

TE KURA TUATAHI O TE KOAU GRANT'S BRAES SCHOOL

INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

He Mihi Nui Kia Koutou Haere Mai Haere Mai Nau Mai Haere Mai. Welcome to Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Koau Grant's Braes School.

Our kura is nestled in the hillside suburb of Waverley in Dunedin, at the gateway to the beautiful Otago Peninsula. Grant's Braes School is a place where children are known, valued, and encouraged to reach their potential. With around 240 students from Year 0 to Year 6, we are proud to offer a supportive and engaging learning environment where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

At our Kura, we are passionate about building strong foundations for learning. We use a structured literacy approach to support students in developing confidence and capability in reading and writing. Our staff work closely together to ensure each child receives the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

One of the things that makes our kura special is our strong sense of community. Our smaller school size allows us to create a warm, family-like atmosphere where staff know and care for all of our tamariki. Positive relationships sit at the heart of everything we do, and we work hard to ensure our school is a place where children feel safe, supported, and excited to learn.

We value the important role that whānau play in their children's education and warmly welcome parents and caregivers as partners in learning. Our school community is strengthened by the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our Board of Trustees, and the ongoing support of our families.

Our guiding whakataukī reflects the values we strive to live by each day: Mahia te mahi o tō ake kākau – Do things from the heart. It is a privilege to be part of such a special school community, and I feel incredibly proud of the learning, growth, and achievements of our students.

Kā mihi nui.

Gareth Taylor

Tumuaki

ATTENDANCE (including Absences and Lateness)

Your child's health, safety and whereabouts are of critical significance to the school. All children are expected to be at school from 9 am - 3 pm every school day unless an explanation is provided by the child's parent/caregiver. Absences or lateness can be notified via the HERO app, an email to the child's teacher with the office copied in, or via a telephone message - 4544717 (our phone has 24-hour answering to enable absences to be recorded at any time).

ASSEMBLIES

These are held on Friday afternoons at 2.10 pm throughout school terms. Information regarding what classes are presenting, and on what dates, will be provided in the Calendar of Events in the weekly school newsletter.

ANNUAL REPORT

This report, including the Financial Report, will be available around May of each school year for the year previous; it will be uploaded to our school website for you to view.

AWHI RITO

The name given to our school hall is Awhi Rito which is the name of the outer Harekeke (flax) fronds that nurture the inner fronds. Awhi Rito is available for hire by contacting the school office and contains a kitchenette with boiling water, oven, fridge, and dishwasher.

BILINGUAL NAME

The bilingual name of our school is Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Koau.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our School's Board of Trustees, led by Presiding Member Nicola Wall, meet regularly twice a term to discuss and action governance matters pertaining to our school.

BULLYING

The Board and staff are committed to providing a physically and emotionally safe place that is free from bullying and harassment for students, staff, and the wider school community. We take all reasonable steps to eliminate bullying and harassment within our school and to respond effectively to concerns and complaints, and/or incidents.

BICYCLES & SCOOTERS

Children are able to ride their bikes and scooters to and from school. The children can ride their scooters on the scooter track and bowl at morning tea and lunch times, and must wear a helmet at all times. During the school day, scooters and bikes are stored on the grass area behind Room Kākāpō. As a guide, the Police suggest that children aged 5-8 should be accompanied by an adult when biking to and from school.

CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS

Our school has a clear process on how to raise a concern or complaint and this can be found by clicking on this link [HERE](#). If the complainant feels that their issue has not been satisfactorily dealt with or resolved, they should then refer it to the Presiding Member of the Board of Trustees - via email or in writing.

CLASSIFICATION OF CHILDREN

We use a Year classification e.g. Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. For day-to-day organisation, room names are used rather than the classification used above. For the classification of Year 1 pupils, children who have birthdays that fall in the first term of school (January, February, March, midway through April), will be classified Year 2 for the following year. Children enrolling after this will be classified as a Year 0 student.

COUNSELLING

We are very fortunate to have Be Heard provide a counselling service for children in our school. Referrals can be made via a form that is available from the school office.

CHILDREN'S TOYS AND GAMES

We strongly discourage children bringing toys or games to school as there is a high risk of them getting lost or damaged. There may be the opportunity for a child to bring 'something special' along to school as part of their classroom's 'news time', and this will be communicated by your child's teacher.

