

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28th April 2026



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

INCREDIBLE SERVICE TO RICHMOND SCHOOL

How time flies when you are having fun!

Last year, we celebrated two staff members, Grant Irvine (teacher) and Sheila Hunter (teacher-aide) who had been working at Richmond School for 25 years (and still are!).

Last Friday, we held a morning tea in honour of Sue Russ who began working as a teacher-aide on the 23rd April 2002. 25 years later, she is a very experienced teacher-aide who still graces the school with her company, sense of humour and expert teacher-aiding. Sue is presently the staff representative on the Board of Trustees and the Support Staff NZEI representative.

Many thanks Sue, for your outstanding service and contribution to Richmond School, during the past 25 years.



ANZAC SERVICE



Last week the children in Room 15 all contributed to making a wreath for ANZAC Day. On ANZAC Day, Saturday 25th of April, four students, Evie Vivian, Grace Lockerbie, Willow Harris and Esmē Bennett presented the wreath during the ANZAC Day celebration at the Memorial Gardens in Richmond.

Ngā mihi nui to the girls and their families for doing this on behalf of Room 15.

- Bronwyn Scott (Rm 15 kaiako)



Our senior choir will perform at the park on Oxford Street, across from Richmond School, between 12.30pm and 1pm on Wednesday 29th April. The choir will perform four songs, including the National Anthem and a lovely ANZAC song called 'Lest We Forget'.

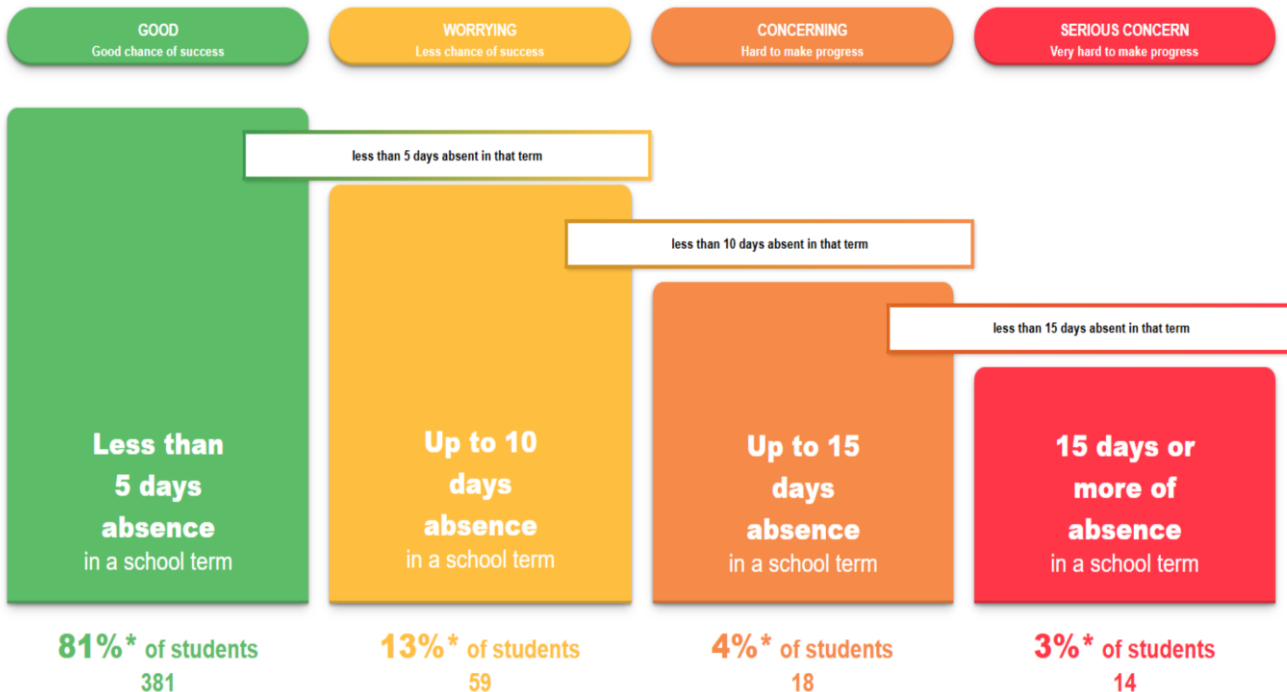
Family, RSA members and members of the public are welcome to come and listen.

RICHMOND SCHOOL'S ATTENDANCE PLAN

A huge thank-you to our wonderful parent community!

Term 1 2026 our 'regular' attendance rate has bettered the government's aim of 80% of regular attendance. Our rate was 81%. This meant that 81% of our students were absent from school less than 5 days in the term. Here is our chart showing the percentage of attendance at each category.

The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.



Throughout New Zealand, the Term 1 2026 average was 68.6 percent of students attending school 'regularly'. So, we are doing incredibly well.

Thank you to parents for getting your children to school on a regular basis. We are fully aware children do get sick and have other medical issues, and need to stay at home. Away on holiday is not a valid reason for a child being away from school. Legally children must be at school on the days schools are open.

