



# NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

12 June 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Kia Ora, Ola, Namaste

The mornings are getting darker, and the weather is certainly getting colder; a sure sign that winter has officially arrived in Murihiku! It has been a busy fortnight at our kura, and although there was a chance to rest and reset over King's Birthday weekend, we have many tired girls. Despite this, I have been impressed by the effort and diligence in classrooms. It is wonderful to see girls focused on their learning and working toward their goals.

## Speech Exams

Preparations for our upcoming speech exams are well underway, and the girls have been working incredibly hard both at school and at home.

This year, we have introduced an exciting change to our speech exam structure. After experiencing ongoing challenges with external examiners and reporting consistency over the last two years, we decided to step away from the New Zealand Speech Board. Our priority is always to deliver the highest quality experience and outcomes for our girls and our school community, and we knew a change was needed to achieve that.

To that end, Mrs Kate McIlwrick [supported by Mrs Julie Dawkins] has designed a bespoke speech and drama curriculum and examination system specifically for St John's Girls' School. This has been a massive undertaking, ensuring the new system aligns not only with the New Zealand Curriculum but also with the unique values and skills we want to foster in our girls during their time at our kura.

With this new programme, we can guarantee constructive, honest, and high-quality exam assessment based directly on each girl's ability and achievement. To celebrate their hard work, every girl will receive a specially designed St John's Girls' School Speech Achievement Badge [in a specific year level colour] upon completing her exam.

We have already received fantastic feedback from many parents regarding this new direction, and we truly appreciate your ongoing support in this space.

If you have any questions about your daughter's speech exam requirements, please contact Mrs McIlwrick [Years 5, 6, 7] or Mrs Dawkins [Years 2, 3, 4 & 8].

## Dance Exams

Miss Gina has been preparing the girls and is very impressed with their progress. Dance exams are taking place on Tuesday, 30 June and Wednesday, 1 July. Once finalised, the examination timetables will be displayed in classrooms. Additional information will be sent out on Skool Loop next week.

## Enrolments for 2026

Our enrolment season for next year is already underway, and we are delighted to be fielding a high number of enquiries for spaces in 2027.

To help us manage this process and begin organising our classes, we kindly ask that you let us know in writing if your daughter will not be returning to St John's next year. While we are always sad to see any of our girls leave, we understand that family circumstances and opportunities change.

Your timely communication is incredibly helpful as we plan for the year ahead.

## Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

**Tūngia te ururua kia tupu whakaritorito te tupu o te harakeke**

*Clear away the undergrowth so the new shoots of the harakeke can spring up.*





## Values Cup Recipient



**Isla Dackers**  
**Room 3**

### Attendance

At St John's, we strongly emphasise punctuality and regular attendance because we know it is fundamental to your daughter's success. Being at school on time, every day, not only supports academic progress but also helps build crucial social connections and develop essential life skills. Regular attendance ensures our girls do not miss valuable learning experiences and fosters a vital sense of belonging and community, which is so important for their overall well-being. Regular attendance means your daughter is present at school for more than 90% of the term.

You may be aware of the Government's current drive to improve school attendance nationwide. To boost regular attendance rates, a target has been set: by 2030, 80% of students will be present for more than 90% of the term. As a school, we are required to carefully monitor attendance and report this information to the Ministry of Education.

For Term 1, St John's achieved the attendance target, with 85% of our girls attending 90% of the time. We would like to see this positive start continue in Term 2.

### The Period Project - Parent and Daughter Evening [Year 5-8]

Thank you to everyone who has already indicated their attendance for The Period Project Parent and Daughter evening next Thursday. We are looking forward to an informative night.

Our facilitator, Anna, would like to heartily encourage dads, stepdads, grandfathers, and other significant male role models to attend as well; this evening is absolutely not just for women! Having the supportive men in our girls' lives as part of this conversation is incredibly valuable.

We look forward to hosting you all next Thursday evening.

### Learning Celebration Evening [Thursday July 2]

Come and celebrate your daughter's hard work! We invite all St John's whānau to a relaxed, open-classroom evening to view everything the girls have been achieving this term. Classrooms will have work on display, workbooks ready to share, and perhaps some games to play.

- From 5:00pm: Whānau picnic in the hall [Bring a picnic dinner for your family to share, just like our Family Fun Night]
- From 5:30pm – 6:30pm: Classrooms open for whānau visits.