CULTURAL NARRATIVE

Our school was gifted a Cultural Narrative which can be read [HERE](#). This important document guides our school curriculum and inquiry learning.

DENTAL SERVICE

The Community Oral Health Service based next to Bathgate School in Macandrew Road provides a free dental service for all children up until Year 8.

DIGITAL DEVICES

Our school's policy requires that all digital devices brought to school by children, e.g. cellphones, smart watches be handed into the school office on arrival in the morning, and collected again at the end of the school day.

DAMAGE

When a genuine accident occurs, no action is taken. But if disobedience or obvious stupidity is the cause of any damage, we feel the child/children should accept responsibility and contribute towards the cost of repair. Parents will be contacted if this occurs.

ENROLMENTS

Children may commence school on their fifth birthday and must enrol by the age of six. Generally, the name and details of new children are known to the school through completion of the online enrolment form, available [HERE](#). One of our new entrant teachers will contact you and arrange visits prior to your child starting school, approximately 4 weeks before their starting date. We encourage children to attend our Pre-School Bears Programme before their new entrant visits as this is a great 'transition to school' programme run by our Junior Syndicate staff. See Pre-School Bears information below.

At enrolment, you will be asked to also provide the Birth Certificate/Passport for your child, along with two forms of address confirmation.

ENROLMENT ZONE

Our school operates under a Ministry of Education Enrolment Zone, and information can be read [HERE](#). At the first meeting of Term 1 and Term 3 each year, the Board decides whether or not there will be places available for Terms 3 and 4 of that year, and Terms 1 and 2 of the next year, respectively. A map of the school's enrolment zone is available from the school office. A mandatory process is followed if there are deemed to be places available, and a ballot held should there be more applications than availability. If you live inside the home zone of Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Koau Grant's Braes School, your child has an automatic right of entry.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Parents are asked to supply an emergency contact that we can contact if a student becomes ill and parents cannot be contacted. At the beginning of each year, information contained on our database will be sent home to check for accuracy or updates. Please remember to inform the school of any change of address, phone number or emergency contact during the year.

ENRICHMENT GROUPS

Our school offers a variety of enrichment opportunities for children in many areas of the curriculum.

EOTC

Our students participate in a range of Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experiences designed to support learning, build independence, and strengthen relationships. These experiences provide authentic, hands-on learning opportunities in environments that enrich and extend classroom programmes.

Upon enrolment, parents are asked to sign a blanket EOTC Permission Slip for day and local educational trips.

In Year 4, children take part in a special sleep-over held in the school hall towards the end of the school year. This provides a supported opportunity for students to develop confidence and independence in a familiar environment. In Year 5, students attend a one-night leadership camp, usually held in late November. This camp focuses on teamwork, responsibility, and preparing students for leadership opportunities in their final year of primary school. In Year 6, students participate in a three-night camp, typically held mid-November, at the CYC Waihola campsite. This experience promotes resilience, co-operation, outdoor skills, and personal challenges as students prepare for their transition to intermediate schooling.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE

New Zealand schools are reviewed by ERO on a regular basis, and reports are public documents, available from the ERO site [HERE](#).

EDUCATION AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESOL)

Enrolled students who have English as a second language may be available for ESOL support in the form of a Learning Assistant run programme.

HISTORY

Our school celebrated its 75th Jubilee in October 2025, and this was a fabulous event. Grant's Braes School was established in 1950 on land that was formerly part of the Grant's Braes farm (established 1849 by the Burns family). The school originally opened with 70 pupils, three classrooms, and was led by the first headmaster, Gordon Grant. The site has since undergone significant modernisation. Over the past 50+ years, the school has expanded and upgraded, evolving from its humble beginnings to a modern decile 10 primary school (Years 1-6). The school maintains strong ties with the surrounding [Otago Peninsula community](#) (link for cultural narrative here)

HERO - STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our school utilises HERO, a Student Management System, which provides a customised, secure portal for parents to view student progress, receive school notices and to also easily notify absences. This is very easy to access, and further information is provided when children start school.

