

Ashburton Netherby School

Caring, Sharing and Learning Together

Newsletter

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Wednesday 12th November 2025

Wenerei 12th Whiringa a rangi

Week 6 Term 4

Netherby School Website: <https://www.netherby.school.nz>

Netherby School Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ashburton-Netherby-School-347486892319026/>

School Vision: Quality teaching, Quality learning

School Mission: Encourage all to aim high, do their best, be resilient and have fun.

Hakatere Kāhui Ako Website: <https://www.hakaterekahuiako.nz/>

School Whakatauki

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.

With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive.

Tālofa lava, Kia orana, Mālō e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Bula Vinaka, Talofa ni, Kia ora and hello.

The term is racing by. It is hard to believe that by the time you read this newsletter we will be nearing Canterbury Anniversary weekend and Monday of Week 7. We have teachers only day on Thursday and Friday brings us Canterbury Anniversary Day, two days in which school is closed for instruction. We have so far packed a lot in this term but still have a number of events to squeeze in before terms end. Please keep an eye on the newsletters upcoming events and other communications from school so you are aware of what is happening.

Kai for Kids

As you may or may not know the Government has been changing and centralising the delivery model of the School Lunches Programme. With a heavy heart we inform you that lunches will not be delivered to the children of Netherby School by Kai for Kids from 2026 despite them placing very price competitive bids. We are devastated and feel saddened particularly given Netherby School was a pilot school for Kai for Kids. We have a long standing relationship with Kai for Kids. I am sure I speak for the community, children, staff and Board in saying that we are disappointed that the new lunch model will not employ local people, use local produce all while having a small carbon footprint let alone a personalised relationship with the provider.

On an optimistic note Kai for Kids will continue to deliver a rich and nutritious morning tea, something the new provider in 2026, Mammoth Brands and Subway, do not. Kai for Kids have really championed healthy food choices and habits and despite the devastating news, are still here doing just that for morning tea in 2026. Their actions speak volumes about where their hearts lie.

We have a Kai for Kids special Christmas lunch soon where we will thank the staff personally.



Parent Portal

Here is a link to the parent portal, which is useful for parents to access so they can support children's specific learning at home for the year group they are currently in. It is well worth a visit. <https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8>

Counties Athletics Day

What a day. I was impressed with the effort from all participants. Our school this year performed well at Counties particularly given the size of our school compared to some of the bigger schools. We had a number of top 8 finishers in Helma, Hunter, Abel, Ifereimi, Timothy and Saint with a good number of children getting top three placements, all who will go on the Super Wall Pride. It is worth mentioning as well two of our athletes who through bad fortune and injury (Rhinanna and Jase) could not attend or make Counties. These two children had decent chances of placing.



Placements:

Aggi won the Yr.6 Girls shotput (amazing)

Yr. 6 Girls Relay Team: Lily, Aggi, Rhianna and Helma, placed a credible second.

Yr. 6 Boys Relay Team: Timothy, Abel, Hunter and Ronak, placed a credible second.

Abel managed a credible 2nd in the long sprint and 3rd in the short sprint

Hunter managed a credible 2nd in the long sprint and 3rd in the short sprint

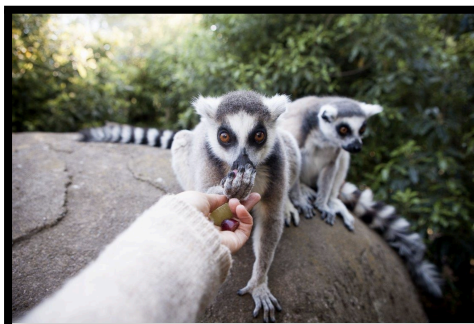
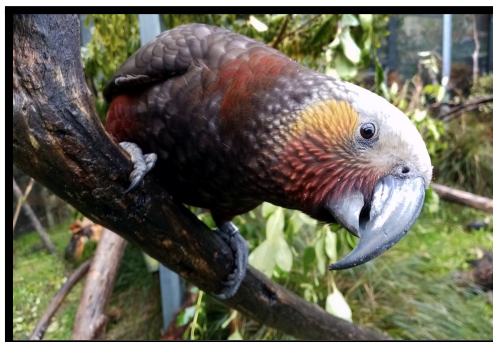
Timothy Tauai - Ielu a respectable 3rd in Yr.6 shotput

Owen a respectable third in the Yr.5 Boys distance

Aggi, Abel, Timothy and Hunter will represent Netherby School and the Mid Canterbury Region in shot put, and long sprints. All the best!

