



Newsletter #15 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 7th November 2025

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principals - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

We have had another busy few weeks. Athletics day was fun and great to see so many children participating and giving it their best. Congratulations to all those who made it through to the Eastern Zone competition and those who found success there and have made it to the Canterbury athletics competition. The Year 1 - 3 athletics is coming up on 18th November.



Our students recently took part in a learning experience connected to **SCAPE Public Art**, Christchurch's annual outdoor art event that brings large-scale contemporary artworks into everyday city spaces. SCAPE showcases works from local and international artists, turning streets, parks, and public areas into open-air galleries. Students

discussed how art can connect people, tell stories, and transform public spaces. They then entered a competition where they had the opportunity to bring their art to life. Two of our students were chosen and attended Matatiki Hornby Library, where they brought their art work to life. Congratulations to Koa (Tāne Mahuta) and Eliza (Tangaroa) who have art work on display at Tūranga (Christchurch Central Library).

Thank you all for your support over the strike day. We appreciate your messages of support for teachers and support staff, and your understanding of the challenges our education system is facing. You may have seen news reports over the last few weeks about the new Mathematics and English curriculum and the draft curriculum for other learning areas. While these changes will take us some time to fully understand and implement, what has not changed is the great teaching that happens every day at Rāwhiti School. Our staff are dedicated to planning great lessons that help children progress in their learning. For 2025 our reporting will be in line with the curriculum statements that we have been working with this year. We will give you more information in 2026 as the assessment and reporting expectations from the Ministry of Education are made clearer.



Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 14 NO SCHOOL - Canterbury Anniversary Day**
- 18 Junior Athletics Day 1-3pm**
- 26 Canterbury Athletics**
- 26 PTA Meeting 7-8pm**
- 27 Te Ara Tūhura Cultural Festival 5-7pm—St Francis of Assisi School**

DECEMBER

- 1 Board Meeting @ 6pm**
- 1-5 Y8 Dunedin Camp**
- 11 Y8 Formal**
- 12 Rumbustification Day**
- 15 Showcase Assembly @ 1:30pm**
- 16 Leaver's Assembly 6-7:30pm**
- 17 Last Day of Term**
School finishes at 12pm



Zone Athletics

Tuesday 4th November saw 66 children head to Rāwhiti domain to the New Brighton Athletics club to attend the Eastern Zone athletics day. These tamariki had done extremely well at our school athletics day and qualified for the zones.

The weather was very warm for the day and all those involved did extremely well competing against the other schools in our zone. There are now 20 children from Rāwhiti school that have qualified for Canterbury's which will be held on Wednesday 26th November at Ngā Puna Wai.



Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for a student's academic success and overall well-being. When students are present and on time, they are better able to engage with lessons, build relationships with peers and teachers, and stay on track with their learning.

Student Attendance Expectations

Our primary expectation is that **all students attend school every day** unless there is a valid reason for absence.

- **Be Present:** Consistent attendance ensures students don't miss essential classroom instruction, group activities, or important announcements.
- **Be on Time:** Students should arrive punctually to class, ready to learn. Lateness disrupts instruction for everyone.
- **Late Arrivals:** Must sign in on the vistab tablet at the office.

Reporting an Absence: What Parents Need to Do

We understand that students will occasionally need to miss school due to illness or other unavoidable reasons. When an absence occurs, **parents/guardians must notify the school office before the start of the school day** (e.g., before 9:00 AM).

When you contact the school, please provide the following details:

1. **Student's Full Name and Class**
2. **Date(s) of the Absence**
3. **The specific reason** for the absence (e.g., fever, doctor's appointment, family emergency). It is important that you provide a reason because we have to code absences differently for different reasons. If you do not contact school or you do not provide a reason your child will be marked as **Truant**.

How to Report:

- **Hero app:** Make a notification in the Hero app (preferred method)
- **Call:** 3889519 and leave a message on the answer phone
- **School website:** There is a form on the front page of our school website.
- **Email:** admin@rawhiti.school.nz

Please note: Absences will be marked as **unexplained** until the school receives notification from a parent/guardian explaining the reason. Consistent unexplained absences may require follow-up with the school administration.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your child has the best possible learning experience. Consistent attendance truly makes a difference!