HOME LEARNING

Homework routines are established early in the year so families know what to expect. Parents are encouraged to connect with their child's teacher about what amount of homework is appropriate. Homework is intended to reinforce the day's learning and help students develop independent study skills.

HUI WHĀNAU

Hui Whānau are run once a term, providing a welcoming environment for connection, communication, and collaboration, where we can share learning, celebrate progress, and listen carefully to the aspirations whānau hold for their tamariki. By working together and valuing the voices of our Māori community, we are better able to support each child's wellbeing, identity, and achievement, ensuring they thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We welcome and enrol International Students at our kura. We hold a Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students, which enables us to enrol a number of students who are residing with their parents. We have Learning Assistants who assist in teaching English to non-English speaking students. International students are integrated into the appropriate year level classes and become involved in all the day-to-day learning of that class. They will be withdrawn as necessary for extra tuition from our specialist English Learning Assistant. The Prospectus of International Students is available for downloading by clicking on this link [HERE](#).

JEWELLERY

For safety and security reasons, jewellery should not be worn at school. All precious personal possessions should be kept at home.

KINDO

This is our school online shop which links directly to your child's SMS record. This system was investigated fully by our Board of Trustees in regards to financial security prior to our school's acceptance, and parents can feel assured that this is very secure. You are able to make part or full payments on your family account using the KINDO app. This system is also used for orders for the regular PTA Sausage Sizzles and Pizza Days, and for sports registrations.

KAPA HAKA

All our children participate regularly in Kapa Haka, and are put into two groups: Taina - Year 0-3, and Tuakana Years 4-6. A highlight of the year is performing at the annual Polyfest held in Term 3.

KIDZACTIVE

Our after-school programme is run by 'KidzActive'. Bookings are made online with 'KidzActive', and these can be on a regular or casual basis. The children are collected at 3pm by their staff, and their programme operates from the St Phillip's Church Hall just a few doors down Belford Street. 'KidzActive' also offers holiday programmes and this information is made available towards the end of each term.

LUNCHES

Lunch break is 12.30 pm-1.30 pm and children sit under the verandah to eat their lunch for the first 15 minutes. There is always a duty teacher, and Year 6 monitors on duty, and the younger children have their lunch boxes checked before they are released to play.

Mondays/Fridays - "Heat-Ups" - (Monday - Kōhaka & Te Kahere children and Fridays - Kā Manu children)

- children are able to bring along food that can be heated in our school pie-warmer - such as pies, pizza, toasted sandwiches, leftover dinner etc. The food is to be wrapped in tin foil, or in a container suitable for the pie-warmer and clearly named with the child's name and room name. There are bins outside the office window for this food to be put in on these days, prior to 9.00am. The food is heated and then distributed to the children at lunchtime.

Tuesdays - "Txt My Lunch"

- 'Txt My Lunch' by texting 020 40256004, and paying via internet banking. There is a wide variety of yummy food options, ordering to be done by 8.30am on a Tuesday and food delivered to school just before 12.30pm. Children are to come to the office to collect.

Wednesdays - "EZLunch Subway"

- Subway is available utilising EzLunch on KINDO. Please ensure the order for your child is made prior to 8.30am on Wednesday morning. Subway delivers the lunches to school and the children collect from the office at 12.30pm.

Thursdays - "EZLunch Sushi"

Sushi can be ordered through your school KINDO account (EzLunch) prior to 8.30am on a Thursday, and food is delivered to school just before 12.30pm. Children are to come to the office to collect.

LOST PROPERTY

This is kept just inside the doorway into Mānuka and the library.

LIBRARY

Children get the opportunity to visit the library with their class teacher once per week and are able to borrow a book for the week. This book must be returned the following week before a new book is able to be issued.

MUSIC LESSONS

Itinerant music teacher, Joel Dalloway from Musiqhub, provides private lessons in keyboard, drums and guitar on Thursdays and Fridays. These are held in the lunch hour, and invoices are issued by Joel.

MIHI WHAKATAU

Each term, usually the first Friday, we welcome all new members of our school community, both staff and new students and their whānau, through a mihi whakatau. A mihi whakatau is a less formal greeting than a pōwhiri, and is a way for the tākata whenua (local people) to welcome the manuhiri (visitors or new people) to our kura.

