



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 1: 7th February 2024

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southfeatherstonschool/>

Skool Loop: <https://www.skoolloop.com/>

Cell phone: 021-084-29367

Email: office@sfs.school.nz

Principal: principal@sfs.school.nz

Website: <https://www.southfeatherston.school.nz>

School Bank Account: 12-3290-0003608-00 ASB Masterton

Please remember to notify the school office of any absences before 9am each day.

Please remember to **SLOW DOWN to 40kms** between the signs near our school.

Remember you must **SLOW DOWN to 20kms** when passing a stationary school bus!!



Welcome back to another exciting school year, whānau! . . . As we get started into this new term, our staff and board wish to reaffirm our commitment to partnering with you, our school whānau/families, to continue to provide meaningful and fulfilling learning experience for our tamariki. At our core, we totally understand and embrace the importance of community in nurturing and supporting their growth and success. An oldie but a goody . . . "It takes a village to raise a child"!

Nau mai haere mai ki to tātou kura: We have a few newbies to welcome to our school whānau. Judy Poole has joined our staff as the kaiako/teacher in our Little Junior Room (LJR) Monday-Thursday each week, and our very own Pete Hull returns and will be teaching the class on Fridays. Bit of a change for Pete, but he is up for it! As you know, Kerri Bailey has taken over as the fulltime kaiako/teacher of the Senior Room, and I have every confidence that the class will fly this year! We also welcome Austin (and his mum and dad) and Billie (and his mum and dad) who have both started their school journeys in the Junior Room as New Entrants. We also welcome Luca (and his whānau) who has joined the Senior Room as a Y7. Last but not least, we welcome sisters Marina (Y7, Senior Room) and Kate (Y5, Middle Room) and their mum and dad, who have recently emigrated here from Hawaii. We still have another seven enrolments to come (that we know of so far), all of whom will start either later this term or on the first day of next. Wonderfully, our wee school continues to grow!

Contacting staff: As we dive headlong into the new academic year, it's crucial to emphasise the significance of setting boundaries around staff availability. This year, I'll have an expectation that staff don't answer emails or phone calls after 6pm on weekdays, or on weekends. Please respect that and, unless it's an emergency, understand our staff will reply the following morning, or on Monday. While all of us here at South Featherston School are dedicated to supporting our learners (and their families!) it's equally important for us to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Mutual respect and clear communication ensure that our staff can be fully present when they engage with learners and their families/whānau. Thanks for your understanding.

Swimming: Our very short, 5 week long swimming season starts on Monday. **Please send your child's swimming gear along EVERY day.** I will make the call before 10am if the weather looks bad. Often times, a day may start out a tad bleak but by lunchtime, we're all sitting in sweat soup! A notice will be coming out to you on Thursday asking for you to tell us how your child will go home after swimming. Please look out for that in the depths of your child's school bag and get it back to the office no later than Monday morning!

Name their gear: With swimming coming up, PLEASE ensure that you name ALL your child's clothing and belongings! We cannot get lost shirts or shorts back to their owners easily if there are no names on things!

Year 7/8s 4x Technology Days: These start next week, and will be on Wednesdays again. Our Y7/8s will be picked up from here at 9.15am to head into Featherston School, so please make sure your child is at school on time. I'll send an email out tomorrow to the parents of our Y7/8s with a bit more information about Tech, and asking for confirmation of how their child will go home from Featherston School after Tech. Please watch out for that email.

After School Care at Featherston School: Gina (tumuaki/principal Te Kura O Paetūmokai) has very kindly offered to have any of our South Featherston School children who need it to attend their Whare Humarie/After School Care programme. This is an incredibly generous offer! If you have need for after school care for your child, whether on a regular or a casual basis, please see the notice attached.

Term 1 Dates to Remember

Swimming starts: Mon 12 February

Y7/8 Tech Dates: Wed 14, 21, 28
Feb, 6 March

SFS Whānau Picnic/Meet the

Newbies: Fri 16 Feb, 5.30-8pm

Featherston Cluster Swimming

Sports: Tues 27 Feb, 10am

pp date: Thurs 29 Feb

Swimming finishes: Fri 15 March

Easter Holiday Weekend: Fri 29 Feb-

Tues 2 Apr - school back Wed 3rd

Last Day Term 1: Fri 12 April

We are gratefully supported by:



2024 School Term Dates

T1: Wed 7 Feb - Fri 12 April

T2: Mon 29 April - Fri 5 July

T3: Mon 22 July - Fri 27 Sept

T4: Mon 14 Oct - Thurs 19 Dec

We are gratefully supported by:



Arrival Time at School

Just a gentle reminder that children should **not** be arriving at school before

8.15am

Ma te wā!
Tana Klaricich

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind . . ."

If you haven't already done so, please download our **Skool Loop** app to your phone so you can keep right up to date with what's happening at school, and receive any important notices or emergency notifications: <https://www.skoolloop.com/> If you need help downloading the app, come in and see Jo or me.

