted.
 - any sort of bullying, including on-line bullying.
 - taking photos or videos of other people without their permission.
 - forwarding inappropriate messages or content.
12. If a student makes the decision to inappropriately use a cellphone multiple times in a week the cellphone will be confiscated and can only be retrieved by a parent or caregiver following a discussion with the class teacher or management.
13. Students who require their phone for health purposes, such as monitoring insulin levels, will be exempt. Students who are aided by their phone to overcome learning barriers, such as communication technology for an impairment, can be exempt.

CONCLUSION:

This policy endeavours to support and improve student engagement and achievement. It also endeavours to ensure that the learning of all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.

2026 TERM DATES

- TERM 1 – Tuesday 3rd February – Thursday 2nd April
Friday 6th February – Waitangi Day
Friday 3rd April – Easter Friday
- TERM 2 – Monday 20th April – Friday 3rd July
Monday 27th April – ANZAC Day observed
- TERM 3 – Monday 20th July – Friday 25th September
- TERM 4 – Monday 12th October – Tuesday 15th December
Monday 26th October – Labour Day

TERM 1 SPORTS

Term 1 sports registrations will be available from later today. An email and Skool Loop notification will be sent with the online link for registering.

Sports available are 3v3 Basketball, Volleyball, Mini football and Rippa.

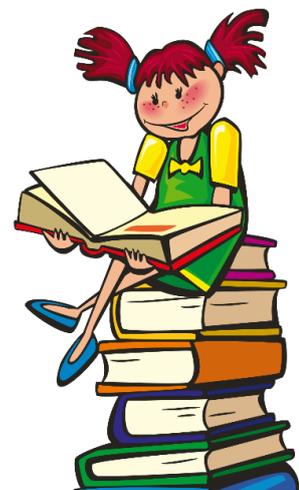
Registrations will be closing THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY, a very tight turn-around so don't miss out.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

If your address, cell phone or emergency contact details have changed over the last few months, please contact the school office.

It's important that this information is kept up to date.

Thanks



**LUCKY BOOK CLUB
DUE 19th FEBRUARY**

PTC (Parent-Teacher Committee)

The PTC have organised a fundraiser the office staff are 100% behind. Imagine NO lost property.



KEEP A TRACK OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS!

Washable Lunch Box and Bottle Labels From Just \$6.99

Laundry Safe Iron On Clothing Labels From Just \$6.99

Specials On School & Daycare Packs

Use The Current Fundraisers Link Below

<https://www.preciouslabels.co.nz/current-fundraisers/>

Search For School Or Daycare Using Ctrl F on Windows OR Command F on Apple PC

Then Click On Your School/Daycare/Scouts Group

Make Purchases As Usual

Earn Fundraiser Commissions!

NO CODE REQUIRED! JUST FOLLOW STEPS ABOVE

SCHOOL PHOTOS

TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY

Class and individual photos will be taken.

SIBLING PHOTOS – If you wish to have a sibling/family photo taken, please click the link below and follow the booking steps. Sibling photos are from 8.15am – 9am.

To make a booking please [click here](#). Alternatively, please use the QR code to access the booking system.

Bookings close on Monday, 16th February 2025.





The office staff would like to promote the SKOOL LOOP app. We intend to put notices on Skool Loop so that parents get an instant notification, instead of having to scroll through Facebook or check our website.

It's also a great way to leave an absence.

Download now.

If you have any trouble, please be in touch with the office.

Thanks to these businesses who support Skool Loop making it a free service for us. Please support them if you can.

GET BACK TO SCHOOL READY

With our Skool Loop app!

Download today to keep up to date with school information. Notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

Simple Free Download
In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

Richmond School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

If you would like to advertise on the Richmond Primary School Skool Loop App, please email Content@skoolloop.com

To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
"Richmond School – Nelson"
to keep up to date with events and notices.

IN NELSON ON SUNDAY 8th MARCH

HELP US BE THE SCHOOL WITH THE MOST PARTICIPANTS & REGISTER UNDER THE RICHMOND SCHOOL (NELSON) NAME.

www.tryathlon.co.nz/locations/nelson

DISCLAIMER These are notices we include on request of organisations and individuals.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

GIRLS SMASH & YEAH GIRLS 🍷🌟

Do you have a daughter who's interested in giving cricket a go? Term 1 cricket is the place to be! This week marks the start of both our Yeah Girls and Girls Smash programmes, and there's still a chance to get amongst.

