



Newsletter #6 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 9th May 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 to all our new students and their families. While the weather was not brilliant for the first week of school we hope you felt the warmth of our school community at the mihi whakatau last Monday. Starting a new school is always a memorable milestone, especially when you're turning five. We are excited to be in this journey with you and look forward to many years filled with fun, discovery, and growth.



Last week we celebrated the news that Rāwhiti School were the winners of the Term 1 Wednesday Challenge. The Wednesday Challenge is a national mode shift programme that encourages us out of single-household cars and instead opting to walk, bike, bus, skate, run, scooter or car share to and from school at least one day each week, namely Wednesday. We are looking forward to being presented with the Term 1 prize at our first whole-school assembly for the term on Friday, May 23rd. The challenge is on-going, so let's see how we can do in Term 2!



We also celebrated a small shift in our attendance data for the term with a 3% increase in regular attendance compared to Term 1 of 2024.



**Mark Your
Calendar**

MAY

- 16 Pink Shirt Day
- 16 Y1-3 Cross Country, 2pm
- 19 BOT Meeting, 6pm
- 20 Zones Cross Country
- 21 PTA Meeting, 7pm
- 23 Assembly, 9.15am
- 23 Y5-8 Winter Sport Begins
- 26 New Entrant Cohort #2 Starts
- 27 T3 NE Parent morning tea

JUNE

- 2 SCHOOL CLOSED—King's Birthday Holiday**
- 18 Canterbury Cross Country
- 20 SCHOOL CLOSED—Matariki**
- 23 BOT Meeting, 6pm
- 25 PTA Meeting, 7pm
- 27 Assembly, 9.15am
- 27 Last Day of Term 2

28 June—13 July SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

JULY

- 14 Term 3 begins



*From The Principal continued ...***Term 1 Summary****How many students regularly attended school this term?**
 **Regular Attendance**
56%

Compared to 53% in Term 1, 2024

 **Irregular Absence 28%**

Compared to 31% in Term 1, 2024

 **Moderate Absence 9%**

Compared to 10% in Term 1, 2024

 **Chronic Absence 7%**

Compared to 7% in Term 1, 2024

As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside of our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance. Please think carefully before taking your child out of school for the day if they are not unwell.



At the last PTA meeting for the term, two of our long-serving committee members, **Tam Lindley** and **Gillian Hemingway**, stepped back from their PTA duties after many years of service. Gillian has been Chair, and then Co-Chair for more years than I can remember, and has been the driving force behind our PTA fundraisers and also community events. As a school we are extremely grateful for her time, energy and commitment to providing our Rāwhiti students with the best resources and experiences.

Next week we will be hosting the Education Review Office for our first review in a very long time. We are very much looking forward to sharing our school with the review team and celebrating the progress and achievements of the last six years. Our teachers will be involved in a number of studio observations and extra meetings and so may not be quite as available to you as they usually are.

Ministry of Education Update for Parents

This week the Minister of Education launched a new and informative webspace for parents and whānau, designed to help them support children's learning at home and strengthening the relationship between families, schools and kura.

What is the new webspace and what does it include?

The Parent Portal is an online platform that provides parents and whānau with easy-to-use resources and tools to support their child's education at home. It allows them to work in partnership with their school or kura and to keep informed about what their child is learning, by including:



Continued from the Principal ...

- Year-by-year Curriculum Learning Guides: parent-friendly versions of The New Zealand Curriculum detailing what children are learning, why it's important, and when they'll be learning it.
- Practice activities: activities that parents and whānau can use to support their child's learning at home, such as phonics cards with audio files to model correct sounds.
- Informative videos and resources: videos explaining new assessments like the Phonics Checks and Hihira Weteoro, which help identify additional support a child might need, and resources to help parents prepare for the first day of school and parent-teacher interviews.

The Parent Portal can be accessed here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/your-childs-learning>

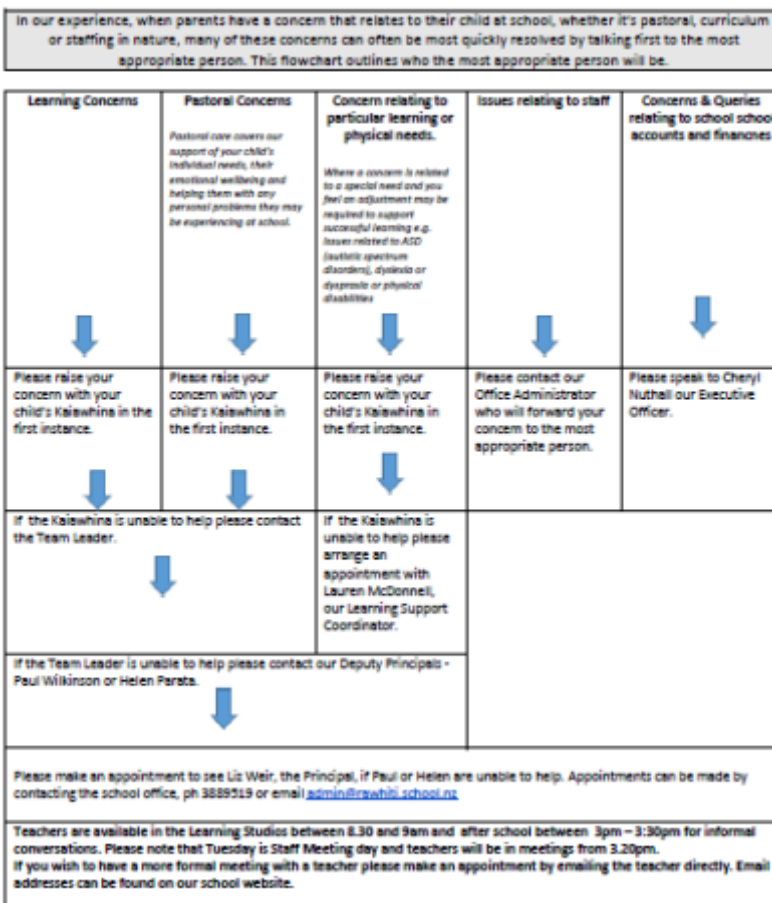
Concerns, Complaints, and Communication

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. 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, partners, 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.