Feel free to come for the whole evening or just drop in for a portion of it. We look forward to seeing you there!

### New Zealand Curriculum - Year Level Expectations

Later in this newsletter, you will find a re-share of our mid-year reporting process for your reference.

As you review your daughter's upcoming report, it is important to note that curriculum expectations across New Zealand have changed. The revised New Zealand Curriculum introduces higher, internationally-aligned benchmarks for each year level.





For example, some concepts previously taught at Year 4 are now expected at Year 3 [or even younger]. At the senior end of our school, certain concepts that used to be introduced in Year 10 are now included in the Year 7 curriculum.

With the implementation of the new national curriculum, you might notice that your daughter's reported progress or achievement levels look different from previous years. Please be reassured that this simply reflects these updated, more rigorous benchmarks, not a drop in her effort, focus, or ability.

The Ministry of Education Parent Portal has curriculum guides that set out what your child is learning at school each year and how you can support them at home to achieve. I encourage you to explore the expectations for your daughter's year level. You can find the year level guides here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8>

Thank you for your continued support of the work we do for your daughter.

Mā te wā!

*Holly Bradshaw*

Holly Bradshaw  
**Tumuaki | Principal**



# Reports and the Refreshed New Zealand Curriculum

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education is currently implementing refreshed assessment and reporting standards across all schools. Reporting to parents and whānau is essential for developing a clear and shared understanding of children's progress, achievement, and success.

You may have seen in the media that part of these changes over the next two years include new Progress Markers that define the level of proficiency expected at each year level, and new Progress Descriptors for teachers to use when reporting to parents and whānau. These were introduced to schools at the beginning of Term 2 this year.

Here is what you need to know as parents and whānau:

- All schools are required to report against the revised Year 0-10 English, Mathematics and Statistics learning areas. This remains the same as how we reported to parents at the end of last year.
- We are taking a careful and considered approach to these changes. Adopting these new national frameworks is a long-term process. Due to this, our mid-year reports will look very similar to previous years. To ensure we report on your daughter's progress with absolute clarity and confidence, our team are taking the time to thoroughly understand the new assessment tools and language. As a Special Character school, we are also carefully refining how these new systems align with our school's unique ethos and values.
- Curriculum expectations have changed. The revised New Zealand Curriculum sets higher, internationally-aligned benchmarks for each year level. As a result, your daughter's progress or achievement levels may look different from previous years. Please be assured this does not indicate a decline in her ability; it reflects the raised expectations in the updated curriculum.
- Face-to-face conversations are vital. This shift is exactly why our Term 3 Parent-Teacher interviews are so valuable. They offer a wonderful opportunity to sit down with your daughter's teacher and discuss the real, individual progress she has made during the first half of the year.

The Government is still releasing further information and resources to support schools through this transition, with changes in reporting expected to be implemented across all schools in 2027.

As always, your daughter's classroom teacher is the best person to speak to about her learning and progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch; they are always happy to talk with you.

# WEEKLY AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS

### ROOM 1

Freya Burns, Ellie McCallum, Quinn Botting, Ivy Manera

### ROOM 2

Lily Vaughan, Charlotte Risk, Olive Reilly, Alora Bosma

### ROOM 3

Georgia Cochran, Gracie McCallum, Lexie Dwyer, Charlotte Dore

### ROOM 5

Maeve Devlin, Sophia Risk, Grace McLeod-Young, Lilly Stalker

### ROOM 6

Lucy Jenkins, Harper Peters, Georgia Mead, Portia Smith

### ROOM 7

Isabella Johns, Ava Amar, Lexie Nicholl, Danielle King

### ROOM 8

Samantha Parry, Aliviah Giles, Indi Howden, Evie Erskine

### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 2 Cambrie Portia James Carman-Oneroa,  
Aggie McKenzie  
Rm 7 Elise Davison  
Rm 8 Maya Preininger

### VALUES CUP

Rm 3 Isla Dackers





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE

- **16** Period Project [Yrs 5/6]  
Southland Sharks Visit [pm]
- **17** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **18** Period Project [Yrs 7/8]  
Period Project [Parent / Daughters] 6.00pm
- **19** KIPRRR Day  
PA Sausuage Sizzle
- **24** Kate Ross - Nutrition with Rm 7
- **25** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **29/30** Life Education Bus
- **30** Dance Exams

