



Newsletter

14 February 2024 Newsletter No 2

Tena koutou katoa

Thank you to all those that came along to our school picnic last week. It was great to see so many families attend, and we hope you had the opportunity to mix and mingle with your child's teacher.

Next week we have Goal Setting Interviews on Wednesday and Thursday. These interviews are a good opportunity for you to connect with your child's teacher and see how your child has started the year and set some goals for them to work towards. Bookings can be made using the HERO App. If you don't have the app please contact the school office on 684 7706 to book an interview. School will finish at the earlier time of 12:30pm next Wednesday. If you can't attend on these days, please contact your teacher to arrange another time.

We understand that it is sometimes hard to find a parking spot at the end of the school day, but we do ask that you abide by the parking rules, meaning no parking in the bus stop or on yellow lines and to be considerate to local residents. We have had complaints from residents about cars being parked across driveways blocking their access.

Regards
Richard

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following students to Grantlea Downs in the last fortnight: Deacon Adams and Aldric Desmond.

COVID REMINDER

As cases appear to be increasing in the wider community, please be aware of the symptoms your child may have if unwell. Please continue to follow good practices when it comes to your own health and the health of your whānau and the school community.

SCHOOL PICNIC

Our annual school picnic was held last Wednesday 7 February 2024. Thank you everyone who came along and joined in with the games and activities and enjoyed sharing kai with our school community. A special thank you to Temuka Transport for the use of the BBQ.



DO THE RIGHT THING!

Last year at school, we started the "DO THE RIGHT THING!" campaign, aimed at putting our different types of rubbish in the right coloured bins. As a result, we saw a huge improvement in our children's knowledge and attitude about rubbish.



Since then, the Ministry for the Environment has made some nationwide changes to what types of rubbish can be recycled and composted. This means that some of the habits that we learnt at school last year are no longer appropriate. However, we are awaiting further clarification from the Ministry before we do any re-learning of our waste disposal habits at school. So, please be aware that for the time being, there will be some differences in the way that we dispose of our rubbish between home and school.

Let's all work towards a cleaner Aotearoa/New Zealand!

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS –

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 1.00PM – 6.40PM

INCLUSIVE

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 3.30PM – 5.20PM INCLUSIVE

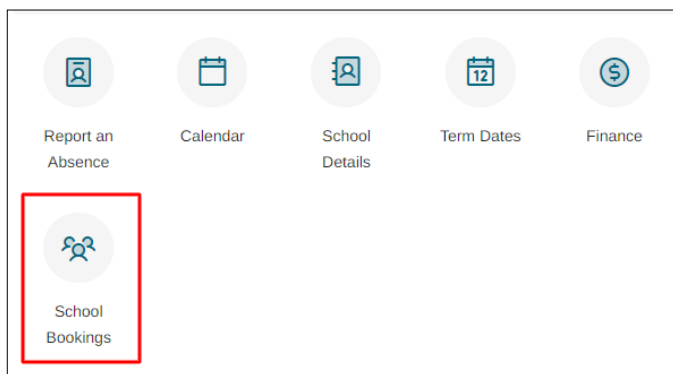
SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 12.30PM ON THIS DAY, IT IS ONLY OPEN DURING THE AFTERNOON FOR INTERVIEWS



This year we are utilising the Hero App for booking the interviews. Just a reminder that if you are going to make consecutive bookings that you leave a 10 minute slot between interviews to allow you time to get to the next appointment. It is expected that each family will attend. If a booking is not made, a time will be allocated to you. If you do not have the Hero App you can book at the school office

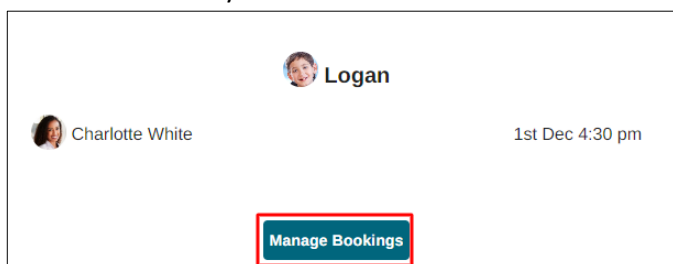
How to book in for an interview time by following the steps below.

STEP 1 Log into your Hero App and click on the School Bookings icon on the Landing Page.



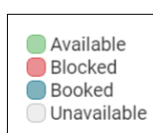
STEP 2 Click on the Manage Bookings tab.

This will display a table of all available slots for all of your associated students.



STEP 4 A colour key provides information on the status of each interview slot.

STEP 5 To add a booking, click a GREEN slot. The booking popup will be displayed, and you have the option of entering a note for the relevant staff member. Clicking CONFIRM will secure the interview slot.



REQUEST FOR DONATION OF TOGS

Our supply of spare togs at school is getting really low! If you have togs that your child has grown out of that you would be happy to donate to us, we would love them dropped into the school office. Thanks!!



SCHOOL DONATIONS – GOVERNMENT SCHEME

Each year the Grantlea Downs School Board, are required to 'opt in' to the Government Donations Scheme. By our school 'opting in' this means that we will not ask parents for school donations except for overnight camps (as per the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill).