MONEY - 'Milly the Mailbox'

Any money that children bring to school for payment for Book Club purchases, or Mother's & Father's Day raffles etc, is to be put into 'Milly the Mailbox' located just under the office reception windows. This is a locked mailbox, opened and checked regularly by office staff.

NEWSLETTERS

Our school issues a weekly newsletter on a Thursday, and this includes important information for our school families, news and photos from the past week, information on what is coming up, along with community notices. This newsletter is posted on HERO for our school community to view.

NEW ENTRANT VISITS

Most children start school close to their 5th birthday and before this, our teachers from the Junior Syndicate arrange (usually) four morning visits to the classroom to which they will be joining. These visits are from 9 am - 10.40 am, and then children can stay from 10.40 am - 11 am to enjoy morning tea and play time with the other children. Children are then collected by parents/caregivers at 11 am.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The school has a number of key policies that ensure Board governance is effective and complies with education regulation. These policies are available on our [schooldocs](#) website (username 'grantsbraes' and password 'gbparents'). Copyright: Except where stated, the content on this site is the copyright of SchoolDocs Ltd. It may not be reproduced without written permission from SchoolDocs Ltd.

PRE-SCHOOL BEARS

Our school runs a great 'transition to school' programme for children aged 4-½ and over. This is held on a Thursday afternoon, from 1.40pm - 2.55pm, in one of our Junior Syndicate classrooms. The only requirement for this programme is that a parent/caregiver is required to stay on school site while their child attends this programme.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

We have a wonderful group of hardworking parents, who along with staff representation, form our PTA. They arrange regular pizza days/sausage sizzles for the children, and also fundraisers to support the school with the purchase of additional items for the benefit of all our children.

POLICE VETTING

As per our policy, all staff working in the school, along with parents who attend school trips with children, assist in the school, or coach sports teams must be police vetted. Forms for applications for this are available from the office, and two forms of identification (one of which must be photographic) must accompany this. Results are sent confidentially to Gareth Taylor (Principal).

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Our school has access to a Public Health Nurse who is available to advise or assist with family health concerns. If you would like to see the Health Nurse, please contact the school office to make a time/appointment. Alternatively, the Health Nurse service can be contacted directly on (03) 476 9800.

PARKING

Parking is always at a premium around the school at the busy times of the day, ie start and end of school day. Our main priority is always the safety of our children and their families and it is requested that when parking to drop off or collect your children, this is your primary consideration. Please do not park over the driveways of our school neighbours or on the yellow lines.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Frequent reporting to parents is essential in monitoring progress and developing the home-school partnership. The following is the formal timeline for reporting to parents at our school:

- **February:** Meet the teacher and 'What's the Buzz' interviews
- **June/July:** A mid-year report is issued via HERO, along with parent/teacher interviews
- **December:** A final written report is issued

Throughout the year, Learning Journal posts will be shared with whānau through HERO, which provides a picture over time of the progress students are making in their schooling. Parents are encouraged to contact their child/s teacher with any concerns about any aspect of their schooling.

ROAD PATROL

Our Year 6 pupils have been trained by the NZ Police as to best practice in regards to road patrol duties. The Year 6 pupils are assigned at 3.00 pm to either the Larnach Road crossing (supported by a parent supervisor) or the Belford St/Mathieson Street crossing (supported by

either Gareth Taylor or a staff member). It is most important at this busy time of the day that all children and their families use these crossings for the safety of all.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours are as follows:

- 8.15 am - children can come into school ground and sit under Kā Manu verandah outside Toroa until the 8.30 am bell
- 8.30 am - bell rings for children to put bags away and access into classrooms
- 9.00 am - start of school day
- 10.40 am-11.00 am - morning tea/interval
- 12.30 pm -1.30 pm - lunch break
- 3.00 pm - end of school day

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

This is a voluntary donation and covers swimming, school trips and visiting performers, and assists towards the many aspects that make our school 'tick'. The Board has set the current contributions at \$250 for one/eldest child, \$240 second child, with a maximum of \$600 for three or more children, per year. The school sends out a payment request for this contribution at the beginning of each year, with the amount requested reduced by a quarter each term. Therefore, if your child starts school in Term 3, you would be asked for half the annual sum. Schools are government-funded based on their equity index rating. Our school has a low equity index rating and therefore receives limited funding from the Government, so the school contribution is a vital part of school finances and supports our curriculum

As this is a donation, families are able to claim this in their annual tax return (33%).