## JULY

- **1** Dance Exams
- **1/2** Life Education Bus
- **2** Learning Celebration [5.00-6.30pm]
- **3** **Last day of Term 2**
- **20** **First day of Term 3**
- **21** **School Finishes at 2pm**  
Parent / Teacher Interviews [2.15-7pm]
- **22** Circus Challenge Performance  
Parent / Teacher Interviews [3.15-7pm]
- **27** Speech Exam [Yr 5]
- **28** Speech Exam [Yr 6]  
Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **29** Speech Exam [Yr 7]

## AUGUST

- **6** Speech Exam [Yrs 2/3]
- **7** Speech Exam [Yr 4]
- **10** Speech Exam [Yr 8]
- **13** Sing Out - Rehearsal [am]
- **20** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **24-28** Polyfest Week
- **24** **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

## SEPTEMBER

- **9** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme  
BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **16** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme  
Sing Out Technical Rehearsal [pm]
- **17** Sing Out Dress Rehearsal [am]  
Sing Out Performance [7-8.30pm]
- **21-24** Book Fair
- **23** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme  
SMAC Maths  
- Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm  
- Yr 8 5.45-6.30pm
- **25** **Last day of Term 3**

## OCTOBER

- **12** **First day of Term 4**
- **14** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **15** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **20** Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **21** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **26** **Labour Day [School Closed]**
- **28** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme

## NOVEMBER

- **10** Cultural Day
- **11** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **19** Greats & Grands [am]  
Christian Education Speeches [pm]
- **24** New Entrant Morning [Yrs 2-8 for 2027]

## DECEMBER

- **1** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **4** Tabloids [1-3pm]
- **7** Tabloids [postponement Day]
- **9** Father / Daughter Netball [2pm]
- **14** Christmas Service & Prizegiving Practice  
Christmas Service [First Church 6pm]
- **15** Last day for student  
Prizegiving [First Church 1.30pm]  
Leavers' Farewell [3.15pm School Hall]

# FROM YOUR KAIARAHĪ

*Amelia B, Avery, Elise D, Danielle,  
Emily, Rosie, Lydia, Simone*

## CROSS COUNTRY

Recently, we had our school cross-country at Queens Park. We had perfect cross-country weather! All the girls did an amazing job and showed so much determination, perseverance, and resilience.

A huge thank you to Mrs King and Ms Coatsworth for helping us in PE, which really helped build our fitness and confidence. Also, a big shout-out to Mrs McIlwrick, Mrs Dawkins, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Bradshaw and Mrs Dennis for running the lunchtime Runners' Club on Tuesdays so the seniors and keen runners could get extra practice. There were lots of improvements in the group over the weeks we were running through Queens Park.

Some of our successful runners went to Zones at Elizabeth Park and represented St John's with pride. We got some fantastic results! We also have a group of girls competing today at the Southland Primary Schools Cross Country Championships. Good luck to all the girls!



# Room 1 News

## Volume & Capacity

In Room 1, we have been learning about volume and capacity through a range of hands-on activities. Working collaboratively in groups, the girls have explored and compared how much different containers can hold using non-standard units of measurement. We used materials including water, beans and marbles to measure the capacity of cups, jugs, tubes and other containers. As we investigated, we practised using mathematical language such as empty, nearly empty, half full, and full to describe what we observed. The girls enjoyed making predictions, testing their ideas, and recording their findings.



### Predictions, Testing and Findings

**How do we know when the container is full?**

*"It's full when it's all the way to the top."*

Olive

**Which container would hold the most water and why?**

*"This one because it is taller and wide."*

Ellen

**Which container do you think will hold the least amount of marbles? How do you know?**

Prediction - *"This skinny one will hold the most because it is taller. The short one will hold less because it's not as big."*

Result - *"The short one had 15 and the skinny one had 7. The short one had more because it is wider."*

Quinn





# THE RAINBOW FISH

Room 1 created their own version of the Rainbow Fish. We read the big book and looked at how the values aligned with the school KIPRRR values. The ones that stood out to us were kindness and respect. The Rainbow Fish learnt that he had to be kind and show respect to his friends or he was going to be one lonely fish in the sea! Not only did it cover these values, but it created discussion about the importance of 'being you' and that you are an individual and unique!



