



Newsletter #1 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 4 February 2022

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 after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau. Rāwhiti staff have been amazing at quickly responding to a new landscape under the COVID-19 Red Protection Framework setting. They are energised and ready to provide engaging learning programmes for your tamariki, despite the challenges and limitations of being in this Red Level setting for the start of the new school year. Although we have not been able to start the year the way we normally would, we are committed to maintaining a positive, warm and welcoming school culture where your child's interests and wellbeing is central to all decision making. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiawhina teacher or Team Leader if you have any questions or concerns.

It has been a smooth return to school for most of our tamariki and we very much appreciate the work you have done in preparing children to transition back to school after the long break. It has been a very seamless and enjoyable process for the majority of children. The focus here is on re-establishing routines and structures, re-connecting with teachers and friends, as well as creative and physical learning activities. We know from research that this is the best way to integrate tamariki back into school. A special congratulations to our tamariki who have shown great resilience and independence this week coming into the school grounds on their own.

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Mark Your Calendar

FEBRUARY 2022

- 7th School Closed—Waitangi Day Observed
- 10th Y7/8 Technology Starts
- 24th Board of Trustees Meeting

MARCH 2022

- 1st Senior Swimming Sports
- 2-4 Y7/8 Camp (to be confirmed)
- 7-11 Walk/Wheel To School Wk
- 16th Zones Swimming
- 28-30 Y5 Camp (to be confirmed)
- 31st Board of Trustees Meeting
- 30Mar-1Apr Y6 Camp (to be Confirmed)



From The Principal continued ...

Our learning concept for 2022 is Communication - Horahia te rongo: Spread the message. Studios will unpack this concept across the year, using a different curriculum lens each term. For Term 1 the focus will be the Health and PE curriculum, under the umbrella 'Can you hear me - I've got something to say'.

You may want to make yourself a cup of coffee before reading the rest of this newsletter, as it contains a considerable amount of information to process, including the Health and Safety protocols for Rāwhiti School at Red level. We know many of you are dealing with a bombardment of information from work, community and sporting organisations at the moment, so all of this information is summarised in our Rāwhiti School at Red Level poster, which you can also find in this newsletter.

New Outdoor Learning Spaces

Under the current restrictions you will not have been able to take a look at the newly completed outdoor learning spaces on the northside of our building. 'WOW' is the first word that springs to mind! These spaces are already being well used, with the timing of completion coinciding perfectly with the return to school - and our desire to have children outside in the fresh air as much as possible. Once again, Tim Scott and the Kamo Marsh team have nailed the design brief, and Forever Green Landscaping have brought the plan to life.



From The Principal continued ...



From The Principal continued ...**New Staff**

A very warm welcome to the new teaching staff joining us at Rāwhiti this year: Emma Burgess (Tāwhirimātea), Fi Glasgow (Tāne Mahuta), Koha Mason (Haumiatiketike), Travis Cooper (Haumiatiketike) and Jude Seeto (Papatūānuku).

We also welcome Frank Kiss as our new caretaker. Frank has a background in school property management and is well skilled to keep our beautiful school in top shape.

Here is a breakdown of the teaching staff in each Learning Studio:

- Tangaroa (Years 7-8): Nogo Sipeli (Team Leader), Andrew Redmond, Sharon Thompson, Talei Cordes
- Tāwhirimātea (Years 4-6): Urmi Shah (Team Leader), Nigel Stewart, Emma Burgess.
- Tāne Mahuta (Years 4-6) Eugene Beconsall (Team Leader), Kathy Lumley (Mon-Thurs), Sharon Robertson, Fi Glasgow, Marcella Wood (Friday).
- Haumiatiketike (Bilingual): Jasmine Stirling (Team Leader), Koha Mason, Racheal Cooper, Travis Cooper.
- Papatūānuku (Years 2-3): Helen Hogarth (Team Leader), Jude Seeto, Issie Campbell, Renee Balcazar.
- Rongo-mā-tāne (Year 1-2) Nicole Cunningham (Team Leader), Lisa Handley, Courtney Ruske, Michelle Cochrane.
- Release Team: Elizabeth Kazmierczak (Team Leader), Marcella Wood, Jen Evans, Caroline Briggs, Louise Wynn.