SICKNESS/INJURY AT SCHOOL

Parents will be notified by the school if there is any concern about your child's health, either through sickness or injury. Parents are asked to arrange for their child to be collected in the case of illness.

Parents will always be notified in the instance of a head knock requiring attention. A text will be sent if this is not of a serious nature, or a phone call will be made to parents if the knock is deemed more serious or requires the child to be collected from school.

In the case of minor bumps, bruises or grazes, children will usually be attended to by the duty teacher or office staff. In the case of a serious accident or injury, or medical event, an ambulance will be called and parents will be contacted immediately,

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Our kura focuses on a positive, values-based approach to behaviour management, centered on "E kumanu ana - We Care" (kindness, empathy, honesty, and respect). The school utilises online, up-to-date policies via SchoolDocs, which align with Ministry of Education guidelines to ensure a safe learning environment for all.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

The school has the support of a Specialist Teacher from Sara Cohen who comes in to assist some of our special needs pupils throughout the week, and we also have wonderful Learning Assistants who assist and support these students as part of their timetables. Our two Deputy Principals, Desiree Wispinski and Sara Carr, share the role of SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator) and any queries should be addressed to them in the first instance - desireew@grantsbraes.school.nz, and sarac@grantsbraes.school.nz.

SPORTS

Our school offers a variety of both summer (Tee-Ball, Futsal and Touch) and winter sports (Hockey, Netball and Basketball). Advice regarding time frames for registering for these will be posted on HERO, and all registrations are completed via KINDO. Once teams have been formulated, a payment request will be sent to parents for their prompt payment. Any queries regarding sports should be direct to - sports@grantsbraes.school.nz.

STATIONERY

Stationery for New Entrant students will be provided by the school, and distributed by the child's teacher. A payment request for this will be sent home within the first few days of children starting school. Children from Te Kahere (middle syndicate) and Kā Manu (senior syndicate) will be provided with information at the end of each school year for online ordering of their next year's stationery through Back To School Officemax. The lists provided to Officemax are the lists of the items that teachers have specifically requested for their classes for the next year.

SUN PROTECTION

Our school is an accredited sun-smart school, and all children are expected to wear a school regulation sunhat when outside throughout Terms 1 and 4. Any children who don't have a school sunhat will be required to play under the verandahs at break times. The school does have sunscreen in each classroom, however it is recommended that children apply this before coming to school and then top-up from the class supply throughout the day.

SWIMMING

Swimming is part of the NZ Curriculum, and therefore all our children participate in swimming lessons. Ka Manu children go to Moana Pool usually one morning per week throughout Terms 2 and/or 3 and receive their lessons from Swimsation, and Te Kahere and Kōhaka children go to Andersons Bay School Pool (by bus there and back) in the last weeks of Term 4, and receive tuition from JC Swim School. Parent help is vital for swimming to ensure there are the correct adult to child ratios required for water situations.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Each term two flyers with books available for purchase through Scholastic are sent out to our families. Following close-off for each issue, it usually takes approximately 7-10 days for the books to arrive back at school for distribution to the families. As a result of purchases made through Scholastic, our school receives reward points, and these are very useful for our teachers to be able to buy specific books or items for use in their classrooms. Each year around August, our school hosts a Book Fair where the office reception area is set up like a mini book shop. All children get the opportunity to come and visit to see what is on offer, and then to possibly come back to purchase with their parents. Commission from the total sales made at the Book Fair come back to the school in the form of books for our library, and over the past few years, this has given our library stock a wonderful increase in the awesome books on offer.

SYNDICATE NAMES

Our kura is grouped into three syndicates:

- Kōhaka (the nest) - Junior team - Year 0 - 1
 - Rooms Kiwi, Kea and Kākāpō
- Te Kahere (The Forest) - Middle team - Year 2 - 3
 - Rooms Rātā, Mataī and Mānuka.
- Kā Manu (The Birds) - Senior team - Year 4 - 6
 - Room Tūi, Toroa, Kākā, and Pūkeko.