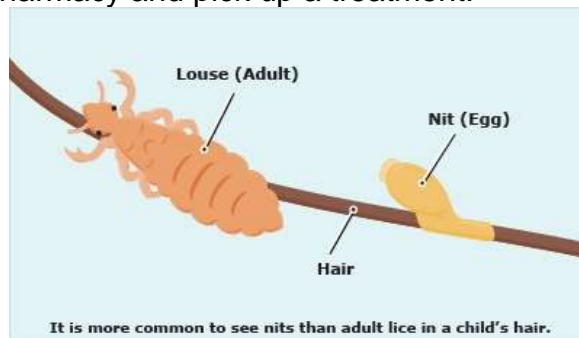
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Watch out, NITS are about!

At this time of year, we always see an upsurge in the cases of head lice (commonly called nits). They are very catchy!!!

We know we already have some children here at school who have nits, and I really urge you to check your child's head, particularly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

If you find either the small eggs (nits) or the actual live 'louse' please head into the pharmacy and pick up a treatment.



Changes to your family details:

Please let Jo know if you have moved house, changed phone numbers, or your children's caregiver details need amending, and she will update that information within our School Management system

In-home child care

Hi, my name is Paige, and I am a trained ECE teacher. I've worked in early childhood for 10 years before having my own daughter, who will be 3 in April.

For the past four months, I've been a part-time in-home caregiver to one of South Featherston School's families, who are happy to provide a reference if needed. However, their little boy has started kindy this year and so I am looking for another position.

If you have a wee one (or two!) that you would like me to come and care for in your home, please give me a call. My preference would be during school hours at the moment as we are currently living in Carterton - anything past 3pm makes it a long day for my little girl. My family is moving to Featherston in the near future so I'm hoping to set up a child care facility at our new home.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Phone: 0277672207 Email: paigeklaricich@gmail.com





PARENT INFORMATION

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to Whare Humarie After School Care which will be starting at Te Kura O Paetūmokai Featherston School from Thursday 08 February 2024. We have Ms Sue Campbell joining us as our programme supervisor from day one. It would be great for you to come in and introduce yourselves so she knows who you are as you sign your children out at the end of the day.

At present we are still waiting to be OSCAR affiliated, hopefully that process will not take too long to come through. I will check up tomorrow with how that is coming along. Until then the charges are as follows:

For the first child: \$7 per hour

For every child after that: \$3.50 per hour

Casual students: \$7 per hour (to be paid upfront online)

Parents who have children attending on a regular basis will have an invoice emailed fortnightly.

Your children will be provided with healthy snacks, fun activities and a safe environment to enjoy the time after school. If the weather is too hot we will open the hall so they have a cooler place to play in. The whole of our campus is open including our playgrounds, bike track and PE equipment.

Please ensure that you sign your children out from the programme when you pick them up as this is a Health and Safety requirement. If you are going to be late or have organised for alternative pick up arrangements please let Sue know prior to pick up. She will give you contact details as she meets you.

South Featherston Parents: we can organise for your students to be met off the bus at the Revans Street crossing once we know the timing so they are able to cross safely.

For enrolment forms please contact the Featherston School Office or look on our website. We will set up social media in the near future.

Whare Humarie is being run through the Te Kura O Paetūmokai Featherston School Board of Trustees as a service to our community. It is not being run as a profit making venture but we do need to ensure we cover our costs. We look forward to your support over the coming year as this is something that the community asked for.

Ngā mihi

Gina Smith

Tumuaki/Principal

Te Kura O Paetūmokai Featherston School

JUNIOR ROOM TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Kia ora koutou Junior Room Whānau, welcome to the start of a new school year!

A special welcome to our new entrants, Billy and Austen, as well as their whānau. We are excited to have you as part of our fabulous Junior class! This year I will be teaching full time and will be joined by our amazing Learning Support Staff, Sandy and Kylie, across the school day.

Some important reminders for the term:

Lunches/Drink bottles/ Sunhats:

Please send a packed lunch to school each day. These will be kept in the classroom to keep them cool during this hot summer term. A reminder that we are a rubbish free school so any packaging will come home in your child's lunchbox. Each child will also need a named drink bottle (water only please). This term, the children will wear a school sunhat outdoors, which we will keep at school. We also encourage you to apply sunblock on your child before sending them to school. We have some available at school for children to use as needed later in the day.

Swimming:

From week 2 we will be swimming every afternoon (weather permitting). Please send swimming togs every day, even if the weather looks doubtful. We will decide at school whether we will be swimming or not. Our focus will be water confidence, water safety and basic floating and swimming skills. There will be an adult in the pool with the children during swimming lessons. If your child has any fears associated with swimming, do let us know as we want this to be a fun, enjoyable experience for them. A great way to support your child is to help them become independent when dressing and undressing. Please name all uniform and swimming items with your child's name.