We have all the equipment and guidance provided for fun and inclusive cricket sessions... just for girls. And best of all? IT'S COMPLETELY FREEEEEE!

- ◆ Years 1-3: Mondays 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- ◆ Years 4-6: Mondays 4:45pm - 5:30pm
- ◆ Years 6-8: Wednesdays 3:45pm - 4:30pm
- ◆ Years 9-13: Wednesdays 4:30pm - 5:15pm

Location: Aerial Field, Saxton.

All sessions will be run by current Nelson Nyxons Player Caitlin Whiting.

Register your child for free online:

<https://www.playhq.com/.../nelson.../4c09abcd/register>

For more information, please contact Dustin at dustin@nelsoncricket/org.nz

Private Music Tuition

Places now available for piano, keyboard, guitar, ukulele and music theory lessons.

Experienced and professional teacher based in Richmond.

Please contact Maree to enrol or for more information

Phone: 027 313 6086

Email: pukekoparadise@xtra.co.nz



SHARLAND CYCLES **5K FUN RUN & WALK FROM CLUB WAIMEA**
Great spot prizes every week and the chance to win a pair of running shoes at the end of the series

Sharland Cycles 5km Fun Run & Walk from Club Waimea
Wednesdays in November, December, February and March

Series starts on 5 November 2025 @ Club Waimea

Registration 5:30pm

Event start 6pm

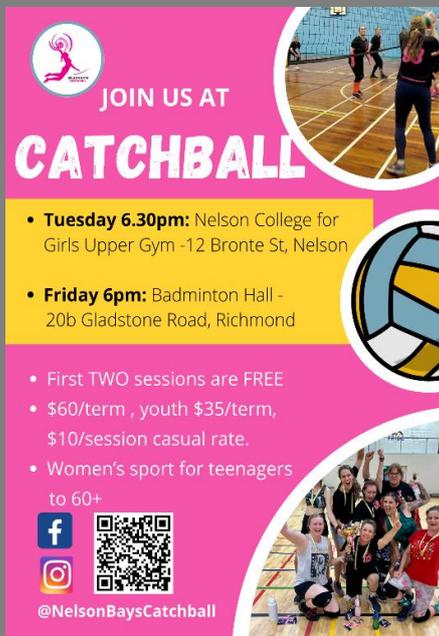
Everyone welcome

\$3 entry

Free entry for children & students

More info at www.waimahorier.nz

CONNINGS active good Puckery FORTUNEBAKER Richmond Link Nib's Place NBS



JOIN US AT CATCHBALL

- **Tuesday 6.30pm:** Nelson College for Girls Upper Gym -12 Bronte St, Nelson
- **Friday 6pm:** Badminton Hall - 20b Gladstone Road, Richmond

- First TWO sessions are FREE
- \$60/term, youth \$35/term, \$10/session casual rate.
- Women's sport for teenagers to 60+

[f](https://www.facebook.com/NelsonBaysCatchball) 

@NelsonBaysCatchball



CLUB WAIMEA SQUASH

JUNIORS SQUASH HIT

STARTS 15TH FEB

AGES: 5-18

COST: GOLD COIN DONATION

Open to all juniors to come down and have a go at squash.

Balls, rackets & glasses available

SUNDAYS 1-2PM SCHOOL TERM ONLY

CLUB WAIMEA SQUASH
345 LOWER QUEEN STREET, RICHMOND



TASMAN TAPPERS DANCE STUDIO

BOOKINGS OPEN FOR TERM 1



GET YOUR FEET MOVING AND DISCOVER THE JOY OF RHYTHM!
TAP DANCING CLASSES OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES, BEGINNERS TO ADULT TAPPERS.
JOIN A FUN, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
EXAMS, COMPETITIONS AND SHOWS OFFERED.

COME TAP AND MAKE SOME NOISE WITH US!

CONTACT - TASMANTAPPERS@HOTMAIL.COM
021 046 6601