Willowbank Wildlife Reserve 10th December - Heads Up

Despite difficulties with bus times etc, we have decided we will go on an end of year big day out for all children of Netherby School with Willowbank the chosen destination. We have done this in the past. It proves a popular outing. More information will follow in due course. What we do know though, is that we are planning to leave school at 8.40am meaning we need all children at school at around 8.20 am so we can get everyone organised and be ready to leave promptly at 8.40am. More details to follow in notices soon.



Two New Classrooms Updates

After some discussion most involved believe the best place for the classrooms is beside the PE shed which sits beside the hall. We can move the PE shed, but at big cost, with the advisor suggesting we leave the shed where it is to save funds for the classrooms. Surprisingly, most classrooms do not come with toilets. We have presented a fairly sound case that I believe has convinced the MOE property advisors to advocate for these classrooms to be delivered with toilets. I am hopeful. The time frame is hard to gauge, especially given we now require and need toilets. I am loosely suggesting we could have the classrooms on site by June or July of 2026. Please be mindful the picture below is just a screenshot of two classrooms I found online. How our classrooms look will be decided once we have a confirmed type we can choose from.



Annual Knockout Chess Tournament

I love the annual knockout chess tournament. It is the culmination of many games and tuition with those who practice on Li Chess learning the most and having the edge. 8 children made the call to play in what is a high stakes and high pressure knockout tournament. Mistakes can be costly with children needing to be highly focused and extremely careful to not lose pieces cheaply as well as being aware of opportunities that present themselves through the course of the game. Well done to Brax, Jayke, Abel, Eli, Issac, Emily, Saane and Arthur who contested the 2025 chess trophy.



Third and fourth placements were contested between Abel and Emily and the final between Saane and Arthur. The 3rd placed game was tight initially, before Abel ran away with it in the end game. Well done Emily for fighting so hard and for getting to the semi finals. Nice job Abel for placing 3rd.

The final was epic with Saane having the game in her grasp for much of the contest and even down to the start of the end game. She did not realise it, but for a number of moves was just two moves away from an unstoppable check mate. In saying that the moves were not obvious and required a bishop move that for many would look sacrificial, but was not. Credit to Arthur who was down on points and position right until the end game. He really zoned in and showed good composure, concentration and foresight to eventually get three pawns ahead at the very end game. After an hour and at 3pm, it was clear Arthur was winning the game on both points and position. Extremely well done Arthur for winning and hard lines Saane, but great effort all the same to win second place. Saane and Arthur are evenly matched and either of them could have won.

Attendance - Front and Centre

With attendance every day does matter. If your child is marginal and you are doubtful about whether to send them to school or not, send them to school and we will send them home again if they do become too unwell. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO IMPROVE our school attendance. We appreciate your support and know it can be tricky at times to get your child to school. As you will see from the news and so forth, the Ministry is really big on getting 80% of children attending school 90% of the time. We are sitting at only 65% of attendance 90% of the time mid term 4, so a long way to go. On a positive it is good to have 85% of children here 80% of the time at mid way of Term 4.

	Week 1 - 5 T3, 2025	Week 5 - 10 T2, 2025	Week 1 - 5 T4, 2025	Week 6 - 10 T4, 2025
90% Attendance Excellent	50% (86 children)	34% (59 children)	65% (120 children)	
80 - 89% Attendance Good, but could do better	24% (42 children)	36% (62 children)	20% (38 children)	
70 - 79% Attendance Need works	10% (17 children)	12% (21 children)	6% (12 children)	
Less than 69% Attendance Expect a phone call	16% (28 children)	18% (32 children)	9% (16 children)	

The start of Term 4 attendance has been amazing. This is how we want to be running as a school community, or even better if we can. Thank you for your efforts in getting your children to school. It is such a worthy pursuit. We are looking at ways to incentivise consistent attendance in 2026 without pushing to a place where children are coming to school sick and spreading illness. A fine line to walk as you know.

Remember, we do have a bus service running that can collect children and deliver them to school. Contact me if you would like to talk about this for your child.

Please apply the below criteria to continue aiming to get your children to school as frequently as possible.

SEND ME TO SCHOOL/KURA

- I have a runny nose or just a slight cough
- I haven't had a fever for the last 24 hours and haven't needed any medicine
- I haven't vomited or had any diarrhoea for 24 hours and haven't needed any medicine
- If you have had norovirus or another notifiable vomiting and diarrhoea illness, come to school only after 48 hours since you have last vomited or had diarrhoea
- I have tummy pain or a headache with no diarrhoea, vomiting or fever, but I'm comfortable enough to take part in school activities.