Home Reading:

From week 2 your child will bring home a bookbag with a reading book to share with you. Please take time to read this together. Regular reading is a key component to children's literacy success. A reading card will be added to each bookbag for you to sign and make any comments. It is really vital that books and book bags come back to school every day as we often read from them at school for two or more days. On Friday a Poem Book will come home with a poem for you to read and enjoy with your child. Please return this the following Monday. Whānau can help by supporting tamariki to develop independent habits by returning their reading book or poem book to their bookbag straight after shared reading and putting this back into their school bag ready for school.

Seesaw:

We love to share the fabulous learning that happens in the Junior Room! Keep a regular eye out for Seesaw posts in your child's journal. It is a great way to celebrate and encourage conversation about your child's learning at school.

A reminder that I am available to talk through any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to pop in for a chat or send an email.

He waka eke noa! We are all in this together!

Ngā mihi,
Anna Hull
annah@sfs.school.nz

LITTLE JUNIOR ROOM (LJR) TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to school and Term 1 2024!

Kia ora koutou,

My name is Judy Poole, and I have recently moved to the Wairarapa from Wellington. I am the mother of four adult children and grandmother to one grandson. This year, I will be team-teaching with Pete Hull who will be in the classroom on Fridays each week.

I hope you all have had a refreshing break. I am really looking forward to working with you and your tamariki in the Little Junior Room this year. We will continue the great learning that they have had in Mrs Hull and Mrs Bailey's class last year.

What we are doing

I am passionate about learning through play, and at present we are exploring some new dinosaurs. This will work into our literacy (writing and reading).

I am trained in BSL and this will continue to be the basis of our reading programme. Your child will be bringing home reading books in their book bag, with a sheet that you can sign and comment on once you have read with them each night.

We have been looking at the Te Tiriti o Waitangi resource "The tree house treaty" and we are developing our own classroom treaty. We are also completing our self-portraits.

Reminders

It is very hot! Just a reminder that in Term One a sunhat is required, so your tamariki will need a hat from Day One. Please also send a drink bottle to school for water that can stay here during the week.

School swimming begins in Week 2, and we will bus into the Featherston Pools after lunch. Can you please make sure your tamariki have named togs and a towel at school every day. Tana will make a call in the morning before 10am if the weather isn't looking good, but it is important that you send their swimming togs every day because it often heats up by midday.

I look forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks.

Nga mihi nui
Judy Poole
judyp@sfs.school.nz

MIDDLE ROOM TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Kia ora Middle Room Whanau!

I trust you all had a wonderful break but are happy for you tamariki to be back at school. It was so lovely to see all of their faces again and I could see they were all very excited to be reunited with their friends.

Welcome to our new classmate, Kate! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your family.

So, let's get down to business... Here are some important reminders for you:

- The weather has been amazing but extremely hot. PLEASE make sure your child has a drink bottle, sunscreen and their sun hat, "no hat, no play", remember!
- We start swimming next week (Week 2)! Please make sure your child has their togs packed every day, even if the weather doesn't look so great in the morning. We only have 5 weeks of swimming, so let's make the most of the little time we have.
- Please keep an eye on your child's Seesaw profile to see some of the learning they would like to share with you during the year. The children love seeing your comments and appreciation for their accomplishments.

This term we kick off with some history inquiry, looking at the Treaty of Waitangi. In Maths, we start off with Geometry and shape/pattern fun. Reading will continue as normal from Week 2 and I would really appreciate your support for those kids who will be taking some books home for extra reading mileage.

Lastly, please feel free to email me with any queries or concerns. Your child's learning and wellbeing is my priority.

Here's to a wonderful 2024!

Kind regards,
Ronel Johansson
ronel@sfs.school.nz

SENIOR ROOM TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2024! I hope you have all had a restful holiday and managed to spend some time with your special people.

I am super excited to be working with your young people this year, there's a lot to get through but we'll have a blast sharing the experience.

First, a little about me. My name is Kerri, I am married to Dan and we have two daughters, Isabel, at St Matthews and Emma in the Middle Room at SFS. When I'm not working, you'll find me out with my horses or curled up with a book.

This year, we'll be starting our learning with some team building activities that will enable us to get to know each other and identify our strengths and challenges. These will be a mixture of practical and independent activities to ease us back into the school year, we'll also cover the Treaty of Waitangi early on.

From there we will move on to Geometry and Persuasive Writing and our PE unit will be based on Water Safety which ties in with our school swimming lessons. Your child will need their swimming togs and towel every day during this time. With New Zealand's preventable drowning statistics not showing any signs of decreasing, this is important for your tamariki.

Technology starts Wednesday, Week 2 for the Year 7 and 8 students.

A couple of reminders - Term One is a sunhat term "no hat, no play, no fun today" is my motto, tamariki will need a hat from day one.

School starts at 9am, we go through the plan for the day first thing, so if your child is not there, they are on the back foot right from the start.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to flick me an email in the first instance, or arrange a time to come in and have a chat.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks.

Kerri
kerrib@sfs.school.nz