STAFF

Our staff are as follows:

Kōhaka

- Susan Tait - Team Leader - Kiwi Teacher - Year 1
- Jen Stevenson - Kea Teacher - Year 0 -1
- Melissa Rowcroft - Kākākpō Teacher- Year 0
- Michelle Bednarek Burrow - Release Teacher

Te Kāhere

- Desiree Wispinski - Deputy Principal, SENCO - Rātā Teacher - Year 2
- Belinda Collins - Rātā Teacher - Year 2
- Kate Pinnock - Mataī Teacher - Year 2 - 3
- Rebecca McKeever - Mānuka Teacher - Year 3

Kā Manu

- Sara Carr - Deputy Principal, SENCO - Toroa Teacher - Year 4 - 5
- Rebecca Barrow - Toroa Teacher - Year 4 - 5
- Adam Wood - Tūi Teacher - Year 4 - 5
- Amy Lock - Kākā Teacher - Year 5 - 6
- Katie Wenborn - Pūkeko Teacher - Year 5 - 6
- Mel van de Klundert - Release Teacher

Support Staff

- Gaylene O'Brien - Office Manager
- Niki van Plateringen - Learning Assistant/Office Administrator
- Denise Laney - Learning Assistant
- Tyne Broad - Learning Assistant
- Jade Barrow - Learning Assistant
- Ethan Shaw-Wood - Learning Assistant
- Scott White - Caretaker

Tumuaki

- Gareth Taylor

UNIFORM (& Secondhand Uniform)

All children are expected to wear a school uniform to school. Uniforms are available for purchase from NZ Uniforms who are in Filleul Street, next to The Urgent Doctors. The uniform consists of a navy polo shirt, navy polar fleece, navy shorts, navy trousers and a navy skirt. There is an optional navy softshell jacket that children may wear instead of, or over top of the polar fleece. Socks are to be navy, and can be ankle or knee length. Shoes are to be 80% black. Our school also has a sports uniform, which is a T-shirt and shorts, and this is to be worn when children play in summer or winter sports teams, or represent the school in a sporting event.

Our school also has secondhand uniforms available, and these are able to be purchased by contacting the Shop Supervisor, Elena Ferguson on 021 301039.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Koau Grant's Braes School is proud of our whakapapa, our connections, and our ongoing relationships with our mana whenua. Our Board and staff are committed to ensuring Te Tiriti o Waitangi informs our governance and decision-making, and we will continue to honour the principles of Te Tiriti in all aspects of our work. We will continue to prioritise a holistic approach to education, nurturing the well-being, cultural identity, and academic development of all tamariki in our care.

This includes:

- Ensuring Māori students feel seen, supported, and proud of their identity.
- Maintaining a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive environment for every student.
- All students get a deeper understanding of our shared history and culture.
- We strengthen relationships with mana whenua, local iwi, hapū, and whānau Māori.
- All children will learn and feel that they truly belong in this country.

VISION & HEARING TESTING

Public Health South's Vision and Hearing Tester visits our school a couple of times per year and tests children who have arrived from overseas, or have missed the testing through the ECE system.

VISION, VALUES, WHAKATAUKI

Vision:

- Kia tuhura, kia kite, kia mahi katahi - To explore, discover and learn together

Values:

- E kumanu ana We Care, E ako ana We Learn, E ahei ana We Can, E mahi katahi ana We Are

Whakataukī (Proverb):

- Mahia te mahi o tō ake kākau - Do things from the heart

WEATHER

In instances of extreme weather, families will always be contacted as soon as possible via a HERO notification and email if our school is going to have a late start or be closed for the day. Radio station 89.4 The Hits and their Facebook page will also provide information as to whether our school has been affected.

During the winter months, when there are often severe frosts or snow, the decision to have a late start or close is not made lightly. Representatives from the Otago Primary Principals' Association, after consultation with police and other agencies, make this decision for all primary schools in our area. Sometimes conditions may not seem too bad around school; however, staff and a number of families travel from all over town, and their safety is taken into consideration.

WHĀNAU GROUPS

On enrolment, children are allocated to a Whānau Group. These are named after the four streets that surround our school - Mathieson, Belford, Dunrobin and Larnach, and have a colour allocated to each. Siblings are always put together in the same group.