



Newsletter #1 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 13 February 2025

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back! We hope you and your whānau had a fantastic summer break. It's been great to see our tamariki settling back into school life so smoothly, and we truly appreciate the effort you put into supporting their transition after the long holiday. As always, our focus in these first weeks has been on re-establishing routines, reconnecting with teachers and friends, and engaging in creative and physical learning activities. Research shows that this approach helps tamariki reintegrate successfully.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our mihi whakatau last week and we are excited for the year ahead!

This newsletter is a bumper-edition, so do read to the end to make sure you are up to date with what is happening at school. You'll find a new section this year, where Learning Studios will celebrate their achievements and happenings with you. This week you can read what is happening in Ata Hapara and Tāwhirimātea.

Please note that in 2025 the ministry has approved two teacher only days for schools to upskill in the new mathematics curriculum. Our first professional development day will be on **Friday 11th April** so please add this date to your calendar.



FEBRUARY 2025

- 18,19 Y7/8 Spencer Park Camp
- 19 NE Cohort Parent Morning Tea
- 21 Scholastic Book Club Closes
- 24 Board of Trustees, 6pm
- 28 Assembly, 9.15am

MARCH 2025

- 3-7 Walk or Wheel To School Wk
- 3 Junior Try-Athlon
- 7 Non-uniform Day
- 7 Swimming Sports
- 21 Zones Swimming
- 31 Board of Trustees, 6pm
- 31Mar-2Apr Y5 Waipara Camp

APRIL 2025

- 2-4 Y6 Waipara Camp
- 3 Canterbury Swimming Sports
- 10 Last Day For Students
- 11 SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Only Day**

12-27 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- 28 Term 2 Starts



From The Principal continued ...**Rāwhiti School Turns 10**

It was a delight to see so many of you at our 10th birthday party last Wednesday evening, giving us an opportunity to celebrate not just Rāwhiti Schools 10th birthday, but also to celebrate and acknowledge all of the people who have played a part in our extraordinary first 10 years. Special thanks to Donna Stewart for making our beautiful birthday cake for us. Donna also made the cake that was cut at the official opening of our new school buildings. Thanks also to the PTA for providing all of the children with a special birthday badge. These can be worn on school sun hats or on the school polo shirt.

A quick history lesson for those who were not involved in the school 10 years ago. When we first opened we did not have our own place to hold an opening celebration. Leaver Terrace was a building site which meant that we had to operate our new school on two sites for that first year. Our Year 4-6 children were on the old Central New Brighton School site, which was known as 'Beach Base', and our Year 1-3s, Year 7 & 8s, and Ata Hapara were on the old Freeville School site, which was known as 'QE2 Base'.

We held our opening ceremony on the waterfront in New Brighton and we had our first whole school photo taken on the beach in front of the pier. It made the front page of The Press. Just over 400 children started school on our first day - and the Ministry of Education told us that the school was not expected to grow.

We had temporary school buildings and a temporary school uniform. We didn't have a home or anything that belonged to Rāwhiti School. There was not much for us to be proud of.

Fast forward 10 years and here we are, with arguably the most beautiful school in Christchurch and a roll that sits just under 600. Our establishment board had a strategic goal to create an exciting and inviting school environment that our children would love and boy did they deliver - lovely buildings, award-winning grounds, a heated pool (that should be open next week), a bike track and full complement of bikes, our amphitheatre, all our different play areas.

So much of what you see here around you is the direct result of parent and community input. If you were not already aware, all of the landscaping here was designed by a parent of the school, Tim Scott. In our early days staff, parents and children rolled up their sleeves at the weekends to plant out the new garden areas and the bike track.



Our newest treasure, the amazing mural on the wall of the swimming pool complex, was officially 'unveiled' on Wednesday night and is another excellent example of using the talents of our parent community to grow our children's creativity.



<https://sites.google.com/rawhiti.school.nz/whakaakoako/our-place/10th-birthday-mural>

SCAN CODE



Rāwhiti Book of Records

Last Wednesday evening also gave us a chance to launch our 2025 learning concept of **Celebration**, with our birthday party being a good example of how celebrations promote well-being, social connectedness and a sense of community. As always our Term 1 focus is on the Health Curriculum. We want our learners to understand that there are many ways and occasions to celebrate, and that success comes in many forms. We think that it is important that we recognise and celebrate the strengths and differences in ourselves and each other.

For a bit of fun, each week this term there will be a new Rāwhiti Record challenge that children can choose to take part in. The challenge will be shared with them each Monday, with the record attempt taking place on Friday. Children will be encouraged to set a goal and practice before they have a go at getting themselves into the Rāwhiti Book of Records.

Last week the challenge was to see how many socks you could put on one foot in 30 seconds, with record attempts taking place on Wednesday evening at our party. The competition was fast and furious!

Our first record holders are:

- 4-6 years olds = June from Rongo-mā-tāne 8 socks!
- 7-9 years old = Oliver from Ata Hāpara 15 socks!
- 10-13 years old = Jacqueline from Tāwhirimatea 17 socks!



