

## Welcome

Welcome to our many new friends – Freya R, Jed, Lottie, Mharielle & Freya S who have joined us at Riverton Childcare. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your whānau, and know you will enjoy your time with us.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - **Closed for Kings Birthday**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – **Whānau Night**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July - **Closed for Mātariki**  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – **Last day for 2026**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – **First day for 2027**

## Whānau Night

**Wednesday 1st July – 5-7pm.**

We will be having shared kai, followed by our annual lantern walk around the community to celebrate Matariki, the Māori New Year.

Your whole whānau is invited! Please bring kai to share, star-themed food if possible! Please dress warmly and bring a jacket and hat for our walk. Please note, we've made it a Wednesday this year to hopefully avoid the clash with sports practises.



## Britt is going to be away

I am going to be away from 16 June, returning 22 July. During this time Marina and the teaching team will be handling your admin requests. 😊 In my absence please don't email the office with any booking change requests or absence notifications, as the office email may not be regularly checked. Please send all messages to our cellphone **021 041 9041** to ensure the information is received. We will reply with a confirmation text.



## Staff Updates

Some of you will be aware that we've experienced a few staff changes in the last few weeks.

We are very excited to announce that we have secured some awesome new teachers for our Explorers' room.



Laura Luan, who has recently graduated with her Master of Teaching and Learning is covering a fixed term position in the Explorers' room, through until the 17 July.



Ness Savage has just joined the team this week, working as a teacher's aide in the Explorers' room. Ness has 6 children of her own and comes to us from Weka Preschool in Winton

Our newest recruit – Jillian Fenton is an experienced teacher who will join the Explorers' team from 20 July. Jillian is a local Rivertonian, returning home after teaching in Christchurch for the last 21 years.

We have also employed two new casual relievers – Annamay Collinson who is assisting in the Explorers room and Rachelle Deans, who is a qualified teacher, teaching in the Navigators Room. (Rachelle used to teach full-time at Riverton Childcare)

Please take time to introduce yourself to our new ladies 😊

We would like to acknowledge Sarah, Bek, Lia, and Ann-Marie, as they move on from Riverton Childcare, and wish them all the best for the future.

In other great news, Mel Kelly has recovered enough from her ankle injury sustained at the start of this year. She will be returning to work on a progressive return-to-work plan. We are stoked to have her back leading the Explorers' team.

Finally – A big congratulations to Beverly, Nico, Yashita and Tala on the arrival of their new daughter / sister - Aaia. Beverly will be back teaching in the Explorers' room later this year.



## Much to our surprise...

After 22.5 years in the role — Marina is taking a 5.5 month sabbatical, having accepted a position with Elections NZ as the Recruitment and Rostering Manager for the Invercargill Electorate.

She'll be swapping her small friendly team of 16–20 for a team of around 300!

But don't worry — she'll be back. This is simply an opportunity for Marina to stretch herself, test her capabilities, and take on a new challenge. She's hoping to still pop in and out when she can during what will no doubt be a very busy season.

While Marina is away, Britt will continue to manage the office and administration in her extremely efficient manner, Mel will support the team, and Bronni will lead Learning and Teaching.

Marina's role starts in July.

## Polyfest 2026

We will be attending Polyfest (at Stadium Southland) again this year. We have requested Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August (along with the other Riverton schools), with Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> as a back-up option. The Polyfest committee will allocate and confirm the day and time of our performance at the end of June. Once we know, we will provide full information / itinerary of the day.

## Focus of the Term

Belonging – Where children know they belong and have a sense of connection to others and the environment.

This term our focus questions are:

Navigators': How can we make our friends feel welcome?

Adventurers': How do I show that I can take part and contribute here?

Explorers': How do I show I belong here?

## BREAD BAGS

Our long term supply of bread bags for wet clothes has finally been exhausted!

If you have bread bags to spare, these will be gratefully received.

## Winter is upon us

Please dress your tamaiti (child) in warm clothing, and bring a **NAMED** jacket and gumboots with them each day.



## Fuel Vouchers

Riverton Childcare has some fuel vouchers to give away!!!! (Voucher denominations will be a mystery draw for the prize winners)

Entry is easy:

1. Any whānau member who comments on an Educa story during June—**1 entry**
2. Any whānau member who contributes a story from home and posts to Educa — **2 entries**
3. Any whānau member who answers our 'cultural diversity' survey — **3 entries**

The link to our survey will be posted to Educa for you to complete from there.

Works out that if both you and your partner comment on Educa, both add a story to Educa and both complete our cultural diversity survey – that would be **12** entries for your household!!!



