

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

10th March 2026



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

CONGRATULATIONS MR ARMSTRONG

With over 50 on our school staff, there's always special times for them. Two Saturdays ago, one of them was for Mr Armstrong (Room 9).

Mr Armstrong married his long-term partner, Beth.

Congratulations to Beth and Leath! Great photos of your very special day.



SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

This is a giant cucumber that has been grown in the school garden. The children in the "Garden Club" have loved being a part of growing plants, weeding, harvesting and tasting the final product.

JUMP JAM

Our children are extremely lucky that a number of teachers are willing to undertake extra activities at lunchtimes which children can be involved in. Lucky children! Here is an example. On Friday lunchtimes, either in the hall or on the stage area outside the staffroom, children can opt-in to a Jump Jam activity. They can be any age. This is organised by a number of the teachers. Last Friday, 7 teachers were involved - Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Andrews, Miss Maher, Miss Springer, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Ydgren and Mrs Joass. As can be seen in the photo – a number of our older students are leading this particular routine.



PLATE IT FORWARD

One of the wonderful things about the Richmond School community is the support parents and families are prepared to provide others. From time to time all families need support for a whole host of reasons. A number of years ago we set up an initiative called 'Plate it forward' where others provide a meal of two for families when there is a need.

This may entail making a meal or baking maybe twice a year. No names are ever mentioned, the helpers prepare a meal and deliver it to the school office, where we arrange for them to be delivered to the family involved.

Would you be able to help? We are looking to update our list of volunteers, so even if you've done them before, please be in touch with the office to let us know. We would really appreciate your help.

ACCORD DAYS IN 2026

The Minister of Education has provided all school with two ACCORD Days to be used in 2026. These are Professional Development days for the staff to upskill in the new 'Refreshed' Mathematics curriculum.

We had previously notified the Board, staff and parents the first ACCORD day would be held on Friday 29th May (the day prior to King's Birthday weekend). Unfortunately, no Ministry of Education facilitators are available that day so we have had to re-schedule it to **Friday 15th May 2026**. 3 other schools will be joining with us for the day – Brightwater, Appleby and Ranzau.

Richmond School will be closed in Friday 15th May 2026.

At the moment, our second ACCORD DAY is going to be **Friday 23rd October**.

SWIMMING POOL

Swimming finishes Friday 13th March.

Last afternoon for pool holders to use the pool
is Thursday 12th March 2026.

Please return all pool keys to the office.

Thanks

ADVICE TO PARENTS ABOUT ON-LINE GAMES

Last year, I placed a statement in the newsletter about computer games such as Fortnite, Minecraft and the dangers of children on these sites and especially without parent supervision.

Here is a repeat of the statement after some teachers and parents asked for it to be included again in this week's newsletter.

More and more children in the school are talking about playing the game 'Fortnite'. Whilst we understand the game is very popular, it is also highly addictive and unsafe if played without strict monitoring.

Before your child plays 'Fortnite' for the first time or goes back on-line, I urge you to take the time to learn more about it and the risks by viewing the suggested links below.

The game is rated for children aged 12 and over which means it is not recommended for any child at primary school. However, children as young as 5 are saying that they are playing the game and sometimes everyday. We are very aware of this and know children who, as 7 year olds, are playing the game unsupervised.

I personally don't think there are good reasons for children this young to be playing the game especially when the rating age is 12. Apart from the mild violence, the game is designed for on-line chat with other players, it is competitive and is highly addictive. It is the on-line chat aspect that can lead to the disagreements here at school. It isn't good use of teachers and management time dealing with the emotional and physical fall-out of disagreements from this game. We would prefer to have teachers and children focussed on academic learning. We are aware some children at times are worried about coming to school as an outcome of the on-line chat abusive statements.

Addictive games often lead to tiredness, extreme behaviour and a lack of interest in other things. Children can react badly if the parents ask them to stop playing a game part way through a game that can typically take 20-30 minutes to play. Primary aged children (in my opinion) should not be playing this game. We are seeing children turning up at school very tired and some turning up late and then struggling to stay on-task. We are aware that some children are playing the game on devices when they should be asleep.

As a parent it can be difficult to make unpopular decisions for your children. Particularly when people in the media are promoting the game and other children/friends are playing the game. Having said that, it is really important that your children are kept safe and their well-being is protected.

Gaming can be good fun but needs to be appropriate and carefully monitored.

<https://netsafe.org.nz/fortniteadvice/>

<https://childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fortnite/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

This is the same with Minecraft. Our primary aged children should only be on the Educational Minecraft site (not other Minecraft sites).

Now there is another platform called 'Roblox' which parents need to be fully aware of and understand both its appeal and its potential risks, especially for younger children.