What is **not covered** by School Donations and is **still payable to school** is the following:

- Any voluntary stationery e.g., new entrant stationery packs.
- Year 7/8 only - The 'take home' component of TTEC (Technology fees) – please note you have agreed to pay these fees on your enrolment form when you enrol your child. These will be added to your school account this week and we would appreciate payment asap.
- Weekend or after school sports fees e.g., netball, touch rugby, basketball, softball/t-ball etc
- Visiting drama or music groups (**please note we currently do not ask for payment for this**)
- After-hours/lunchtime culture activities
- After-hours/lunchtime sports activities
- School uniform

In addition to the government donations scheme, our students are fortunate to be receiving free fruit in schools and free school lunches – not all schools receive these benefits.

Please note: if at any time the government does not offer the School Donations – Government scheme, or the Board decides to opt out of this scheme, then donations will need to be requested to provide the opportunities that your child currently receives.

Mrs Hide is holding another **Hero Help** session **tomorrow, Thursday 15 February**, in the school foyer for anyone who would like help booking your interviews or any other issues you may have with the Hero App.





Grantlea Downs Triathlon

Thursday 29th February



Competitors need to remember their bikes (make sure tyres are pumped up!!!), helmets, togs, towel, running shoes and a drink bottle.

We encourage parents and family members to come along and support their child. Below is a copy of the day's programme so that you can get some idea of when your child will be racing. As with any school event, times are always approximate.

YEARS 5-8

9:30 – 12:30 pm

Time	Event	Order
9.30-10.40am	Year 5/6	Girls
	Individual	Boys
11.00-12.30pm	Year 7/8	Girls
	Individual	Boys

Any questions can be directed to Sam Carlaw in Room 14.

YEARS 1-4

1:30 – 3.00pm

All children in Years 1-4 will be participating as individuals in the triathlon.

Time	Event	Order
1.30-2.15pm	Year 3/4	Girls
	Individual	Boys
2.15-3.00pm	Year 0-2	Girls
	Individual	Boys

Any questions can be directed to Alice Austin in Room 6

They will need:

- Bike and helmet Yrs 3 -8 (as the year 3 and 4 course is on the grass a bike will make it easier for your child)
- Scooter – Year 1 & 2 and helmet
- Swimming togs and towel
- House coloured top
- Drink bottle

PLEASE DO NOT RING THE OFFICE TO ASK WHEN A SPECIFIC YEAR LEVEL WILL START – RACES WILL BE RUN IN THE ORDERS ABOVE UPON COMPLETION OF PREVIOUS RACE

IMPORTANT - PARENT HELP NEEDED

Please complete and return the slip below or contact the office, if you are able to help with either the senior or junior race. This would involve either directing children, counting lengths or helping move bikes.

Please return to Miss Austin in Room 6 or to the office or phone on 684 7706, by **Friday 23rd February**

I am able to assist with 5/6 Triathlon

I am able to assist with 7/8 Triathlon

I am able to assist with Triathlon in the afternoon (Years 1-4)

You are welcome to tick more than one option!

Name: _____ **Contact Phone Number:** _____

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

The first meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Administration Office Board Room.

All parents are welcome to attend.

School Docs

All of our School Policies are located on the SchoolDocs website. Below are instructions on how you can view these.

1. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and click on *Search for your school* in the top right hand corner
2. Type in Grantlea Downs, and click on the prompted school name
3. Username is grantleadowns
4. Password is grantsroad

There is a **Quick Links for Parents** topic with links to the most relevant policies and procedures.

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**5-17 YEARS OLD?
LOOKING FOR FUN?
JOIN ST JOHN YOUTH**

Timaru Rhodes Youth Division welcomes you to our Youth Programme. St John Youth is a vibrant leadership programme that focuses on the development and success of young people. Come along to St John youth where you gain valuable skills in first aid, communication, drill and more.

**Monday's during Term Time
5:45pm -6:45pm
St John Timaru
9 Jackson Street, Maori Hill, Timaru**

For more information, contact:
Natasha Griffin
natashagriffin02@yahoo.co.nz
Or visit www.youth.stjohn.org.nz

Hato Hone
St John

COMMUNITY NOTICES



**Fun & Educational
CODING
LESSONS**

Learn to code with expert tutors.
Gain the ability to create with technology (instead of just consuming it).
All skill levels welcome.

Grab a free trial lesson at codingnz.com

Ages
9 to 11
12 & 13
14 to 16

CODINGNZ



ST MARY'S CHURCH

**JOIN OUR
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR
AGES 7-12**

FREE TO JOIN AND NO AUDITIONS !!

- Learn basic note reading skills and harmonies
- Work towards Royal School of Church music Voice for Life singing medals
- Sing at a 10am Sunday Service once a month

**WHERE: ST MARY'S CHURCH,
24 CHURCH STREET, TIMARU**
WHEN: FRIDAY NIGHTS
TIME: 5-5.45PM

Contact: Catherine Anderson Director of Music at st.marys.timaru@extra.co.nz for more information or to sign up

If you're looking for something to do on the 29 February 2024 and have an interest in Irish history and/or ancestral links to Ireland, then please consider attending the Ulster Historical Foundation event at the Christchurch Irish Society, 29 Domain Terrace, Christchurch.

“Many people believe that researching Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors is impossible because of the destruction of the Public Record Office in 1922. While many records were destroyed, others survived and have come online in recent years.

Join experts Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation to learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research.

Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss this workshop!”

See more details here: <https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/events-courses/christchurch>