**Teacher Only Days in April**

In both 2020 and 2021, scheduled Teacher Only Days were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. This means that our school has two award TODs to use before July. The Board of Trustees has approved that these be held on Wednesday April 13th and Thursday April 14th, the last 2 days of Term 1. School will be closed for instruction on these days.

This means that the term ends for Rāwhiti students on Tuesday, April 12th.

Ex-Students Doing Us Proud

We were thrilled to learn that the Mairehau High School 2022 Head Boy and Head Girl are both Rāwhiti School foundation pupils. Congratulations to Kiera Clark and Kane Coxen Barrington. We are very proud of both of you.

**Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa,
Liz Weir**

Rāwhiti School at Red Level

www.rawhiti.school.nz



The following protocols will be in place at Rāwhiti School to keep everyone safe.



Staff and students from Year 4-8 **MUST** wear masks inside. They do not need to wear masks when outdoors. Singing and exercise are not permitted inside.

Parents are asked to drop off and pick up from the gate. If parents need to come on site, they must scan in and wear a mask. Please **DO NOT** enter studios.



Handwashing/sanitising, elbow coughing/ sneezing and safe eating practices will be explicitly taught and monitored.

If students are feeling unwell, they must remain at home. If students are unwell at school, they will be taken to the sickbay then sent home (with any siblings).



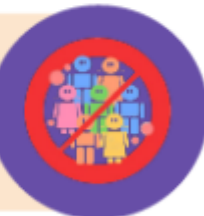
Enhanced school cleaning will occur. Sanitising of classrooms and high touch areas will take place daily.

All studios have CO2 sensors and fresh air system installed. Doors and windows will be open when practical.



No physical distancing required of students in their own studio. 1m distance between students from different classes. Whānau are encouraged to stay 2m from people they don't know.

No large gatherings or events will occur. Whole school and across team activities will be minimised.



All Rāwhiti School staff are fully vaccinated. Any adults working with students, including parent helpers need to be fully vaccinated.

ALL visitors to the school, must scan in, wear a mask at all times and sign in at the office. This includes parents outside of drop off/pick up times.



Schools remain OPEN at all traffic light levels.

Individual schools may be asked to close in the event of a Covid19 outbreak, or if it can not be staffed.

Please contact the office if your child has been advised to stay home.

03 3889519

Off-site learning is accessible from each studio site.
<https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/our-learning/blogs/>

Rāwhiti School at the Red setting of Covid Protection Framework

At the Red setting, we can support everyone learning on the school site. To do this as safely as possible, we have comprehensive planning and procedures that align with all guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and Education for schools.

To reassure you, a brief overview of this plan includes:

- Regular cleaning and sanitisation of high touch surfaces, learning and shared spaces.
- Supporting and reinforcing regular hand sanitisation, hand washing and physical distancing in and outside learning hubs.
- Regular breaks for each learning studio to allow children to get outside and take their masks off for a while.
- Well ventilated learning spaces. All our learning studios have built in CO2 sensors and an automatic fresh air system. Doors and windows will also be open when practical.
- Postponement of class trips, visits, visitors, engagements and non-essential activities until further notice.
- No large gatherings or events will occur.
- Staff wearing Type IIR/Level 2 masks at all times indoors, before and after school. It is necessary to note the Ministry has indicated Year 1-3 teachers are not required to wear masks for student learning purposes.
- Years 4-8 students wearing a face-covering at any time when indoors.
- Providing a well-ventilated wellness area for students presenting with flu-like symptoms when waiting to be picked up by parents and whānau.
- Continuing to follow the COVID-19 Public Health Order for mandatory vaccinations. All Rāwhiti School staff are fully vaccinated.

In addition to an overview of these general guidelines, we have some information necessary for parents and whānau to know in the "Rāwhiti At Red Level" poster included in the newsletter. Some of this information is provided by the Ministry of Education.

School drop off and pick up

Under the Red Protection Framework setting, parents and whānau are encouraged to refrain from coming onto the school site unless absolutely necessary. Due to this, we ask that you drop your tamariki off at the gates and please wear a face-covering to protect yourself and our school community. Staff will be waiting at these gates to welcome your tamariki.

We ask that parents and whānau do not enter the learning studios. Information provided to schools is very clear on this guideline. While it may seem like an overreaction, we are required to limit parents and whānau from being within a 1m physical distance to Rāwhiti School tamariki, other than their own children.