Roblox is not just one game — it's a game creation and social platform where users can play millions of user-generated games across genres like adventure, role-play, obstacle courses, and simulations. Children can customize avatars, earn virtual currency called *Robux*, and even build their own games using Roblox Studio.

Its popularity among primary-aged students comes from:

- Creative freedom: Children can build and explore imaginative worlds.
- Social interaction: Players can chat and collaborate in games.
- Accessibility: Available on phones, tablets, computers, and consoles.

While Roblox can be a fun and educational space, there are several concerns parents and educators should be aware of:
Inappropriate Content

- Because games are user-generated, some may include violence, sexual themes, or disturbing imagery not suitable for children.

- Even with moderation, inappropriate games can slip through.

Online Predators

- Roblox includes chat features and friend requests, which can expose children to strangers and potential grooming attempts.
- Some predators have exploited the platform’s social features despite safety measures.

Cyberbullying

- The open chat system can lead to bullying or harassment, which may affect a child’s mental health.
- Children may not always report these incidents or know how to respond.

Addiction and Screen Time

- The endless variety of games can lead to excessive play, impacting sleep, schoolwork, and physical activity.

In-Game Purchases

- Robux can be bought with real money, and children may overspend or be targeted by scams.

How to Keep Kids Safe - Parents can take proactive steps to protect their children:

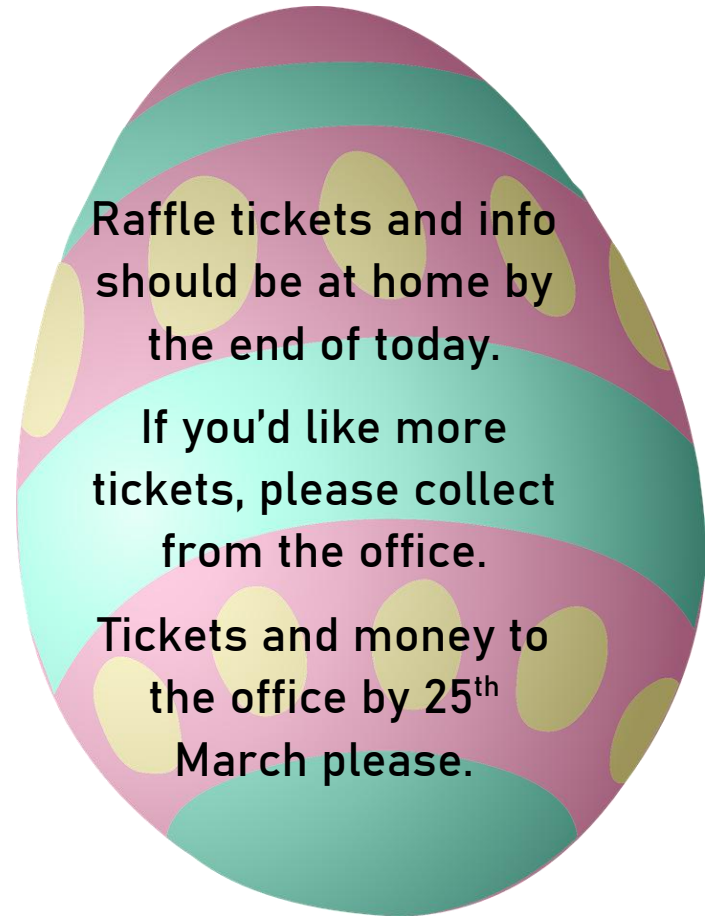
- Enable parental controls: Roblox offers account restrictions, chat filters, and privacy settings.
- Monitor gameplay: Know which games your child is playing and who they’re interacting with.
- Talk openly: Encourage kids to report anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- Limit screen time: Set boundaries to ensure healthy balance.

BENEFITS OF REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Short term benefits	Long term benefits
<p>Keeps Learning on Track Your child won't miss key lessons, so they can keep up with reading, writing and <u>maths</u>.</p>	<p>Better Career & Earnings Good grades and potential for university or NMIT, opening more job options and better pay.</p>
<p>Building Friendships Kura (school) is where kids make friends, learn to share and work together, helping them feel included and happy.</p>	<p>Resilience & Wellbeing Learning to stick with things teaches grit, helping them tackle challenges, which will support wellbeing and build resilience into adulthood.</p>
<p>Increased Confidence and Security Being part of a familiar school routine gives your child a sense of belonging. A steady routine can ease anxiety and help them feel more confident.</p>	<p>Healthier Lifestyle Regularly engaged students often grow into adults who <u>prioritise</u> exercise, good kai and self-care.</p>
<p>Support from Kaiako & Staff The more your child is at kura, the more kaiako (teacher) and staff understand their needs and can help straight away.</p>	<p>Community Participation Teamwork and cooperation at Kura pave the way for participation in sports, the arts and cultural groups.</p>
<p>Good Routines & Responsibility Regular <u>wake-ups</u>, packing kai (food) and arriving on time teach <u>organisation</u> and responsibility - skills for life.</p>	<p>Strong Study Habits Building solid study routines sees your child right through intermediate and secondary school.</p>

