



1 February 2024

Term 1 Week 1

WELCOME TO 2024 – From the desk of Ms 'O'



- Caitlin Dargan & Doug Broekstra and their son, William to Room 2.
- Rangiputa Wallace & Luke Campbell and their son Hendrix to Room 2.
- Natalie & Ashley Giles and their sons Kingston, Archer & Hugo to Room 1.

ATHLETICS

This year Active Southland and Southland Athletics are putting on an opportunity to grow an understanding and confidence in **OFFICIATING** the disciplines of Athletics.

At the Northern Zone Athletics day each school is responsible for different disciplines and some schools ask parents to help share the load.

If any parents are interested in helping at zone sports level then please speak to Ms. 'O' about it.

There is an opportunity to attend a training event on Thursday, 22nd February at Northern Southland College in Lumsden from 4 – 5:30PM.

All weather conditions (event can use the gym if need be).

CHANGES TO THE MOBILE BOOK BUS SERVICE

The Southland District Council Mobile library service is launching a tub model of borrowing for all scheduled schools as of Term one 2024. Each class can borrow a set of books to be kept at school as they will have been borrowed under the teacher's name.

Our next visit is Tuesday, March 5th at 1:30pm.

All Primary students with existing SDC library cards may continue to use them at any of our district libraries, or at a mobile stop **with a parent or caregiver**.

REMINDERS

SKOOL LOOP

Simply Google Skool Loop on your phone and follow the instructions so you can receive your newsletters, important notices and submit absences.

* If you already have the app, give it a refresh by deleting it and then downloading it again.

ABSENCES

* A gentle . . . but extremely important reminder . . . Any ABSENCES must be advised no later than 9:15 on the day. If you know in advance of an absence then advise us in advance A.S.A.P as this impacts on the teacher's planning, children's learning and possibly any itinerant teacher who may be intending to visit to support your child.

Information about absences are to be sent to the school office by one of the following ways:

- The Skool Loop app.
- Email to admin@garston.school.nz.
- Phone the school office on (03) 248 8802 and leave a message if the phone is unattended. Any messages will be cleared at 12:30 and 2:30.

The recording of all absences and reasons for them is deemed mandatory by the Ministry of Education.

Let's work together to ensure children attend school **at least** 95% of the time (MoE expectation) so our children obtain maximum benefit from all educational experiences provided.

SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB

Want to learn more about the Book Club? Go to Scholastic.co.nz/parents.

The children have brought home the latest order form and if you wish to make an order then please pay online by 23rd February. Please do not to send cash to school.



To Jada, Rodney and Thomas for helping Bernie by mowing lawns prior to and over the holidays. It was greatly appreciated.

Batting for Rural Mental Health are holding a fundraising **cricket match** on **Saturday, 10th Feb from 11am, in Mossburn**. Come along to see if it'll be Lumsden, Mossburn or Te Anau taking it out!

The idea of the day is to get everyone off the farm, out of the house and come together as a community, while raising awareness of rural mental health.

There will be plenty of entertainment for children including bouncy castles, face painting, mini jeeps, Real Country, water slide and more!

For further information or to book tickets to the evening function, check out their [Facebook page](#).

Garston School Swimming Lessons

Term 1 2024

Kia ora whanau,

We are excited to be planning the first week of the **School Swimming Lessons** at Mossburn Pool from Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February. This is week 4 of this term and a change from the provisional date. There will be another swim week in week 8 from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March. Lessons will run from 9:30-11:30 approximately. The pool will be opened at 9:15am for the children to change, but they may come in their swim togs.

This is part of the Garston school Health and Physical Education curriculum and all children are expected to participate unless they have a valid reason for not doing so. **All children attending will take part in the ten lessons with an instructor.** The children will be assessed and placed in an appropriate group for their level. This may change every few days, depending on progress.

Assistance from parents:

We are asking parents to provide transport in cars this year. Once we have your responses, we will inform you of daily carpools. Arrangements for car pick up and journey times will follow.



What to bring:

Swimming togs (rash vest optional)

Goggles

Swim cap (for those with long hair) or hair braided to allow for breathing

Towel/poncho

Snack and water bottle

Waterproof swimming bag

Medical supplies if required

Swimming programme:

Monday – testing/grouping and freestyle

Tuesday – Freestyle and front flipper work

Wednesday – Backstroke

Thursday – Boat safety

Friday – Backstroke and testing



Garston School Swimming Lessons

Please return the permission form to school and indicate whether you can help with transport by Wednesday 7th Feb.

My child(ren) _____ / _____ / _____
has/have permission to swim from Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February a
Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March.

Adult Helpers please indicate below:

I am able to provide transport for children.	Yes / No
Indicate the number of passengers including your own children (seatbelts provided)	
I have a current driver's license and the car has current registration and WOF.	Yes / No
I can help supervise younger students in the changing rooms.	Yes / No
OR if not providing transport, complete the following:	
I give permission for my child(ren) to travel with someone else. (I will provide a booster seat if required by law for my child).	

Parent Name(s):

Parent Signature:

Date:



Dates for your 2024 diary:

- **Thursday, 1st February.** School families' social at Kingston Golf Club (6pm start).
 - **Monday, 5th February.** School is closed for the day.
 - **Tuesday, 6th February.** Waitangi Day public holiday.
 - **Monday, 19th – Friday, 23rd February.**
Whole school swimming programme at Mossburn (9:15 - noon). Parent carpool will operate. Please inform school by 7th February if you are able to help with transport.
 - **Wednesday, 21st February.** BOT meeting.
 - **Wednesday, 28th February.** Mid-Dome athletics. (Friday, 1st March - p.p. day Mid-Dome).
 - **7th March** Life Education visit.
 - **Wednesday, 13th March.** Northern Zone Athletics. (Friday, 15th March – p.p. day Northern).
 - **Monday, 18th – Friday, 22nd March.**
Whole school swimming programme at Mossburn (9:15 – noon). Parent carpool will operate. Please inform school by 7th February if you are able to help with transport.
 - **Wednesday, 27th March.** BOT meeting.
 - **Friday, 29th March.** Good Friday Public Holiday.
 - **Monday, 1st and Tuesday, 2nd April.** Easter Public Holidays.
 - **Thursday, 4th April.** Home & School meeting.
 - **Friday, 12th April.** Last day of Term One.
- **School library visits on Wednesdays.**
- **Year 7/8 Technology on Friday's 10 – 12:30.**