



"Teach the child first, not the curriculum!"

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 1, 5th February 2025

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

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

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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!!

Kia ora and welcome to the first newsletter of 2025! The year has started off really well for everyone, and we can all see that our ākonga are already settled in and learning happily. Classrooms are currently working on building relationships, both old and existing, getting back into routines (new and familiar ones) and learning about Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi. There is SO much to learn around that subject, and we always have such a short lead in time due to Waitangi Day falling in our first week of school. On that . . .

Tomorrow is a public holiday being Waitangi Day: Normal school again on Friday. Some of our newest and smallest kidlets are already pretty tired (not 'match fit' yet!) and so a short week has come along just when they needed one.

Welcome: We are so pleased to welcome two new families to our school whānau. Esmae (Esmeralda) and her mum and dad, and Genie (Eugenie) and her mum, dad, and little brother, have joined the Junior Room. And of course that brings us to our new staff! Well, not really new, but in different positions . . . Alison Power has joined the Junior Room as their kaiako/teacher, and Paige Watt has joined the LJR room as their Monday-Thursday kaiako/teacher, working alongside Pete Hull who continues with his Friday position in that classroom. All our newbies (biggs and little!) have settled in beautifully, and I know they're all going to love being here with us

Stationery requirements for this year: There are still a number of learners who don't have their stationery yet. Hopefully it's just a matter of being 'lost in the post' system, and it will all arrive soon. We also have a few children who have the wrong stationery. Classroom stationery lists are put together by teachers with very specific needs in mind depending on age, stage and ability, ie: width of lines, whether they have centre lines included, the size of the squares in quad books, lined or unlined books or scrapbooks depending on curriculum area they're to be used for, and also the quantity of books to get them across the whole year. Next week, I'll contact the parents of those who need to provide the correct books. We are happy to order it through school and have you pay directly to the school bank account. That way, we know your child will have what they need.

School Whānau Family BBQ: A highlight of our start-of-the-year is our annual Whānau Family BBQ get together. This will be **NEXT FRIDAY** (14 February) from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Bring along whatever food your family would like to eat, and we will have the school bbq on and hot, ready for any meat you'd like to bring along to cook. It's always a really fun evening, with music and games, and loads of 'getting to know you' happening! Please note: this is a strictly NO ALCOHOL event. Hope to see you here!

Our Swimming Season: This starts on next Monday, 10 February – well, that's if the weather plays the game! Every family had their notice about this sent home on Monday – if you haven't seen it yet, check the deep, dark, depths of your child's school bag! It has important information for those of you who haven't done swimming with our school before, as well as a transport slip that needs to come back to us **BY MONDAY MORNING**, please. If you have any questions, give me a ring on the school cell phone or flick me an email.

Classroom Term 1 newsletters: Attached to this newsletter are class newsletters for Term 1. They will give you a good overview of what your child's class teaching and learning focus is for this first term, as well as other bits of important information for you. Please give them a read, and contact your teacher if you need anything clarified.

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.

Term 1 2025

Thurs 6 Feb: Waitangi Day
Mon 10 Mar: swimming starts:
Tues 11, 18, 25 Mar: Y7/8 Tech
Mon 3 Mar: Fstn Cluster
Swimming Sports (Y4-8)
Wed 12 Feb: Y7 vaccination talk
Thurs 7 Mar: Y7 vaccinations
Tues 8-Fri 11 Apr: Snr Rm Camp

Last Day Term 1: Fri 11 April

We are gratefully supported by:

Team 'Mr Sold!'
Steve Chapman
021 687 9809

KAPAI LOGISTICS
Furniture Movers
021 082 44555
kapailogistics@gmail.com

2025 School Term Dates

T1: Mon 3 Feb - Fri 11 April
T2: Mon 29 April – Fri 5 July
T3: Mon 14 July – Fri 19 Sept
T4: Mon 6 Oct – Tues 16 Dec

We are gratefully supported by:

Jen Bhati - Property Brokers
Real Estate Agent
022 516 9053 jen.bhati@pb.co.nz

Arrival Time at School
Just a gentle reminder that children should **not** be arriving at school before
8.15am

First few fun days!