Measles

- Measles is circulating and is very contagious. There is now measles in Northland, Auckland, Manawatu, Nelson and Wellington, and we expect further cases across New Zealand.
- Watch out for symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, and a blotchy rash:

[Measles – Health New Zealand](#)



- Anyone with measles symptoms must stay at home and should seek urgent advice by ringing their doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116.
- Anyone who is closely exposed to a measles case must stay at home. Health New Zealand will provide individuals with advice on a case-by-case basis (including when they can leave quarantine at home).
- Health New Zealand is actively working with the schools that currently have measles cases.
- People are considered immune to measles after having two doses of a measles vaccine from 12 months or older, or if you have had measles before. For more information on measles immunity visit:

Walk or Wheel to School Week

From the 13-17 of October we had walk or wheel to school week - Move It Monday, Travel Together Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Funky Feet Friday!

All the cards that were bought back at the end of the week went into a draw for a range of prizes including drink bottles, hi-viz vests, stretchy shoes laces, bike bells and croc accessories.

Congratulations to Griffin, Roman and Lucas from Aotahi; Micah from Papatūānuku; Lulu, Opal and Isaac and Scarlett from Tāne Māhuta; and Ryder, Jacqueline, and Charlie M from Tawhirimātea.

Overdue Accounts

At Rāwhiti School we try hard to keep costs for activities to a minimum. School pays for, or significantly subsidises, much of the cost for extra activities. We do not charge for activities directly related to curriculum learning. We also do not charge for trips in our school vans. We are allowed to charge for things like camp, transport for school trips (when we need a bus), extra curricular sport like basketball and Koru Games, optional activities like "Dancing like the Stars", EPro8 competitions, ICAS tests etc, and the take home materials cost for Year 7 and 8 technology. At the moment we have \$16,000 of overdue balances. Cheryl emailed accounts out last week and we would appreciate you making payment to clear what is owed. You can always see your current balance owed on the Hero app or contact Cheryl in the office and she will help you.

We encourage families to set up a regular automatic payment. If you paid \$5 a fortnight from the time your child starts school you would be close to paying for every extra activity your child might want to participate in. Some families pay \$5 or \$10 a week and this more than covers any extra cost. Some even get a refund in Year 8.

We also understand that for some families any cost is a challenge. Rather than your children missing out on extra activities we encourage you to come and talk with us so that we can work out a payment plan or help you find funding from other sources.

Athletics Day**Written by Eliza**

On Monday it was athletics day. This was my group's last athletics day at Rāwhiti and you could really see that we were making the most of it. Even though it was windy and hot, everyone pushed themselves to their limits and gave it their all. I'm also very proud to say that the senior relay team bet the teachers for the second year in a row! Congratulations to everyone who made it into zones. Show the Eastern side of Christchurch what Rāwhiti's made of!

School Production**Written by Mayan and Alexia**

Last week, we had our school production about celebrations. Our class did a performance about the story of Diwali, which is a Hindu celebration. We did not get to see everything, but we know that everyone did a great job! The whole production was meant to celebrate 10 years of Rawhiti School. Both nights were sold out, so we hope you enjoyed seeing the results of all our practice.

Our class's performance was made up of several parts. The Colourful Dance went on stage first. It was a group of people wearing fishnet gloves and tutus, and they performed a dance along to a happy song with lots of instruments, representing the light. After that, there was the Black and White dance to a slowed instrumental song. This represented the dark, the demon king in the Diwali myth. We spent ages practising. We suspect the Colourful Dance people did just as many practices.

The whole message is that light will always win over darkness. This was followed by a protest scene, then students walked into the darkened hall carrying Diwali candles, to reinforce the message that we can also fight the things that seem dangerous in our world.

In the last scene, which is when everyone goes on stage and sways and high-fives each other to represent everyone coming together and being united.

After us was Tane Mahuta and Tawhirimatea, and it was cool watching them because their stories were clear and we could tell what was happening very easily.

At the end of the production, two of the children from our class went up on the stage and gave Talei and Fi a bouquet of flowers each to thank them for organising the production.

We think it was a really cool thing for the school to do. It was really fun performing and watching everyone else perform different stories.