♥

## KIPRRR

**KINDNESS**  
Atawhai

**INTEGRITY**  
Ngākau pono

**PERSEVERANCE**  
Manawauī



**RESILIENCE**  
Manawaroa

**RESPECT**  
Whakaute

**RESPONSIBILITY**  
Haepapa

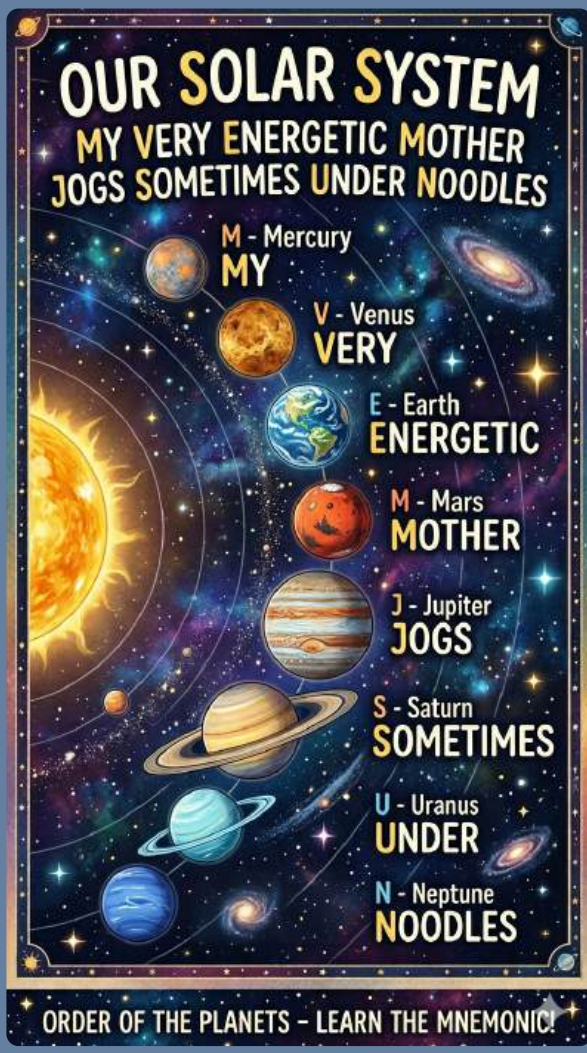
♥

# Room 2 News



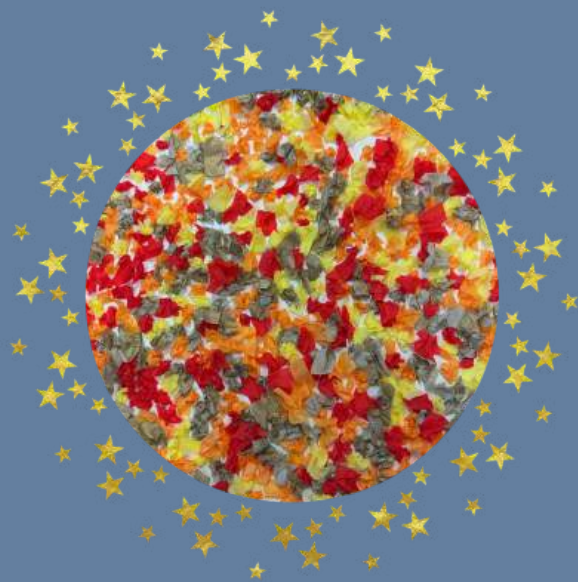
## Space

Well isn't Term 2 just flying by! Room 2 has been very busy learning all about space. We have been learning about the planets. We learnt which ones are made of gas and which ones are made of rock. We wrote a mnemonic to help us remember the name of the planet and the order of them from the sun.



We have watched some very cool videos all about the sun! Here are some interesting things we learnt.

- The sun is a big ball of gas.
- It is billions of years old.
- The sun is 100 times wider than earth, it is the biggest object in our solar system.
- The sun causes our weather and seasons.
- Everything in space revolves around the sun.
- The sun is actually white.



Check out our very cool sun that we made with lots of sun coloured pieces of paper!

# Writing

This term for writing we have been learning about how to write a narrative.

A narrative has

- Character
- Setting
- Problem
- Solution

We have been writing a narrative about 'The Case of the Missing Blue Tack'.

We will be publishing them this week. Come and have a read and find out which staff members were responsible!!