The Year 6s in the Senior Room baked biscuits on Tuesday when the Y7/8s went to Tech



Junior Room Newsletter Term 1 2025

Haere mai and welcome to term 1 2025. I am excited to start this year in the Junior Room and work with the tamariki I know and those who will be new to South Featherston School.

The environment in the Junior Room has changed a little, although I have tried to have some points of reference that are the same or similar. Please feel free to come in and explore.

In week 1 we will be focussing on routines and expectations as we navigate a new year. We will look at the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and create our own Junior Room treaty. We will look at how the Junior Room team can work together to be respectful to our friends and our classroom environment. We will also create a kākahu cloak to represent the unity of our class.

We will look at our uniqueness and what makes each of us special. This will be supported by the House of Science kits, which are always exciting to unpack. We will also create self-portraits in art. There will also be opportunities for the class to explore emotional regulation and the tools we have to help develop resilience.

In maths we will begin with a measurement unit, looking at length. The children will be measuring their hands and feet and making comparisons and we will measure objects in our environment using non-standard units, such as Unifix blocks, paper clips etc. We will then begin to explore the exciting structured numeracy approach utilising Numicon. I will work closely with my colleagues on this as we navigate this for the first time.

In literacy there will be daily opportunities to read, write and practise handwriting. Most students will continue to access the Better Start to Literacy approach. In writing we will focus on recording our ideas and thoughts with increasing accuracy and interest for the reader. Handwriting will focus on pencil grip and the fluent recording of legible writing using the correct formation.

There will be daily opportunities for physical fitness. This will be supported from week 2 in visits to the pool. Please look out for more information.

I look forward to working with all the Junior Room families this year. Please pop in and say "Hello." You are always welcome to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaula i te toiroa.
Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

Alison Power
alisonp@sfs.school.nz

LJR (Little Junior Room) Class Newsletter, Term 1 2025

Kia ora Parents, Whānau and Caregivers!

A huge, warm welcome to Term 1 2025! I am so excited to start the year off with this class and to learn side by side as we embark on this learning journey! I am looking forward to working with each and every one of the tamariki, continuing to get to know them and continue their journey here at SFS.

Things are looking a little bit different in class this year as I have tried to get as much furniture as possible out of our wee classroom and ensure that the environment is welcoming as well as functional! Please feel free to approach me for a classroom tour to get reacquainted with the space.

This term is starting off with a bang, straight into swimming in week two! Please remember to keep an eye out on Skool Loop for any changes. Togs and towel will need to be brought to school Monday to Friday. It is also important to remember bucket hats this term please to keep our tamariki sun safe.

Let's get into the curriculum! In the first week, we will be revisiting Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as well as applying this learning within our own 'Classroom Korowai', where we will work as a class to make a Treaty that will highlight how we can be kind, caring, positive and effective members of Team LJR this year. This will have the input of each and every LJR member and will include great artwork to promote autonomy, individuality and also decorate our learning space.

This year we will be beginning to roll out a new maths curriculum called 'Numicon'. I have participated in two professional development courses around this and will be working closely with Junior Room and Middle Room as we work out what this will look like for our ākonga. Please feel free to discuss this new curriculum with me at any time! A big part of Numicon is promoting a more collaborative approach with home and school. There are various maths games and activities that can be sent home for you and your child to explore and solidify those maths concepts.

Our literacy programme will include daily handwriting, writing and reading, which will also weave various other curriculum areas in a multi-modal way to ensure a literacy-rich classroom and environment. We will practice and solidify letter formation and directionality, daily, in a variety of different ways, including using sensory activities.

We will be utilising the House of Science kits again this year and will also be integrating Science in a cross-curricular way, using a wide variety of materials and activities to promote inquiry, exploration and curiosity.

If you have any questions about our programme or your child's progress, please get in touch!
Have a great Term 1!
Paige Watt
paigew@sfs.school.nz

Kia Ora LJR whānau!