## ERO (Education Review Office)

The ERO visit went very well earlier this week. There was one area of non-compliance – which was that we don't have documented evidence of our 'shelter in place' drill (which is a drill where we bring the children inside and sit them down on the mat, in case of an external threat eg: weather event, like Oct 25) The children do sit on the mat twice a day already, but we haven't recorded an official drill practice, however that's an easy fix! The ERO ladies were very happy with our learning and assessment and commented on the 'treasures' – which are the beautiful children's profile books. Thanks to the team for keeping these looking so good. You are very welcome to take your child's profile book home to read at any stage. Please see one of the teachers who will find it for you.

## Late Pick Ups / Early Drop Offs

Please be mindful about adhering to your booked times. If you drop your child off early or pick your child up late there is the potential that you are interfering with our teacher:child ratios, particularly early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

If you need to be early or late, please check in first to ensure we have adequate staff available.

## Spare Clothes

Please send at least one full spare set of clothes with your child each day. We are finding that many children don't have enough in their bag.

The tamariki (children) are often involved in messy and wet play and we need warm spare clothes for them to change into. If your child is toilet training, please send several changes, as we quickly go through the Childcare's limited supply when we haven't been supplied with spares. If you have a reusable wet bag, we would appreciate if you could send each day too.

## Unwell Children

We have Winter illnesses lurking about, so we will continue to take a hard line with sick children, to try to curb these illnesses from spreading.

If your child is

\*under the weather

\*not 100%

\*not quite themselves

\*had a rough night

\*needing Panadol to perk them up

or anything similar, **which includes a green snotty nose** – please don't bring them to Childcare.

Reminder that there is a **48 hour stand down** for those children with vomiting and/or diarrhoea. (with the stand down period starting from when their symptoms stop)

Thank you to all of our amazing parents who keep their unwell children home. We very much appreciate you.



**RIVERTON HEALTH CLINICS**

NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

We are offering free fortnightly drop-in health clinics in Riverton

- Free BP checks
- Diabetes – blood sugar testing
- HPV swabs (cervical screening)
- Bowel Screening
- FAST – Stroke Education
- Point of Care Testing for sore throats and skin rashes

Where:  
Riverton Community Centre

When:  
Wednesday 03 June 2026, 9.30am-2pm  
Wednesday 17 June 2026, 12pm-4pm

CONTACT US

Head Office:  
03 214 5261  
080-0 925 242

92 Spey Street, Invercargill  
www.nkmp.nz

## Fact Corner

Replacing your toothbrush after being unwell can help reduce lingering germs and support a healthy recovery. While the risk of reinfection is usually low, germs can remain on your toothbrush bristles for some time, so it's a good idea to replace toothbrushes after illnesses such as tummy bugs, strep throat, or significant colds and flus – especially once symptoms have improved.

## TOYS FROM HOME

Toys from home are not permitted at Childcare. Mainly because they can be lost or broken, causing distress.

Sleep cuddlies are most definitely welcome

😊 If your child is in the main building, please put them straight into the sleep room when you arrive to keep them safe.

## Car Seat Safety

It's really important to remove jackets and bulky clothing before putting pēpi (baby) or tamaiti (child) into their car seat. In a crash, a puffer jacket or anything bulky immediately compresses from the force, leaving extra unsafe space between the harness and the child. A Child is then not held firmly and securely in the best position in their seat to protect them from injury.



Ngā ratonga ki te manawa o te whenua  
**Heartland Services**

**RIVERTON Community House**  
37 Napier Street  
Riverton  
Ph: (03) 234 8206  
info@rivchouse.nz

**JUNE**

 <b>Alzheimer's New Zealand</b> Aparima Support Group	<b>APARIMA SUPPORT GROUP</b> office@alzheimerssocietysouthland.org.nz	<b>MONDAY</b> 10.30am at Bupa	15/06/2026
 <b>jubilee</b>	<b>JENNY BUDGET ADVISOR</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> BY APPOINTMENT 0800 582 4533	04/06/2026 18/06/2026
 <b>Work and Income</b> To hirainga Tangata	<b>LOUISE MCCLOY CASE MANAGER</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> BY APPOINTMENT 03 234 8206	03/06/2026
 <b>Heartland Services</b>	<b>OREPUKI OUTREACH - OREPUKI FIRE BRIGADE</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10.30am - 11.30pm	24/06/2026

**We can help you get in contact with the right people!**

Our Service is friendly, free and Confidential to all

**INDIVIDUALS - FAMILY - YOUTH - ELDERLY - GROUPS**