We hope we get to do it again sometime.

Crest Clean Competition

Last term, Crest Clean held a competition to find the tidiest classroom, and Tāwhirimātea proudly took out the top spot for six out of ten weeks. As a reward, we enjoyed a delicious pizza shout on the 31st of October. The competition will return in Term 1, giving us another chance to show our tidy teamwork!



The Lions Music Festival

Our senior choir proudly performed in **The Lions Christchurch Music Festival** at the Christchurch Town Hall on Wednesday night, one of Canterbury's longest-running celebrations of music and youth talent. They worked hard over the past term, learning a wide range of choral pieces and preparing for this special event. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see them shine on stage.



PTA News



Welcome to the PTA corner, here we'll post any pānui (notices) and let you know how you can join, get in touch or help out.

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to any new members. Our **next PTA is hui Wednesday 26th November, 7pm** in the staff room, please come join us for some kai and kōrero, all welcome.



Riddle

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs...?



It's almost that time of year again... the PTA are starting preparation for the great Rāwhiti Christmas raffle and are interested in hearing from anyone connected to a business who may be able to donate any food related products or vouchers for the hampers, or perhaps even sponsor the Christmas Ham. If so, please reach out to the PTA, contact details are below.

Any questions, suggestions or feedback for the PTA, we'd love to hear your whakaaro (thoughts)! So please email us at pta@rawhiti.school.nz. Our Executive Team members are Co-Chairs Brooke Frew and Bonne Beconsall, Treasurer Geoff Walker and Secretary Jess Brown. A copy of the PTA constitution and previous meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/pta>

(iddle answer – a clock)

Join our schools to celebrate the **TE ARA TŪHURA CULTURAL FESTIVAL**



27th November 2025
5:00PM- 7:00PM



St Francis of Assisi School
370 Innes Road

Although Kapa Haka is our focus some of our schools have some other dances to share this year as well!

Schedule

- Welcome begins at 5:00
- Te Rito Harakeke Marshland
- Te Maire St Francis of Assisi
- Pūtahi Belfast
- Mairehau High School
- New Brighton Catholic
- Mairehau Primary
- Rāwhiti
- Te Ara Tūhura (all of us!)

Kai will be available to buy or bring a picnic from home! Chairs and rugs are a great idea too. All whānau welcome



Term 4, 2025 & 2026 - Rāwhiti School - Optional Chromebook Purchase



Uru Manuka Education Trust
c/- 35 Amyes Road
Hornby
Christchurch
8042

Purchase Bundle includes

1. Acer C736 Chromebook
2. 3 year manufacturer's warranty
3. Bag - Targus Education Work-in Clamshell with 3 year manufacturer's warranty.
4. Your Chromebook comes with cover for the costs of up to 3 repairs and/or 1 replacement of devices, accidentally lost and damaged - associated to an Acer Device Care Programme. This is not an insurance product, it is an incident repair service offered with Acer Chromebooks devices for the Manaiaakalani Education Trust.

Amount

\$555.00 GST inc**Payment Required Before Order Processed**

Please select payment type when ordering: full payment through internet banking or WINZ support.

Please complete the form and make a payment through internet banking

<https://www.urumanuka.org.nz/buy-a-chromebook>

For delivery before Christmas, orders must be placed and payment made by Thursday, 4th December. All chromebooks are delivered directly to schools.
Any orders received after this date, will be delivered at the end of January 2026.

Payment details :

Uru Mānuka Education Trust: ASB 12-3441-0091909-00

Please include the following details with your payment

Particulars (Student First Name)

Reference (School Name)

Code (Student Surname)

If you have trouble, contact your school office who will help you through the process.

Schools whose learners can access this Bundle: Hornby Primary, Gilberthorpe, Hornby High School,

Wigram, South Hornby, Yaldhurst, Mairehau High, New Brighton Catholic, Pūtahi Belfast, Rawhiti,

Marshland, St Francis of Assisi, Linwood College.

Terms & Conditions: Offer is not available in store.

