



**Aidanfield**  
Christian School

## GROWING IN WISDOM AND STATURE | STAND AND BE CONFIDENT

# KIA ORA AIDANFIELD WHANAU



Our first newsletter for the year. No doubt you have enjoyed the stunning weather we have had lately, while at the same time being aware of the challenges that the north of our fair country are experiencing. There is certainly more evidence of a world that is hurting both here at home and overseas (I think of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, multiple wars on different continents, elections that cause conflict, acts by people in power and people in despair that cause harm). To whom do we turn when the world is unstable? Where do we place our hope and trust? What can we teach our young people that establishes in them a sense that there are things we can trust in, hope for, and find peace in.

In Isaiah (28:16) the writer declares the Lord is "laying a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: 'One who trusts will not panic'". The Psalmist says, "You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand. 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. 15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance".

We can walk in His light, we can find happiness and peace in broken places resting on His sure foundation. We can know that we need not panic as we trust in Him – because He will not abandon us. And therefore, we have hope for now and for a future. This is worth sharing with your young people as they work out how to process all the things going on around them. He is their foundation as and when they turn to Him. As the adults in the relationship we can help them see this by practicing it and modelling it – showing our young ones how to rely on and trust in the creator of all things through our relationship with Him. This is a challenge and a comfort! May you walk faithfully this day.

## 2023 LEARNING THEMES AT ACS

In light of the above, it seems fitting that our themes that guide our learning across the school by term through 2023 are:

**A call to  
Courage**

'Kia Māia'

**A call to  
Perspective**

'Tirohia'

**A call to  
Service**

'Manaakitia ki te tangata'

**A call to  
Hope**

'Te Manawa Ora'

These will be unpacked through classroom learning as the year progresses, one major theme per term. The key principles linked to the theme of 'courage' for term 1 leads us to hope. They are:

- Being and becoming who you are in Christ
- Biblical virtues
- Implications of final judgement
- God in Creation: the existence of God

If you were looking for dinner table conversation, perhaps you could explore what these themes and principles mean in your family life and in your church setting. You might also explore how your young person is seeing this unpacked at school as the term progresses. Enjoy the conversations as they unfold.



**Saturday March 25 (one month away) It's Fair time again** – and we need you...now! The ACS community has traditionally run a fantastic fair and a huge number in our wider community enjoy their time at our event. It is a great outreach. But we need help to make it happen this year as thus far most people have kept quiet. Now is the time to say yes and do your part to make it happen. Please see the fair info sheet sent home last week for all the ways you can help. The Parent Association receive the funds and these are directed back into bigger projects in the school. Please help us. Contact [aidanfieldparents@gmail.com](mailto:aidanfieldparents@gmail.com) if you can help.

### New Office Entrance Way

As I mentioned last year, our new office entrance will receive art work on the front and side in the near future. As a Board and proprietor group we have spent a long time discussing our stance on things Māori. We have landed at a place of wanting to demonstrate our commitment to honouring an agreement made between two peoples over 150 years ago to live well together. We know the Treaty was motivated by a group of Christians in England who had seen what happened to indigenous people in other countries England had colonised and decided to lobby to ensure NZ Māori did not suffer the same fate. The Treaty was born out of a faith-based commitment to make a difference. We want to continue to work in the same way.

One way we feel we can do this is by including art work and ceremonies that are distinctly Māori and that work within the truths of scripture. We have commissioned art work for our front entrance that captures aspects of our place in Canterbury (Waitaha) and who we are as a school. The finished design will look something like the following graphic.