Go on - have a go!

We have also broken another record this year, with 82% of our children attending a Whānau Connect meeting with their parents/caregiver at the start of the year. Awesome effort. We will be attempting to break this record at our next lot of Learning Conversations later in the year.

Uniform Reminder

It is always great to see sparking new uniforms at the start of the year. However, we are seeing some 'extras' creep in already and we are asking for your support to ensure that your child is dressed correctly each day.

Here are the main non-uniform things we are seeing each day:

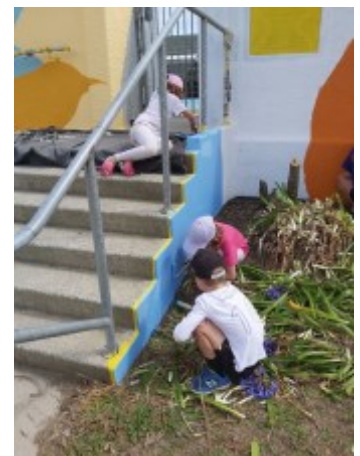
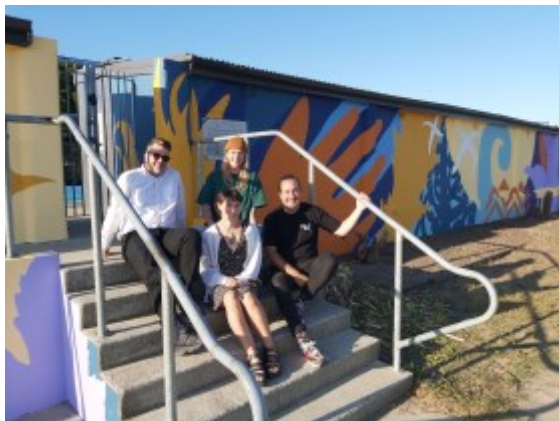
- **Socks and Tights:** Students can wear black or white plain ankle or knee length socks, or plain black tights. No brightly coloured or stripey socks please.
- **Jewellery and piercings:** Students may wear: taonga, a watch, ear studs (no hoops or dangling earrings). Nose piercings are discouraged and nose rings are not permitted. Discreet studs only. Tongue piercings are not permitted.
- **Hair and hair accessories** Hair should be kept clean, neat and tidy, and away from the face. Shoulder length hair must be tied back in a tidy manner by a hair tie or similar. Hair accessories should be kept to the school colours. No sparkly or multicoloured hair accessories are to be worn. Hair styles must allow sun hats to be worn in terms one and four.
- **Makeup:** Makeup is not permitted.

Wearing the correct uniform is a condition of enrolment at Rāwhiti School and children will be asked to remove items that do not comply with the [Boards Uniform Policy](#).

Children are expected to attend school in the correct school uniform. If your child arrives at school not in uniform they will be asked to go to the office where we will loan them a school shirt or black shorts for the day.

Hero App

Our main means of communication is through the Hero App - newsletters, weekly updates from the learning studios, reminders, and learning & achievement posts, and emergency information. It is also how we send out school invoices for any payments that are due. You can also notify us via Hero if your child is going to be absent. If you know people who are missing out on information from Hero then please encourage them to pop into the office any day before or after school and Kim can help get the app up and running on their smart phone. In the **School Notices** section of this newsletter you will find some helpful information on how to get started with Hero, and how to make sure you are signed up for the correct notifications.

