



Newsletter #1 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: Thursday 12th February 2026

*E ara ake ana i te ūruhi*  
*Rising Above The Ordinary*

## *Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki—From The Principal*

Kia ora koutou!

What a wonderful start to the year it has been. It has been such a joy to see our school filled with smiling faces, busy classrooms, and the energy that comes with a new beginning. There's something very special about this time of year as routines settle in and friendships reconnect.

My heart was truly filled on the first day of kura with the very warm pōwhiri I received, alongside our new tamariki and staff. What a wonderful way to begin our school year together as one big whānau. Over the past week, I have genuinely appreciated the opportunity to meet so many of you at the gate and around the school. Thank you for the warm welcome, the friendly conversations, and the sense of community you've already shared with me. Strong partnerships between home and kura matter deeply to me, and I am really looking forward to getting to know our whānau and tamariki even more as the term unfolds.

As this is the first newsletter of the year, we've included a few updates to help us all get off to a great start. Our newsletter comes out fortnightly, and your child's studio will also send weekly updates so you can stay connected with learning, upcoming events, and all the exciting things happening at kura.



### **FEBRUARY**

18—School Picnic, 5pm

23—Board hui, 6pm

27—Assembly, 9:15am

27—School swimming sports

### **MARCH**

17—Zone swimming

20—PTA Colour Fun Run, 2pm

26—Yr 5/6 Canterbury swimming

26—Junior School disco, 2pm

26—Middle School disco, 4pm

27—Yr 7/8 Canterbury swimming

### **APRIL**

2—Final day for Term 1



***Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki—From The Principals cont...***

If you didn't already know, we also have a list of frequently asked questions on our school website titled "A-Z Rāwhiti FAQs." It's a helpful page with useful information about many aspects of school life, so I encourage you to take a look if you have any questions.

We're really looking forward to seeing you at our school-wide picnic on **Wednesday 18 February at 5.00pm** on the front lawn. Please bring your own kai, along with a picnic blanket or chairs (or simply enjoy sitting on the grass). It will be a lovely chance to come together as one big whānau and celebrate the start of the year. Mr Whippy will also be joining us, so feel free to purchase a sweet treat if you'd like.

I'm excited for all that this term will bring and feel grateful to be part of such a special community.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Jody Hohaia O'Sullivan

**2026 Term Dates****Term 1**

Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April

**Term 2**

Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July

**Term 3**

Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

**Term 4**

Monday 12 October to Wednesday 16 December

**Teacher Only Days**

Friday 28 August

Thursday 12 November

**Public holidays:**

Waitangi Day Friday 6 February, Anzac Day – Saturday 25 April (Anzac Day observed on Monday 27 April) and King's Birthday – Monday 1 June, Labour Day – Monday 26 October, Canterbury Anniversary (Show Day) Friday 13 November!

**Arrival Time**

We love seeing our tamariki arrive ready for a great day! For everyone's safety, please ensure your child enters the school grounds from 8:30am onwards, when teachers are on duty. Thank you for helping us start the day safely and smoothly.





*Whānau*  
**PICNIC**  
*at Rāwhiti*

Bring the whānau and your picnic dinner.  
An opportunity to meet the teaching staff and mix with other families in our school community.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

*Mc Whippy available to purchase*

Wednesday 18 Feb 5- 6:30 pm At Rāwhiti School

The poster features a purple background with a string of orange and white triangular bunting at the top. On the right, there is a circular inset image showing a group of people sitting on a white blanket on a grassy field, eating and talking. Below the main text, there are three circular icons: a stylized 'W' in a circle, a clock face showing 5:00, and a location pin icon. The background of the poster also shows a blurred image of a picnic basket filled with fruit like grapes and apples.

**Gate info for whānau**

A reminder that bikes may be ridden into and out of school up the western path. Otherwise bikes are to be walked within the school grounds. During the school day bikes are only to be ridden on the bike track. (helmets and shoes are compulsory). Wheels (Scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, wheely shoes) are to remain south of the bridges. If you are bringing **wheels** to kura, **please make sure** you also bring a **lock** as these are not to be stored in the classroom.

Rāwhiti School has 5 gates into the school from Leaver Terrace.  
The 4 pedestrian pathways are shared.



**Break Times**

Block 1: 9:00 am – 10:30 am  
 Morning play break: 10:30 am – 10:50 am  
 Morning tea: 10:50am – 11.00 am  
 Block 2: 11.00 am – 12:00 pm  
 Lunch play break: 12:00 pm – 12:30pm  
 Lunch eating: 12:30 pm – 12:45 pm  
 Block 3: 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm  
 Afternoon break: 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm  
 Block 4: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**2026 Learning Concept**

Our learning concept for 2026 is Tirohanga/Investigation. Investigation is all about looking deeply and carefully, being curious and inquiring. It is the action of investigating something or someone; a formal or systematic examination or research.

We're excited to see our tamariki engage in Tirohanga across their learning this year, and we encourage whānau to celebrate discoveries and conversations about what their children are investigating at kura.

Rapua te mea ngaro, te kura huna. Seek that which is hidden.

This term, we are focusing on the Health & Physical Education curriculum. Some examples of what students will be investigating are ways to maintain their own health and wellbeing, how to keep safe online, body systems, how our bodies are like machines, how germs spread, and so much more! The Life Education van will also be at school from next week and all classes will be timetabled to these lessons.

**Road Patrol Training**

Our senior student road patrollers have now completed their training with Constable Jeff and you will see them operating our crossing at the end of each day. Thank you for your support and patience as they undertake this important role to keep our students safe.

Reminder: the red speed hump is not a crossing, and cars are not obliged to stop for pedestrians.