- Entrance doors: We enter through the cross on the doorways, which is the defining 'doorway' for us as families and as a school – all things are measured against the truth of God's word. We are called to come to the cross and through the work of the cross to know God.
- Side panels: The side panels of glass will have the tī kōuka (cabbage) trees and the harakeke (flax), which are plants that have always grown in this area. Kā Tiritiri o te Moana (Southern Alps) are represented by the taniko triangles and define the geographic boundary. The light of the cross radiates across all we do. The kōwhaiwhai motif (woven spirals) represents the four winds that flow. Our ACS house system refers to the four winds that have brought people from all points of the compass to our school. We always seek the winds of the Spirit of God and the purity He brings to move through our school.
- The front panels: The waharoa (the main entrance way) is designed to greet and welcome people to Aidanfield. The spirals in the top corners represent Nga Hau e Wha (the four winds) and are symbolic of being a meeting place for all peoples from everywhere – so reflective of who we are as a school! The vertical spirals beside the doors represent the seeds being spread across the land.
- The peak: Our school crest sits at the top and captures what is our foundation – the Word of God, the power of the cross, our geographic place, the challenge of learning and our call to grow in wisdom and stature so we can stand and be confident.

### Welcome to Aidanfield Christian School!



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

What a great time and a great way to start the year. Thank you to the Middle School teachers for making this happen and for the outstanding team of parents who contributed in so many ways – you are awesome! It has been our largest camp to date and needed the new venue of Living Springs so we could all fit. Thank you to Mrs Thomson for spear heading this event and to our outstanding middle school teachers for making it happen at the expense of your own families who loaned you to the camp for the three days.

### HOMESTAY FAMILIES WANTED

With the International Borders opening and short-term visits starting up again, we are looking for families to host students this year from June in Term 2.

If you are interested, please email us at [homestay@aidanfield.school.nz](mailto:homestay@aidanfield.school.nz) and we can send the information about what is required to host students and relevant documentation, Police Vet forms etc for you to fill out.

### SCHOOL PRAYER GROUP

Anyone who is keen to pray for the school is welcome to join a small group of parents, every second Monday morning with the next one being on the 13 March. We meet outside the office at 9am and meet for about 45 mins. Pre schoolers are welcome and you can pray in your own language.

If you have any questions or prayer requests please send them to [prayerrequests@aidanfield.school.nz](mailto:prayerrequests@aidanfield.school.nz)

Has anything changed for you and your family this term? Moved house / changed email / contact details? Please do let us know.

Email: [office@aidanfield.school.nz](mailto:office@aidanfield.school.nz) Web: [www.aidanfield.school.nz](http://www.aidanfield.school.nz)





# House Points

*totals will be updated soon*



**Mārangi**  
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**Pōtonga**  
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**Tūāraki**  
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**Hauāuru**  
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## Calendar

*These dates are subject to change and some dates are not yet confirmed.  
The calendar will be updated online as the information is finalised.*

### **TERM ONE Thursday 2 February – Thursday 6 April**

28 February: Year 9 – 10 Athletics  
2 March: Early finish for Year 0-6  
7 March: Mufti Day – Mystery bottle for the fair  
13-24 March: Year 1-4 Swimming  
17 March: South West Zones Swimming  
25 March: School Fair  
27-31 March: Cultural Week  
28 March: Cultural Parade  
30 March: Centrals Swimming  
4 April: Primary Whanau Fun Day  
*School Holidays: 7 April to Sunday 23 April (includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday)*

### **TERM TWO Monday 24 April – Friday 30 June**

24 April: Teacher Only Day (School Closed)  
25 April: Anzac Day 25 April (School Closed)  
3-5 May: Year 5/6 Camp  
15-19 May: Book Week (TBC Book Parade)  
24 May: El Grego Primary Visit  
24 May: South West Zones Cross Country (PP 31 May)  
1 June: Mufti Day  
5 June: King's Birthday (School Closed)  
9 June: Enrolment Applications close for year 7 – 10 (new students only)  
9 June: Middleton Applications close for year 10 leavers  
22 June: Parent Teacher Interviews  
27 June: Parent Teacher Interviews  
29 June: TBC Teacher Only Day  
30 June: Teacher Only Day  
*School Holidays: Saturday 1 July to Sunday 16 July (includes Matariki 14 July)*