I am excited to again be teaching the wonderful students in LJR each Friday. We are going to have a lot of fun in class beginning with some colourful art and exciting math games as well as ending the week with swimming.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again and getting to know our new students better as well as support Mrs Watt with her teaching and learning.

Parents and Caregivers, please do pop in before or after school to say hello and to check out the amazing learning space - Mrs Watt has done a superb job of setting up the room and it looks amazing!

See you soon, everyone.
Pete Hull
pete@sfs.school.nz

Middle Room Class Newsletter Term 1 2025

Kia ora Middle Room Whānau!

Welcome back to a brand new year filled with exciting learning experiences. I trust you had a lovely break and enjoyed spending some quality time, making great memories with your lovely tamariki.

We start the year off with some learning and revisiting what we know about the Treaty of Waitangi, how we can honour the treaty and how we are all unique. Our science kit for the first two weeks slots in perfectly with this. We will be drawing up a classroom agreement as a class, so our tamariki feels they have some input into this too and can be held more accountable when they do not follow this.

We are slowly starting to incorporate the new Maths curriculum into our programme. This won't mean that I will no longer teach to your child's ability, everything but! I will be looking at the expectations for their year, have some pre-teaching activities to see where they are and place them according to their ability to either extend them on a higher level or go back a few steps to fill some gaps. During this term we will be looking at topics like Place value, Number patterns, Time, Addition methods, Scales and maps and Shapes.

For literacy we are using the Helen Walls programme for writing, spelling (phonics) and grammar. This is a well-structured programme and again, will be used as a guideline only to help your child be the best writer, speller, reader they can. I personally, am very excited for this and can't wait to share some super writing with you.

For Inquiry, we will continue to look at our local history and build on our timeline on agriculture in and around Featherston. There are so many interesting and exciting facts to learn and it can be hard at times to stay on track, especially when the tamariki asks so many interesting questions. This has been a learning journey for me too (being from South Africa) and I love how we are discovering all these amazing things together.

Lastly, please ensure you send your child's stationery to school as soon as you can. It is not easy to start the year with no books and the rest. If you could have a look at the specific books they need, that would be great. The list was set up to their specific needs at their year and ability levels and when it's not the same, it often causes confusion and frustration for your child.

We have a lovely little class to start off with and I am privileged to have your treasures in my care.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Ronel Johansson
ronel@sfs.school.nz

Senior Room Class Newsletter Term 1 2025

Hello, Kia ora, Namaste!

Welcome to Term 1 2025. I hope you have all had a safe and happy break with your tamariki and are ready to settle back into routine.

We fly straight into action this term by looking at our individual identities and our rights and responsibilities as New Zealanders. This involves Te Tiriti o Waitangi work, collaborative team building, sports activities, art, even a science kit where we look at our individual fingerprints and analyse our handwriting! The Key Competencies we will be focusing on are “Managing Self and “Relating to Others”.

This year in the Senior Room, we have opted into the Oxford University Press programme for Mathematics. This is a National-led government initiative that hopes to increase the mathematics knowledge across our primary schools. For us, it will be mostly business as usual, however I will be following the scope and sequence laid out in this programme, and will continue to teach small groups. More information will be available on this as we settle into the programme. We will start our year working on our number knowledge.

We begin swimming in Week 2, this is our PE curriculum for the first half of term. This is not an optional activity, if your child is to be excused on any days for swimming then a note must be provided, otherwise they are expected to participate. I will support this programme with a water safety component in the classroom and the pool.

Our literacy programme will include phonics, spelling instruction, grammar and punctuation as well as learning how to write for different purposes. In Term 1 we will be focussing on instructional writing which will tie in our treaty work as well as the water safety component of our programme.

Our inquiry work will build on what we started last year, looking at our local stories and how they tell the story of our local area and what makes us so very, very special!

One of the most important parts of this term is undoubtedly camp 8-11 April. I have been lucky enough to secure us a place at Rally at the Ranch up at El Rancho. More information will come in the next 2 weeks as we finalise our adult helpers. This camp is an opportunity for our tamariki to push their boundaries and really start to develop their sense of self by participating and developing partnerships with each other.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Kerri
kerrib@sfs.school.nz