## Matariki

We have started our matariki taskboard this week in reading. A part of Matariki is all about the future (planning) looking ahead to the coming year and reflecting on the year that has been and what you've learned. We have created reflection stars with goals, reflections and things we are most proud of so far this year and for the rest of the year.

The sun controls the seasons and the weather.  
The sun is a star. *sendellz 2022*

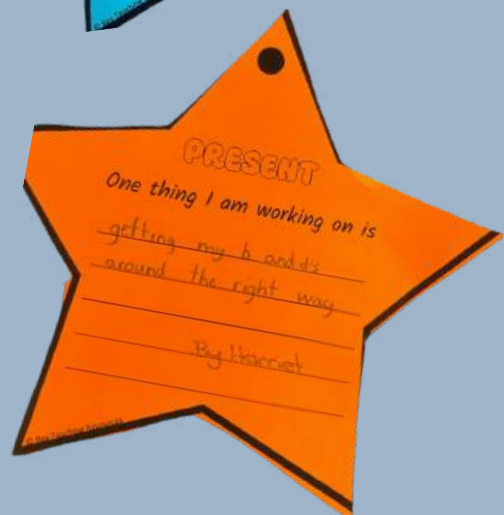
The sun is the largest thing in space!  
The sun is a star. Without the sun we wouldn't be able to live on Earth.

The sun is a big burning ball of gas.  
The sun is a star.

The sun is made of gases. *Alora*

The sun controls the weather and the seasons.  
The sun is a boiling ball of hot gas. *Kate*

The sun controls the weather and the seasons.  
The sun is a star.  
Without the sun we would not be able to live on earth.  
The sun is a burning ball of gas. *By: Lisa*



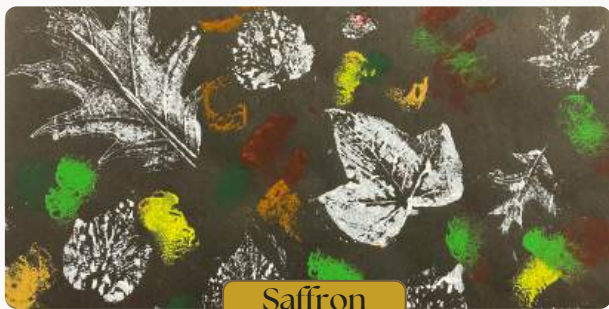
**We look forward to seeing all our whanau at the Matariki evening later this term where we can share our learning.**

# Room 3 News Autumn



Georgia

Autumn has most definitely been with all the colourful leaves scattered along our paths. We have painted these gorgeous autumn leaf prints. We collected up a variety of autumn leaves, painted them and pressed them onto our paper. Once they dried, we sponged a variety of 7 autumn colours as the background. We are really pleased with our final products.



Saffron



Mackenzie

## Haiku Poems

We also learnt about Haiku poems. A haiku poem is a traditional Japanese poem with 3 lines. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables and the third has 5 syllables. They are often used to describe seasons. We enjoyed writing and presenting these on Book Creator on our iPads.



## Cross Country



We couldn't have got a better day for cross country; how lucky we were! We are very proud of our girls, they raced well, kept on going even when they were puffed and tired. The girls have written about their race, their highs, lows and are looking forward to next year.



# SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

## LUNCH MENU

All subs are made freshly baked white or wheat bread

[WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ)



**BE IN TO WIN A FREE 6-INCH SUB WITH YOUR NEXT SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER!**

# READ TO DOGS

For reading aged children

Alternating Saturday and Sunday, 10:30-11:30am



Izzy

BOOK ONLINE



ILIBRARY.CO.NZ

DURING SCHOOL TERM



Otis

**TERM 2 2026**  
**FREE** **AFTER SCHOOL DROP-INS & CLUBS** **KIDS & TEENS**

Invercargill City Libraries & Archives  
79 MAAS

**DROP-INS:** PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

**Monday: Lego Drop-in (3-5pm)**

Chill, free time to build using lego. All ages welcome.

**Monday: Teen Bookclub drop-in (5-6pm & Monthly)**

Join us every first Monday of the month! Explore new themes, share your thoughts, and enjoy free snacks. Ages 11-18.

**Tuesday: Digi Drop-in (3-5pm)**

Robots, tablet games and Playstation. All ages welcome.