Ngā mihi, Liz Weir

Rāwhiti School Recommended Communication Procedure for Parents





Kia Ora whanau,

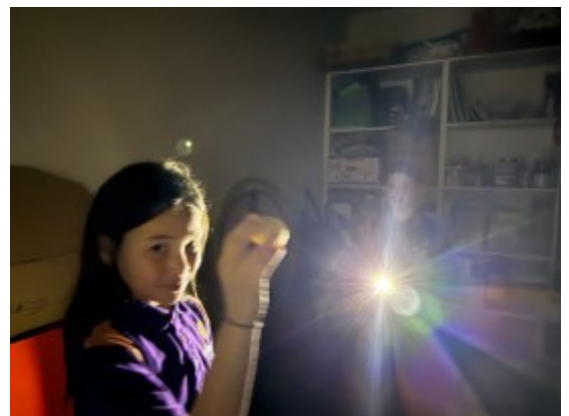
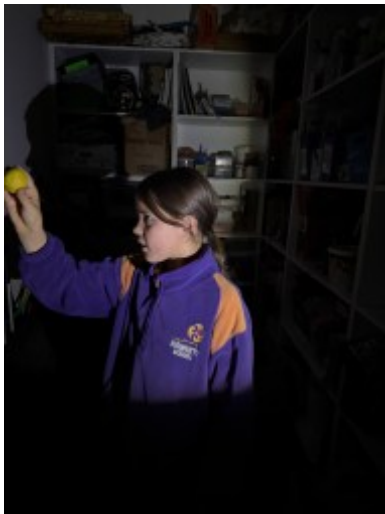
This year the Te Reo O Rāwhiti (student council) seniors have been organising Pink Shirt/Clothes day. We are holding it on **Friday 16th of May**. Rāwhiti School is raising money for Pink Shirt Day NZ which is why we ask that you donate a gold coin to help us.

Come to school in anything pink from pants to hair ties to tutus. Doing this will help raise awareness and spread the message of anti bullying in schools. Thank you in advance.

What's Been Happening in Tāwhirimātea

This term in Tāwhirimātea, we are learning how the moon, sun, stars, and tides shape our world and connect to cultural celebrations.

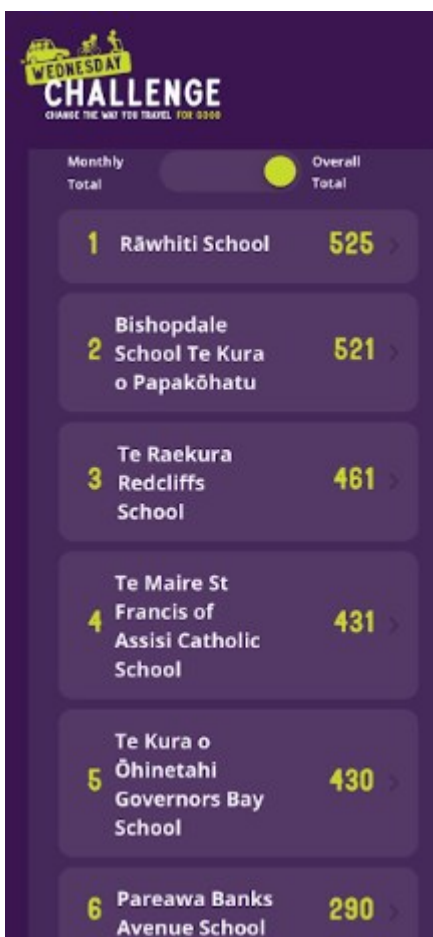
Last week, we looked at the 8 phases of the moon. The children worked in pairs—one pretended to be the Earth, holding a playdough moon, while the other used a torch to be the sun. As the moon moved around the Earth, the torchlight showed the different moon phases.





Exciting news!! Rāwhiti School has topped the Wednesday Challenge leader board for Christchurch schools in Term 1! Bishopdale School provided strong competition, but we beat them by a narrow margin. Our prize is \$500.

Remember, all you have to do is choose to bike, run, skate, walk, take the bus or carpool to school and work every Wednesday. Please keep up the good work and see if we can top the table again this term!



TK Tāima Kōrero Time 2 Talk

THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE VIEWING ONLINE? THINK AGAIN...

Please join us for an informative presentation from Brett Harvey of Tāima Kōrero – Time 2 Talk. Discover what our kids are actually being exposed to online, what they are doing with this content, and how we as parents can protect them from the harmful effects of online material.

7pm, Tuesday, May 13
Queenspark Te Hua Mānuka School Hall
222 Queenspark Drive

Register Here: tinyurl.com/Queenspark-Korero

Proudly brought to you by Queenspark Te Hua Mānuka & Parkview Pūrua School in collaboration with Mana Ake

Kia ora e te whanau

Te Reo 4 Toddlers



Everyone is welcome to this informal group which provides a great basis for learning te reo for young and old.

We have a variety of waiata, (action songs) and kemu (games) with poi and rakau, each teaching us more tamariki-friendly vocab.

We meet every **Friday** (during term time) at **10am at St Faiths Church**, New Brighton (the venue is behind the church)
Ka kite kotou.