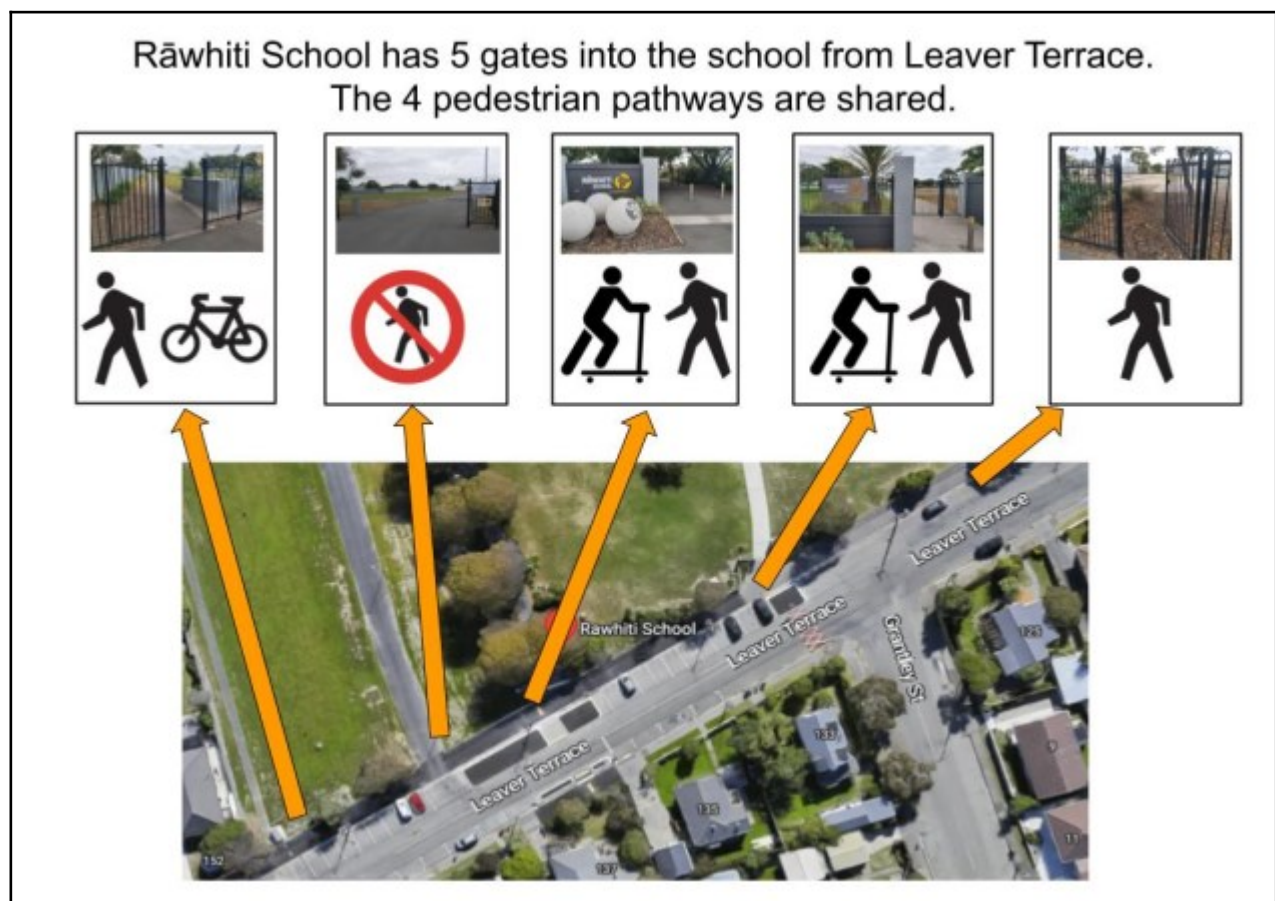


Concerns, Complaints, and Communication

In our experience, when parents have a concern that relates to their child at school - whether it's pastoral, curriculum or staffing in nature - it can be most quickly resolved by talking first to the most appropriate person. Your starting point will usually be the classroom teacher. In this newsletter you will find a flowchart attached outlining who the most appropriate person will be. Problems are usually remedied easily; rumours are often ill founded; policies and practice are sometimes misunderstood; errors, shortcomings and wrongs should be corrected immediately. Please do not let a little concern become a major worry - we are always happy to listen and work with you to resolve an issue.

Please remember that our teachers are also husbands, wives, parents and members of their community and they need time to undertake these roles as well. Our teachers are highly committed and they work very hard, but they also need to finish work at a reasonable time each day. If you email a staff member in the evening please do not expect an immediate response. We ask our teachers to check their emails at the end of the school day and when they arrive in the morning. They will not be checking or responding to emails after 6pm. [CLICK HERE](#) for a Flowchart for Communication Procedures or you can obtain a copy from the office.

Gate info for parents/whānau



What's Happening In Our Studios?

In **Tawhirimātea**, we are learning to play Korfball as part of our Health and P.E. focus this term. We will be continuing for the next 4 weeks. Korfball is a cross between basketball and netball. Uri, the instructor is slowly teaching us the rules and it has been lots of fun so far.



Ata Hāpara would like to acknowledge and celebrate all of the mahi that one of our whānau members, Jessica Riddell has contributed to. Jess is a part of the legal team working on the Ngāi Tahu freshwater claim. Protecting our waterways from the harm that agriculture animals cause. I whakanui, I tautoko mātou i a koe. He kaitiaki koe i te wai Māori.

Ko ngā whetū ō te wiki, nei rā te mihi whakanui ki a koutou. Azaliah-Storm for her effort and mahi in te reo Māori. To all our tamariki hou, new students for settling into kura so well. Bella-Rose for showing great strength and resilience in completing her mahi and Aria for her sharp skills in pāngarau. Tō kaha koutou, pīataata tōnū koutou!



How Many Socks Can You Put On In 30 Seconds?



HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE HERO APP

Getting Connected To Hero - Steps To Set Up Hero Log-in

To set your password and log into Hero for the first time:

1. Download the **Hero by LINC-ED** app from the app store

Note: use the keywords Hero LINC-ED when searching for the app

Alternatively, open your browser and enter app.linc-ed.com

2. Click **NEW USER**

3. Enter the email address you have provided the school and click **REQUEST PASSWORD LINK**

If your email address is not accepted, please contact your school.

4. You will receive a message confirming a password email has been sent

5. Open your email inbox and click on the Hero Password Reset email

If you do not receive a Hero Password Reset email, check your spam folder.