Regular school attendance is essential for student success. In New Zealand, the percentage of students attending regularly is low compared to many other countries. Lifting attendance is a shared responsibility. School staff, boards and parents all play vital roles in supporting students to be at school and learning.

In August 2023, the New Zealand Government announced a nationwide attendance initiative to address declining school attendance. As part of this initiative, all schools were required to implement a Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) system by Term 1 2026, as per indicated in the chart above.

The STAR step system ensures that schools respond to absenteeism in a timely, consistent, and proportionate way—so that no student is left behind. The government sees attendance as the gateway to better educational outcomes, health, and future opportunities.

The government's target being 80% of students attending school regularly, which means a student being present for at least 90% of the term (i.e. in a typical 10 week term a child has to be at school 90 out of the 100 days). The government demands schools follow-up and document frequent absenteeism including meetings with parents and designing an attendance improvement plan.

80% 'regular' attendance is a bold target, especially considering that nationally for many years, the average percentage is much lower than 80%.

Traditionally, Richmond School percentages have been higher than the regional and national averages.

REGIONAL KAPA HAKA COMPETITION



Last week, I had the privilege of attending the Te Tau Ihu Kapahaka Regionals in Waiharakeke (Blenheim). The competition took place over two days, with primary and secondary groups performing on Thursday and senior groups on Friday.

I also had the honour of standing and performing with the 'Whānau Tautoko' group. This group was formed to support and uplift the kaupapa of kapa haka across our rohe (area), bringing together kaiako to tautoko local rōpū on stage.



Events such as the Te Tau Ihu Kapa Haka Regionals play a vital role in strengthening te reo Māori, tikanga, and cultural identity across our rohe. They provide a platform for rōpū of all ages to share kōrero through waiata, haka, and movement, while fostering connection, pride, and collective learning. It is especially fitting to acknowledge the two rōpū (groups) from our rohe who will be representing Te Tau Ihu at Te Matatini 2027. Te Kuru Marutea and Kia Ngāwari. An achievement that reflects the strength, depth, and growing opportunities for kapa haka to be celebrated at a national level, ensuring more voices, stories, and communities are represented.

- Jenna Maher (senior kapa haka kaiako and Room 4 teacher)

NELSON YOUTH THEATRE

During the holidays, three of our students were involved in Nelson Youth Theatre productions at the Theatre Royal. Katelyn Oliver played Flounder and Baxter Pollock was The Chef, in their production of The Little Mermaid. Katelyn also played a princess in Alladin, while Parker Todd played Herbert the Hedgehog in Doctor Doolittle.

Well done to you all.



Katelyn



Parker



Baxter



**LUCKY BOOK CLUB
DUE 7th MAY**

PTC MEETING

Our next meeting is
MONDAY 4th MAY at 7pm
In our school staffroom
ALL WELCOME

TERM 2 MINIBALL

Year 5/6 miniball registration notices have been given out today. If your child would like to play and didn't receive a notice, please collect from the office. Registrations (and payment) need to be back to the office by Monday 4th May.



2degrees
GIRLS GOT GAME
Skills + 3x3
Games

Day: Thursday
Date: 14 May - 18 June
Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Location: Jack Robins Stadium

GAME CHANGER

The poster features a pink and blue background with a curved orange line. It includes an illustration of two girls playing basketball, a QR code, a whistle, and a heart icon. Logos for '2degrees', 'GIRLS GOT GAME', and 'GAME CHANGER' are present.

Year 3/4 girls – please register via this QR code. No teams will be registered or organised through schools this term.

Year 3/4 boys – please register via this QR code. No teams will be registered or organised through schools this term.



bnz
KIWI HOOPS

Years 3 - 4 boys
May 12 to June 16
4:00pm - 5:30pm
Skills + 3x3 games
\$55 per person

NELSON BASKETBALL .CO.NZ

The poster has an orange and blue background. It features the 'bnz KIWI HOOPS' logo, a QR code, a basketball icon, a star, a smiley face, and the 'NELSON BASKETBALL .CO.NZ' logo at the bottom.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES



OPEN DAY
MAY 17

WILLOW BANK
HERITAGE VILLAGE

WILLOW BANK
APPLE + PEAR HARVEST

ENTRY FEE:
\$7 PER ADULT (AGES 18+)
\$3 PER CHILD

APPLE HARVEST

VISIT A FUN AND INTERACTIVE LIVING MUSEUM 10KM SOUTH OF WAKEFIELD, NELSON. WE HAVE 20+ SHOP DISPLAYS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, FOOD AND DRINK AND LOTS MORE.

SUNDAY 10AM - 3PM
MAY 17

APPLE + PEAR HARVEST OPEN DAY. BRING YOUR FRUIT TO JUICE. JUICE BAGS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.