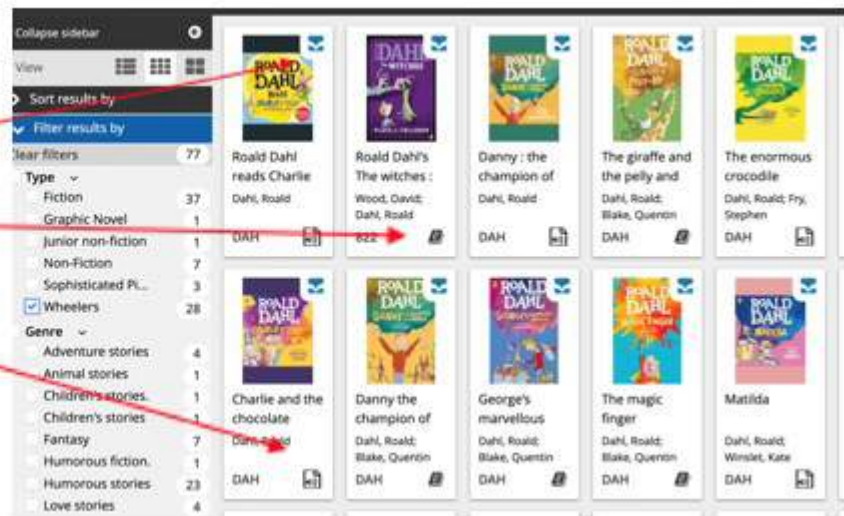
Rāwhiti School's eBook & Audiobooks (Wheelers ePlatform):

We have renewed our Audiobook subscription! Want to keep children reading over the holidays or listening to stories? Why not access our ePlatform...it's free!

All eBooks and Audiobooks will be display when searching for books on the Web OPAC at:

library.rawhiti.school.nz

Look for the Wheelers icon and the 'e' and sound icon



Look for the Wheelers icon and the 'e' and

sound icon or you can go to the direct link: <https://rawhitischool.wheelers.co/>

eBooks and Audiobooks can be issued for two weeks and there is a limit of two issues per user.

Students will need to use their library number and password to login and download eBooks or Audiobooks. This is the same password used for our Web OPAC.

If you have a device, you can download the Wheelers ePlatform app!

Download ePlatform App - <https://goo.gl/SIC6ft>

Any questions or you need your child's login details please contact Elizabeth or Sue at library@rawhiti.school.nz

Download the ePlatform App





We have collated a collection of blog posts for our 'Spring Blog Fest.' Check out what some students have been blogging about from Ata Hāpara, Tangaroa, Tāne Mahuta and Tāwhirimātea.

If you have access to Google Slides you can view the slide deck here - <https://bit.ly/SpringBlogFest>

AKO/Learn:

Jude - [explanation blog post](#)

Mahalia - [Explanation reflection](#)

Luca C - [Football quiz](#)

Micah - [environment](#).

Papatūānuku Studio Blog - [Money and Patterns](#)

HANGA/Create:

Isla-Jade - [CRT](#)

Jesse K - [The missing socks](#)

Kaumudi - [My Kensuke's Kingdom Diorama](#)

Rosalie - [Digging for Kauri gum](#)

Tilda - [The best Poem OH NO](#)

Papatūānuku - [Who Am I?](#)

Rongo mā tāne - [Measuring Expedition](#)

TOHATOHA/Share:

Brenyn - [Holes](#)

Lacey - [Rapaki Marae Trip](#) □ **Lulu** - [My novel study review](#)

Abigail - [This Weeks Learning](#)

Celebration:

Jake - [2025 School Production](#)

Amrin - [Production Reflection](#)

Papatūānuku Studio Blog - [Lights, Camera, Action!!!](#)

Mānuka Stories School Reading Competition 2025!

Rāwhiti School Students are reading there was to 5K of books by 28th November, so far we've read.

Help us reach our goal by:

- Reading to or with child/children at home. Books sent home (in book bags) count! Junior Teachers will tally up the amount read each day and complete a blossom with the number of books read.
- Students can listen to Audiobooks, read eBooks
- Head into our Whare Matauranga and look for the Blossom BOX! Fill in a blossom and put this in the box



Second-Hand Uniforms

We have a good supply of second-hand uniforms available at the office. Come get them before they're gone!

Fleeces-\$10

Shirts- \$5