**Tuesday: Teen Study Corner Drop-in (3-5pm)**

Drop in anytime to work alongside others, chat about your studies, and get help from a staff member if needed. Ages 14-18.

**Wednesday: Craft Drop-in (3-5pm)**

Create something new each week. All ages welcome.

**Thursday: Zen Corner Drop-in (3-5pm)**

Relax in a low sensory environment. All ages welcome.

**CLUBS:** DROP OFF ACTIVITY. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

**Wednesday: Teen Film Club (3:30-5:30pm)**

Watch a movie every week and discuss about it with your peers. Ages 14 - 18.

**Thursday: Minecraft Club (3:45-4:45pm)**

All levels of experience welcome. Ages 8 - 11.



## BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS Holiday Experiences

**CHILD VS WILD [3 Days]**

7 to 13 year olds  
Invercargill  
8.45am to 3pm  
6th July to 8th July  
15th July to 17th July

An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend two days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

**WILD FAMILY DAY [1 Day]**

All Ages - A Family Day Out  
Invercargill  
10am to 3pm

**Matariki Public Holiday Friday 10th July**  
Join us for a Wild Family Day out where families come together to slow down, reconnect, and celebrate the season out in nature, learning new skills and sharing nourishing food.

**BUSH KIDS [1 Day]**

5 to 16 year olds  
Invercargill & Gore  
8.45am to 3pm

Thursday 9th July Invercargill  
Monday 13th July Invercargill  
Tuesday 14th January GORE

A one day bushcraft and survival skills experience

**\*Bushcraft and Survival Skills experiences include:**

- Advanced fire starting skills
- Knife work, whittling, carving
- Bush exploration, navigating, orienteering
- Shelter building
- Cooking on gas stoves/ fires
- Survival first aid
- Herbal medicine
- Foraging
- Natural Crafts
- Nature Discovery

Our adventures explore the bush, estuary, beach and pine forests

\*Every day brings a different adventure. Activities are weather, location and seasonally dependent.

[www.trueinnature.com](http://www.trueinnature.com)



Katie: 0226381497

**Family Fun & Food Festival**  
10am - 4pm

**Thursday 9th July**  
**Sunday 12th July**  
**FREE ENTRY**

Entry Fee Available For Food And Activities

Badminton Hall  
beside the ILT Stadium

Donut Dude



Southland Mini Jeeps



Astroball

\$45

Water Cylinders

2 Sizes available  
\$15



Jousting Arena

\$45



Bouncy Castles

Various sizes  
From \$10 all day



Inflatable Animals & Aliens

Bumper Balls

\$5



Food Canteen  
NERF Guns  
Face painting

Spicecraft  
Connect four  
Zumba Class

Plus Lots More

Some activities are free

Southland owned & operated

Wayne

027 479 4432

[wayne@funandfood.co.nz](mailto:wayne@funandfood.co.nz)

WayneFunFood



## LEARN TO RIDE TERM 3 2026

**For riders age 10+**  
\$110 per term  
Includes track and bike hire, coach & certificate

## LEARN TO RIDE

Come along and learn how to ride a track bike on New Zealand's first indoor velodrome

**Monday's 4-5pm**

Register Online:

<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=434722>

NOW TAKING REGISTRATIONS FOR TERM 3  
03 2199325  
OFFICE@CYCLINGSOUTH.ORG.NZ





**JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**@ iLT STADIUM**  
SOUTHLAND



**Mon 6 - Wed 8 July**

Sports-Tastic  
School Holiday  
Programme



**Sunday 12 July**

An Audience with  
Wayne McEwan -  
The Magic Guy



**Mon 13 - Thurs 16 July**

Adventure Park  
ft. Bounce House

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO AND TICKETS

STADIUMSOUTH.CO.NZ



Start any time between  
**11:30AM-1:00PM**



CLASSIC O

MTB-0

**SUNDAY 14 JUN 2026**

**MTB/Foot Orienteering**

Registration: Kilmock Bush end of  
Fosbender Park

Two courses - Long and Short. Take part on bike or on foot - courses will be designed with mountain biking in mind, with control sites on tracks. Signposted from Dunns Road.

No orienteering experience needed - perfect for beginners of all ages and abilities.

Register on the day at the event. Standard event fees apply. Cash only.

[www.southlandorienteeringclub.co.nz](http://www.southlandorienteeringclub.co.nz)

Suitable for all ages, beginners always welcome.