### **TERM THREE Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September**

7 August: Playhouse Theatre (Primary)  
18 August: Year 4 Marae Trip  
18 August: Enrolment Applications close for year 0 - 6  
23 August: South West Zones Winter Sports (PP 28 Aug)  
31 August: Mufti Day  
11 – 22 September: Year 3/4 Swimming  
*School Holidays: 23 September to Sunday 8 October*

### **TERM FOUR Monday 9 October – Friday 15 December**

23 October: Labour Day (School Closed)  
8 November: South West Zones Athletics (PP 13 November)  
16 November: TBC Primary Athletics  
17 November: Canterbury Anniversary Day (School Closed)  
23 November: Mufti Day  
23 November: Triathlon  
27 November – 8 December: NE, Year 2, Year 5-6 Swimming  
6 – 8 December: Year 9/10 Journey  
11 December: Year 10 Leaver's Dinner  
13 December: Junior Nativity Play  
15 December: Last Day of School  
15 December: Prizegiving

### **Stay connected via our School App**

Download at [www.aidanfield.apps.school.nz/install/](http://www.aidanfield.apps.school.nz/install/). It provides links to the absence line, website, term dates and calendar dates. You will also receive push notifications regarding school events/messages as they are published.



Our official school Facebook page is "Aidanfield Christian School".  
Search for "Aidanfield Christian School Parents Group" to join the community page managed by our parents association.





## A message from Judith Keir, our school counsellor

Introducing Ruby, my 3 in July chocolate Labrador, and part-time addition to the counselling team at ACS! Ruby is already the CEO (Canine Executive Officer 😊) at The Hapai Access Card offices and is well used to being around people of all ages and abilities. I will be trialing bringing Ruby in on Wednesday afternoons initially. She is looking forward to making some new friends!



**BAXTERS  
BUDDIES  
BEFORE AFTER  
SCHOOL AND  
HOLIDAY  
CARE**

**Before, After School and Holiday Care  
Held onsite at Aidanfield Christian School  
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES  
Phone 021 127 5865**



Please only use the accessible car parks if you have the appropriate permit to do so.

### Mystery Bottle Mufti Day Tuesday 7th March



Every year at the fair we have a fantastic mystery bottle stall. Please can every child bring a bottle of something to school on Tuesday 7th March.

If you are picking something out of your cupboard, please check the expiry date!

Jars filled with lollies are very welcome!

Or you can bring a gold coin donation instead. If you have any questions please email – [aidanfieldfair@gmail.com](mailto:aidanfieldfair@gmail.com)

## CHILDREN'S DAY 2023

HALSWELL QUARRY

**SUNDAY 5TH  
MARCH  
10AM - 2PM**

## NATURE BASED FAMILY FUN DAY

HUT BUILDING,  
NATURE PLAY ACTIVITIES,  
WALKS, ORIENTEERING,  
NATURE BASED CRAFT  
TREASURE HUNTS,  
FAMILY PICNIC  
GIANT GAMES AND MORE



Elements Nature  
Based Play



Halswell  
Community  
Project



The Hurutini Student Council urges you to "Drive safely for our safety".

<https://drivesafenearschools.nz>

Last year, some of our students were involved in the creation of a road safety video. The Hurutini Student Council, made up of students from six Halswell Schools, wrote the key messages, created storyboards and starred in this incredible road safety video.

Does your child require further support, over and above what can be offered at school?

Would your child benefit from bespoke and nurturing learning sessions from a highly experienced teacher designed to accelerate learning and boost confidence? We would love to help. We are a team of dedicated teachers, specialising in English and Maths support, for primary, intermediate and college students. Visit [www.boostyourlearning.co.nz](http://www.boostyourlearning.co.nz) for more information or contact Jenny 021 223 3349 to book a free consultation.

AGES 9 TO 18

### CODING LESSONS



**CODINGNZ**

#### Coding NZ Lessons

- Learn coding languages to create technology.
- An expert tutor is online to help during lessons.
- 1 hour per week at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm weekdays.
- Try a free trial lesson at [codingnz.com](http://codingnz.com)