The Dunedin Study shows a direct correlation between consistent school attendance and higher academic achievement, better long term health and overall improved wellbeing. <https://dunedinstudy.otago.ac.nz>

NELSON BAYS DISTRICT COUNCIL
Age-Appropriate and Inclusive Growth 2025
Have a Whānau and Advance Growth 2025



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Heritage Productions visited our school recently to take our annual school photos.

An order card has been produced for each child present on the day of the photo session. The order card contains the following information:

- Photo proof.
- Unique passcode. This enables you to view and order your child's images online.
- QR code and website details for ordering.

To place a photo order please either scan the QR code or visit their website listed on the order card. Their website contains all the information on pack sizes and pricing. Payments are online via credit or debit card.

Orders for FREE delivery to school close on 17 March 2026 at 11.59pm. Orders placed after this date will be sent via NZ Couriers and shipping applies.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WHENUA ITI OUTDOORS
Journeys of discovery

GO WILD

AGES 7-10

GO WILD holiday programme is designed for younger adventurers. 5 days of action, nature immersion and outdoor exploration.



wio.org.nz

JELLY BEAN ALLEY

Family Mountain Bike Event

FREE ENTRY!



12pm - 4pm
Motorua Rabbit Island

April 12th - 2026

WAYNE POOL

Pretty Smart Sale

Pre-loved clothing for adults, kids & babies
plus accessories, books, toys & homewares



Sat+Sun 21+22 March

9.00am - 2.00pm

Hope Recreational Hall
184 Main Rd, Hope

Cash Only \$2 Entry

Proudly supported by

NBS YEAR 7 & 8

Community
We believe. We invest.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME!

We are delighted to offer a School Holiday Programme that is designed to have a high level of enjoyment and interaction. This programme is suitable for children with all abilities.

14 & 15 APRIL 2026

- WHERE:** Waimea College Gym
- TIME:** 9am - 12pm
- COST:** \$95 for both days.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE

Proudly supported by

NBS YEAR 5 & 6

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We are delighted to offer a School Holiday Programme that is designed to have a high level of enjoyment and interaction. This programme is suitable for children with all abilities.


14 & 15 APRIL 2026

- WHERE:** Waimea College Gym
- TIME:** 1pm - 4pm
- COST:** \$95 for both days.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE

Nelson Whalers Inline Hockey

Learn to play!



Free coaching session
All Skating Skills Welcome
Bring a bike helmet or use ours
Skates provided
Sticks provided
Boys and girls
4yrs to 16yrs

Just like Ice Hockey but without the ice
Sunday March 22nd 11am-1pm

Tabunani Skating Rink - Beach Road
email: nelsonwhalersinline@gmail.com

NELSON SCHOOLS' CRITERIUM CYCLING SERIES

TERM 1 2026

FRIDAY 13 | 20 | 27 MARCH



3 RACE SERIES WITH OVERALL WINNERS FOR EACH RACE CATEGORY

GET READY TO ROLL!

The Nelson Schools' Criterium Cycling Series is back by popular demand! This cycling event is designed to get kids of all ages and abilities active and excited about cycling. From balance bike beginners to teenage racers, this series offers safe, age-group racing in a fun and supportive environment.

Event Location: 17 Boxman Place, Annesbrook

4:15 Sign-on & Warm up opens

RACING STARTS:

4:30 RACE 1 - Under 5
4:45 RACE 2 - 5-8yrs
5:00 RACE 3 - 7-10yrs
5:40 RACE 4 - Senior (novice) and Elite riders - 11-18 years

KOHA ENTRY

Competitors must have shoes, gloves and a well-fitting helmet, and may bring any bike.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

- BASCH
- FELIX
- TASMAN WHEELERS
- TRACK CYCLING
- OWC
- KIW!
- SPRING FISH
- INTEK
- UNICHEM

TASMAN HOCKEY

JUNIORS

Training sessions should start Monday 23rd March 5.00pm (to be confirmed).

All players wishing to play Junior Hockey for the 2026 season, please turn up for a run-about on this date; we can determine from there which is the appropriate team and grade for our junior players.

Secondary Grade (Div 4) Competitive Season starts 1st May 2026
Intermediate Grade (Div 5) Competitive Season starts 6th May 2026
Primary Grade (Div 6) Competitive Season starts 6th May 2026