If you are coming in the school gate, please wear a face covering and maintain a 1m physical distance from others, including Rāwhiti tamariki.

If your children are feeling anxious or require transition support, please get in touch with your child's kaiawhina teacher to work through an arrangement to support this.

Rāwhiti School at the Red setting of Covid Protection Framework continued ...

Face coverings

Staff and tamariki in Years 4–8 are required to wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at the Red setting. Masks are voluntary for all other tamariki. Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single-use, disposable masks (medical masks) and reusable fabric masks with three layers.

Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some helpful advice from Michigan Health, including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books or letting them choose/make the mask.

Managing Illness

We require all parents and whānau to keep any unwell children at home and notify the office via email or phone of their absence. If children show any signs of being unwell, a parent/caregiver will be contacted immediately and asked to collect them, ***along with any siblings*** who are at school that day. Please know we understand the inconvenience this could cause, but we are required to do all we can to protect the health and wellbeing of our Rāwhiti School tamariki. We encourage you to seek medical advice to identify if you or your child may need to be tested for COVID-19 by calling the Healthline 0800 611 116.

Notifications and managing school cases

We have a contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was in close contact with that person. With Ministry of Health and Education support, we will then promptly advise those contacts of what they need to do and communicate with our community.

Only if the Ministry of Health or Education advises to do so would we consider closing the school for on-site learning and moving to distance learning for everyone. At the Red setting, we are required to keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure the contact details we have on our school management system are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

We have systems and processes to follow if notified of close contacts or confirmed cases in our school community. However, if you have been identified as a confirmed case, please notify us as soon as possible. We will then initiate our action plan with the Ministry of Health and Education and work through these communication processes.

Rāwhiti School at the Red setting of Covid Protection Framework continued ...

We know there have been many cases overseas, and it is likely we will see a much higher number of cases in Aotearoa, New Zealand. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have mild to moderate illness and fully recover in their own homes. However, we know it is vital to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus. As such, we ask you to continue being tested to support us, who are working hard to limit the spread of Omicron in our local community.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, ensuring you and your household have a plan and know what to do. You can find out more about this here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it. Please see links for support.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [support available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.](#)



Update Your Contact Info

It is very important that we have the correct contact information for parents, caregivers and emergency contacts. If you have moved address, changed phone numbers or email address, or your emergency contacts are no longer able to come in an emergency please update these details with the office. In the event of an emergency school closure we are only able to release your child to a person listed in our database as an emergency contact.

Hero App

The Hero app is our primary way of communicating with families information, school events and student achievement. The app is linked to the email address provided at enrolment. If you have changed your email address please update this at the office. Also if you need assistance with logging in, Kim in the office can help you with this. ***Instructions to log in are later in the newsletter.***



Child Absence



Just a reminder that if your child is not going to be coming to school please contact the office before 9am with your child's name and reason for absence by one of the following methods:

- Call the office on 388-9519 and leave an absence message
- Text on 021 0827 1380
- Front page of our website.

Currently if you do not contact the school, you will receive a text from us, which you can reply to. If you don't reply to the text we will call you to follow up on the absence.

You can also contact the office if your child will be away for a long period of time and then you won't have to contact us every day of their absence.

Beach Education



We have been given the opportunity to take part in Surf Life

Saving NZ's Beach Education programme. Children will be learning about water safety including identifying rips and participating in a range of beach and water based activities.

The location of the sessions may have changed from the information sent out at the end of last year. They will now be held as follow:

9-11 February: RMT, PTN and AH (Y1-3) students are going to the North Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

14, 15 February: Tangaroa and AH (Y6-8) students are going to the New Brighton Surf Club.

16-18 February: TM, TWM and AH (Y4, 5) students are now at Waimairi Surf Life Saving.

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.