KEEP ME AT HOME

- My temperature is 38°C or higher or I need medicine to keep my temperature down
- I have vomited or had diarrhoea in the last 24 hours
- I have vomited and or had diarrhoea due to norovirus or another notifiable illness within the last 48 hours
- I have an unexplained rash
- My eyes are pink and crusty

Absences

If your child is sick, has an appointment or will be late to school, please ring the school office on 308 5799 or text 027 752 2488 or put the absence through the skool loop app, so we are aware of their whereabouts and know they are safe.

Skool Loop

Remember we are using Skool Loop more and more now. Please download the Skool Loop app and search for Ashburton Netherby School and select the groups you would like to receive notifications for.

**** POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PB4L) ****

Keeping in line with our goal to explore specific behavioural aspects from our Values Matrix, we as a school will be focusing on the following for Week 5 and 6 of Term 4.

- Walk into the hall quietly and sit down in line, leaving space for others
- Sit up straight with legs crossed and arms to yourself
- Stand proudly for songs and accept praise with pride
- Stay focussed on the presenter and be an active listener
- Clap respectfully for the achievement of others

The value we have been focusing on in Week 5 and 6 of Term 4 is:

Diligence - Mamahitanga

- ✓ Stay on task
- ✓ Be a self motivated learner
- ✓ be a problem solver

If families are able to discuss and reinforce our school PRIDE values at home, it is much appreciated.

Pride Values:

The following children have come to me recently for great learning and behaviour that demonstrates our PRIDE Values. Great work: Skyla - Rose, Mila, Rangi, Austin, Charles, Kailani, and Lorelai.

PRIDE Postcards:

25 Pride Tokens = Wall of Pride:

Congratulations to the following children who have made it on to the Wall of Pride.
Well done: Liberty Bleu and Marcus.

50 Pride Tokens = Bronze Award:

Congratulations to the following child who has made it to bronze
Well done: Elijah - Mary.

75 Pride Tokens = Silver Award:

Congratulations to the following children who have made it to Silver.
Well done: Saane, Brodie, Feleti, and Nahvi.

100 Pride Tokens = Gold Award:

Congratulations to the following children who have made it to Gold.
Well done: Blessing and Samara.

Duffy Certificate recipients for demonstrating Pride Values



Back Row: Aggi, Saane, Tearoa, Timothy, Ifereimi
Front Row: Phoebe, Hazel, Mesh, Arielle, Heidi, Colden, Elliott



Back Row: Rangī, Helma, Arya, Mila, Nathanael, Brihanna, Alijah-Mary
Front Row: Jack, Carter, Ledger, Peyton-Jae, Roman

Facebook Page Ashburton Netherby School

There are always new threads going up on Facebook showcasing our school and children in a positive, friendly, active and open learning environment. Please search and follow us for the latest threads. Please note, we do not generally answer questions or comment on threads on Facebook. Please contact the office for information.

<https://www.facebook.com/Ashburton-Netherby-School-347486892319026/>

The page will not be a forum for opinions, discussions, or debates about things that happen within our school. Nor will it be a page where we accept friendship requests. Ashburton Netherby School Facebook is just a page you follow, like, and share

Term 4 Assembly Timetable

Integrity - Ngaakau, 10th November - Room 3A

Diligence - Mamahitanga - 24th November Room 8

16 December - End of Year Assembly and Yr.6 Leavers Assembly seated by 1.30pm.

While we endeavour to stick to the assembly timetable there will be occasions where things might have to change. If you are intending to come to the assembly your child's class is scheduled to lead, it would be sensible to check with them that the assembly is scheduled to run as described in the timetable.

Term 4 2025 Calendar

Thursday 13th November - Teacher Only Day (School Closed for Instruction)

Friday 14th November - Anniversary Day (School Closed for Instruction)

Friday 28th November - Community Cultural Showcase seated by 1.30pm

Tuesday 2nd December - Board Meeting 5.30pm

4, 5 and 8 December - Life Education Bus

Monday 8th December - Sports Awards - 3.15 - 4pm

Wednesday 10th December - Willowbank Wildlife Reserve Visit (leave at 8.40am sharp)

Friday 12th December - School Reports Out

16 December - End of Year Assembly and Yr.6 Leavers Assembly seated by 1.30pm.

17 December - last day of school. Finish at noon.

2025 Term Dates:

Term 4 2025

6th October - 17th December

2026 Term Dates:

Term 1 2026

3rd February - 2nd April

Term 2 2026

20th April - 3rd July

Term 3 2026

20th July - 25th September

Term 4 2026

12th October - 16th December

Community Notices



<https://feedmix.co.nz/index.html>

Kind sponsors for the Duffy in Books Programme at Netherby School since 2022