**Can you help?**

Do you have spare lavalava, pāreu or sarongs at home that you would be happy to donate? We want to build a set that can remain at school for our students to wear during their Pasifika group practices. You are welcome to drop them off at the office or to Lou in Tāne Mahuta studio. Fa'afetai, Malo 'aupito, fakaaue lahi.

**Hero**

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 Jenna 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.

## Uniform Reminders

It has been wonderful to see our students looking so smart and proud in their uniforms as we begin the year. Thank you for your support in helping maintain our high standards.

To ensure consistency across the school, we would like to remind whānau of the following expectations:



## Rāwhiti School Uniform

Uniform can be purchased through the school office  
or <http://rawhitiuniform.bigimpact.co.nz/>

### Pair the Rāwhiti polo shirt with any plain black lower-half items.

Plain black shorts, skirts, skorts, tracksuit pants, cargo pants or other school style trousers.

Jeans, casual 'drop crotch' pants, items made of lace, leather or vinyl are not permitted.



### Add the Rāwhiti polar fleece, or a long sleeved black or white thermal under the polo for warmth.

Year 7 & 8 students may choose to wear a regulation polar fleece, or a Rāwhiti Senior jacket.

### Footwear should be appropriate for school and physical activities

e.g. leather school shoes, sandals, sneakers, sports shoes. Jandals, boots, or shoes with high heels are not permitted.

Black or white plain ankle or knee length socks, or plain black tights.

### Sunhats must be worn in Terms 1 & 4



- **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 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 multi coloured hair accessories are to be worn. Hair styles must allow sun hats to be worn in terms one and four.
- **Makeup is not permitted.** (including fake nails & eyelashes)



## Are you wearing the correct uniform?

### ON TOP:

- School polo shirt
- School polar fleece or Y7/8 senior jacket
- Black or white thermal under polo shirt

### LOWER HALF:

- Plain black shorts, skirt, pants, skorts
- White or black socks, or black tights
- Shoes suitable for physical activities

### EXTRAS:

- Sunhat in Term 1 & 4
- Stud earrings only
- A watch
- Taonga
- Hair off the face
- School coloured hair accessories
- No makeup



You can find the full uniform description on our school website

Wearing the correct uniform helps our tamariki feel part of the Rāwhiti whānau. If a student arrives in non-uniform items, the office can provide a loan item, such as a school shirt or black shorts, for the day. We appreciate your ongoing support in helping our tamariki represent our kura with pride.

### Road Patrol Training

Our senior student road patrollers have now completed their training with Constable Jeff and you will see them operating our crossing at the end of each day. Thank you for your support and patience as they undertake this important role to keep our students safe.

Reminder: the red speed hump is not a crossing, and cars are not obliged to stop for pedestrians.

### Do you need to 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.

### 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.

#### Rāwhiti School Recommended Communication Procedure for Parents

In our experience, when parents have a concern that relates to their child at school, whether it's pastoral, curriculum or staffing in nature, many of these concerns can often be most quickly resolved by talking first to the most appropriate person. This flowchart outlines who the most appropriate person will be.

Learning Concerns	Pastoral Concerns <i>Pastoral care covers our support of your child's individual needs, their emotional wellbeing and helping them with any personal problems they may be experiencing at school.</i>	Concern relating to particular learning or physical needs. <i>Where a concern is related to a special need and you feel an adjustment may be required to support successful learning e.g. issues related to ASD (autistic spectrum disorders), dyslexia or dyspraxia or physical disabilities</i>	Issues relating to staff	Concerns & Queries relating to school school accounts and finances
Please raise your concern with your child's Kaiawhina in the first instance.	Please raise your concern with your child's Kaiawhina in the first instance.	Please raise your concern with your child's Kaiawhina in the first instance.	Please contact the Principal's PA, Kim Allen, who will forward your concern to the most appropriate person.	Please speak to Cheryl Nuthall, our Executive Officer.
If the Kaiawhina is unable to help please contact the Team Leader.		If the Kaiawhina is unable to help please arrange an appointment with Lauren McDonnell, our Learning Support Coordinator.		
If the Team Leader is unable to help please contact one of our Deputy Principal - Helen Parata or Paul Wilkinson.				
Please make an appointment to see Liz Weir, the Principal, if a DP is unable to help. Appointments can be made by contacting Kim Allen, the Principal's PA, ph 3889519 or email <a href="mailto:admin@rawhiti.school.nz">admin@rawhiti.school.nz</a>				
Teachers are available in the Learning Studios between 8.30am - 9am and after school between 3pm - 3.30pm for informal conversations. Please note that Tuesday is Staff Meeting day and teachers will be in meetings from 3.20pm. If you wish to have a more formal meeting with a teacher please make an appointment by emailing the teacher directly. Email addresses can be found on our school website.				

### Do you need to 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.



## PTA News



Welcome to the PTA corner! Here we'll post any pānui (notices) and let you know how you can join, help or get in touch. We'd love to hear your whakaaro (thoughts) and feedback on how to make our kura even more awesome!

We hope everyone had a lovely summer break and **nau mai haere mai, welcome, to all our new Rāwhiti School families for 2026.** We'd love to see some new faces on the PTA and have great representation across all the studios, so please come join us for some kai and kōrero at our first meeting of the year.



Next PTA hui is **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm** in the staff room.

**Riddle** "What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years...?"



The PTA, with the support of the office staff, offer second hand uniform sales. So, if your child has had a growth spurt over summer, new to Rāwhiti or now moved on, you can support this PTA fundraiser by donating and/or purchasing uniform items (including black shorts, pants or skorts). **Prices from \$5**, supply and condition will vary. **REMINDER** – to label all uniform items as unnamed and unclaimed items may end up for sale.

Any questions, suggestions or feedback for the PTA please email us at [pta@rawhiti.school.nz](mailto: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>

*(riddle answer – the letter 'm')*