Info@willowbankwakefield.co.nz @willowbankheritagevillage
AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS
WWW.WILLOWBANKWAKEFIELD.CO.NZ

79 WAKEFIELD-KOHATU HIGHWAY, WAKEFIELD



AIKIDO
NELSON est. 1988
www.aikidonelson.nz

Want to learn self defence and become more confident? New students can enrol in the first three weeks of each Term. Check out our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aikidonelson.nz) www.aikidonelson.nz or call Callum 021 0694211

5-7 year olds
Mondays 5-5.45pm
Wednesdays 4.15-5pm

8-13 year olds
Wednesdays and Fridays 5-6pm

14+ year olds
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 6-7.30pm



WAIMAI UNITED HOCKEY

Hockey Games

CHILDREN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE

If your children are interested in joining a club to play games in a hockey league please come and join our club!

COMPETITION IS ON WEDS NIGHTS BETWEEN 4:30PM-7:00PM STARTS TERM 2 2026.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS

Teams are 6 a side with a goalie played on half a turf

Please contact us to register for the upcoming winter season

Waimai United Hockey Club
dige_nz@outlook.com



HANDS UP FOR HOSPICE

The Fashion Edition

Championed by SMART BUSINESS CENTRE

A fabulous night of fashion, food, and community support.

Fashion from two of Nelson's top boutiques, Stacey Clothing and Homelee, alongside beautiful pre-loved pieces curated from our Nelson Tasman Hospice Shops.

Friday 1st May Doors open 6pm Show starts 7pm
Annesbrook Event Centre

Tickets \$55
Scan here to buy

Including a mini market showcasing amazing local businesses supporting Nelson Tasman Hospice this May!

<https://events.humanilix.com/hands-up-for-hospice-the-fashion-edition>

Fundraising for Nelson Tasman Hospice

stacey X homelee Hospice Shops

Try it, Play it, Love it.

Community Tennis and Pickleball Open Days will be held at the

Richmond Tennis Club on

Saturday 2nd May 1pm - 3.30pm and

Sunday 3rd May

11am - 1pm.

Families are very welcome.



HOCKEY NELSON

2026 HOCKEY OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 2nd MAY at Saxton Field Hockey turfs
9:00 AM — 10:30 AM

2026 HOCKEY OPEN DAY

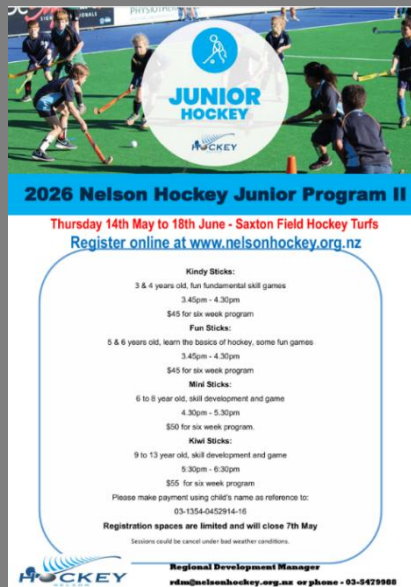
We welcome everyone for a fun day!
Sticks / balls / bibs will be provided

FREE OPEN HOCKEY DAY
Free sausages & drinks

Fun games / basics skills

No registration needed

For further information please contact:
NHA RDM - rdm@nelsonhockey.org.nz
www.nelsonhockey.org.nz - Pst: 03-5447968



JUNIOR HOCKEY

2026 Nelson Hockey Junior Program II

Thursday 14th May to 18th June - Saxton Field Hockey Turfs
Register online at www.nelsonhockey.org.nz

Kindy Sticks:
3 & 4 years old, fun fundamental skill games
3.45pm - 4.30pm
\$45 for six week program

Fun Sticks:
5 & 6 years old, learn the basics of hockey, some fun games
3.45pm - 4.30pm
\$45 for six week program

Mini Sticks:
6 to 8 year old, skill development and game
4.30pm - 5.30pm
\$50 for six week program

U14 Sticks:
9 to 13 year old, skill development and game
5.30pm - 6.30pm
\$55 for six week program

Please make payment using child's name as reference to:
03-1354-042914-16

Registration spaces are limited and will close 7th May
Sessions could be cancel under bad weather conditions.

Regional Development Manager
rdm@nelsonhockey.org.nz or phone - 03-5429288

Autumn at "Silvan" - Open Garden

Entry via Richmond RDA, 169 Champion Road, Richmond
Saturday 2nd May 10am - 2pm
Postponement date Sunday 3rd May 10am- 2pm

Fundraiser for **RICHMOND RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

Tea, coffee and light refreshments available to purchase.
Also Raffles, Sponsor a Special Pony and "Buy a Bale" of hay to feed the horses.



Come and enjoy the autumn colour in this extensive garden.

Admission: \$5 per person, Children under 12 free (CASH ONLY - no eftpos)
Not suitable for mobility scooters.
Parking: Richmond RDA, 169 Champion Road, Richmond
Email: richmondride@rtds.co.nz Phone: 544 8960