How 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

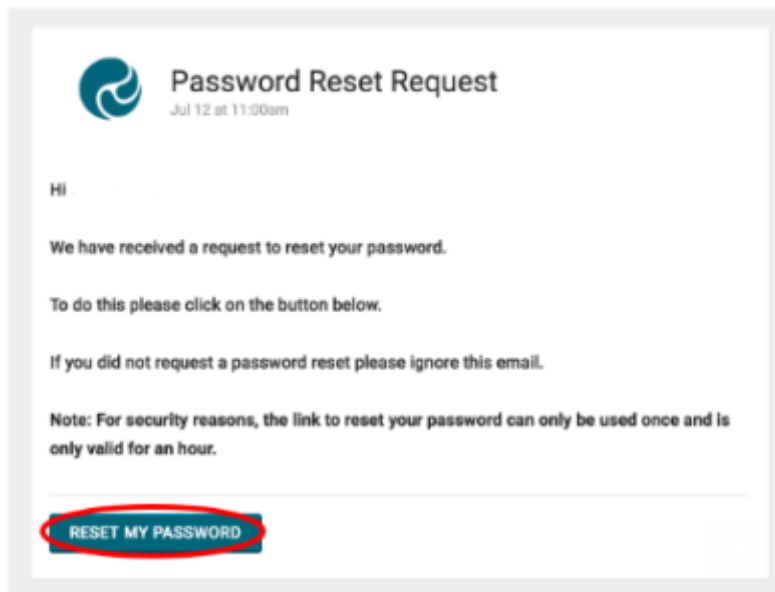
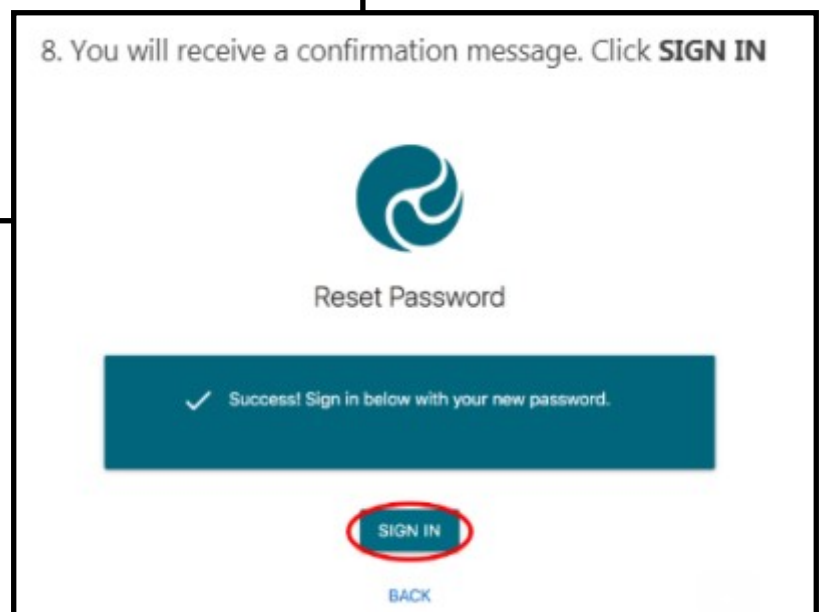


Alternatively, open your browser and enter app.linc-ed.com

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.

6. Open the email and click **RESET MY PASSWORD**7. Enter a secure password (8 or more characters), verify this password then click **SET PASSWORD**A screenshot of a web form titled 'Reset Password'. Below the title is the instruction 'Set your Hero Account password.' There are two input fields: 'New Password' and 'Verify New Password', both with green borders and a small 'i' icon on the right. Below the 'Verify New Password' field is a blue button with the text 'SET PASSWORD' in white, circled in red. At the bottom of the form is a blue link labeled 'BACK'.8. You will receive a confirmation message. Click **SIGN IN**

10. Click **SIGN IN**

Email

myheroparent@gmail.com

Password

••••••••

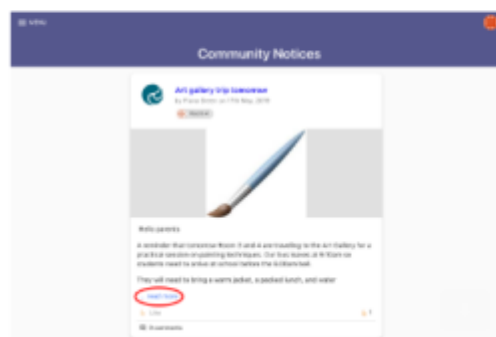
SIGN IN

FORGOT PASSWORD

NEW USER

☒ This is a public device**ONCE YOU HAVE SIGNED IN:**

1. You will see Community notices sent by your child's school. If the text is long, you may need to click **read more** to view the whole message

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you do not have access to a computer at home, or are having difficulties with the instructions, please feel free to come to the office and Kim can assist you.