



Newsletter # 2- Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: Thursday 26th February 2026

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki—From The Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

What a fantastic start to the year it has been! Tamariki are full of energy, settling into their studios, building strong routines, and showing our values in action every day.

We are delighted to welcome two new teacher aides to our team this week. Matua Koiauruterangi Fraser (Koia) and Whaea Rubie Cleine-Beaman have joined us, and we are thrilled to have their support for our tamariki and kura.

Across the kura, tamariki are engaging with our 2026 learning concept, Tirohanga/Investigation. They are exploring the world around them, asking questions, thinking deeply, and bringing curiosity to life in their studios.

Over the past few weeks, tamariki have enjoyed many rich learning experiences. Life Education has helped them see how choices today can influence their future wellbeing and the visit from Harold the giraffe brought smiles all around. Cycle Safety sessions are helping students gain confidence and practical skills to stay safe on the road.

Our Year 7 and 8 students returned from an amazing camp at Spencer Park. They walked from school (9kms!), planned and cooked their own meals, explored the taiao, pitched their own tents, and took part in a wide range of activities that built teamwork, independence, and resilience. We are incredibly proud of how they represented themselves and our kura. A big thank you to all the staff and wonderful parents who made this happen.

Last night, our first Team Rāwhiti (PTA) hui for the year had a great turnout. It was wonderful to see our community coming together. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.

A special congratulations to the 2026 members of Te Reo o Rāwhiti (The Voice of Rāwhiti - Student Council), who were elected by their studio peers and teachers. Their first hui was full of exciting ideas and plans for our school and community. Watch this space!

A reminder that our first school assembly is tomorrow at 9.15am in the school hall. Papatūānuku will lead the assembly with support from Te Reo o Rāwhiti

Thank you to our whānau and community for your ongoing support and partnership.



FEBRUARY

27—Assembly, 9:15am

MARCH

6—Swimming Sports

— Junior School Razzle Dazzle

Riders Afternoon

17—Zone swimming

26— Yr 5/6 Canterbury swimming

26—Junior School disco, 2pm

26—Middle School disco, 4pm

27—Yr 7/8 Canterbury swimming

Assembly, 9:15am

30—Board Meeting, 6pm

APRIL

2—Final day for Term 1



Year 6 Cycle Safety

In Week 2, our Year 6 students took part in the CCC Cycle Safety programme designed to build their confidence and skills when riding on and around roads. Across two days, they learned important safety rules, safe riding techniques, and how to make smart decisions to keep themselves and others safe while cycling. This valuable opportunity supports independence, responsibility, and the development of lifelong road safety skills.



PALs training

Yesterday, a group of keen Year 5 & 6 students spent the morning at Parakiore with Sport Canterbury training to be our school's Physical Activity Leaders (PALs). The PALs programme develops student's abilities to lead and promote physical activity opportunities for their peers.

These students, Atawhai, Georgia, Ida, Leo, Lulu, Mason, Rosalie, Tilly, Zoe, with support from Amy, will champion the benefits of play and sport and recreational activity within our kura, running games and physical activities during breaks for our younger students.



Walk or Wheel to School Week

From next week (Monday 2 March) our school is participating in Walk or Wheel to School Week, a fun and action-packed week that promotes walking and wheeling to school. Students can fill in the passport card from their teacher to go into their studio prize draw.

- **Move It Monday** - Blast off the week with an active adventure! Walk, wheel, skip, or scoot your way to school and start the week with an active commute.
- **Travel Together Tuesday** - Celebrate by walking and wheeling to school with friends and whanau.
- **Wacky Wednesday** – Wear something bright. Look bright, be bright, stay bright!
- **Thoughtful Thursday** - Help the planet. Active travel supports a healthier environment. What else can you do to help?
- **Funky Feet Friday** - It's time to dress up those feet. Decorate your shoes, wear something wild, or strut in your silliest socks. Glitter, feathers, gumboots, anything goes!



Can you help?

Our school bikes need a bit of a tune-up and some maintenance. Are you handy with bike repairs and assembling bicycles? Would you be able to help with some regular upkeep of this amazing resource? We'd love your help!

If you can help, please get in touch - helen@rawhiti.school.nz. We can be flexible with times that suit - during the day, after school or even a weekend.

Attendance

The New Zealand Government has made this a priority, and we wholeheartedly agree: being at school consistently is key to a child's success. When your child attends school regularly, they not only keep up with their learning but also build strong friendships and feel a true sense of belonging.

It's also important for children to arrive at school before the 9 am bell. This gives them time to connect with their teacher, unpack their bag, greet their friends, and get ready for a great day of learning.

Even missing just one or two days, or arriving late regularly, can make it harder for children to keep up with friendships, daily routines, and schoolwork. When they are here regularly and on time, their confidence grows, they stay connected, and they feel like they truly belong. We understand that sickness happens, and sometimes children need time to recover at home. But please remember, every day truly counts. If getting to school becomes a challenge, we are always here to help.



Rāwhiti School has clear attendance policies, and we report our attendance data regularly to the Ministry of Education.

Here's a quick guide to the attendance categories we use:

- Regular Attendance: Attending over 90% of the time, which means missing fewer than 5 days in a term.
- Irregular Absence: Attending between 80% and 90%, meaning 5 to 9 days absent in a term.
- Moderate Absence: Attending between 70% and 80%, meaning 10 to 14 days absent in a term.
- Chronic Absence: Attending 70% or less, meaning more than 15 days absent in a term.

A Special Announcement: Helen Parata's Next Chapter

It is with mixed emotions that we share that Helen Parata will be leaving her role as Deputy Principal at Rāwhiti School at the end of Term 1. Helen has dedicated 20 years to teaching, leading, and serving at both North New Brighton and Rāwhiti Schools. Her commitment to our tamariki, staff, and community has been extraordinary, and she has played a key role in shaping the kura we know today, including guiding North New Brighton School through the merger that created Rāwhiti School.

Helen has accepted an amazing opportunity as the Founding Deputy Principal of Te Mātaitihi, a brand-new school to be built in Halswell. Very few people have the chance to help build a school from scratch, and we are so proud that Helen has been chosen for this remarkable role, knowing she is the perfect person to lead and shape this new kura.

We are deeply grateful for everything Helen has contributed over her 20 years of service. Her dedication, care, and leadership have left a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed by all of us. We look forward to celebrating Helen and her incredible contribution at the end of this term and wish her every success in her new role. Nō rātou te whiwhi!



2026 Te Reo o Rāwhiti - Elected Student Council

Tangaroa:

Niko P, Matai C, Kera K

Tāwhirimātea:

Tikaia T, Tilly T

Tāne Mahuta:

Mateo K, Izzy D

Ata Hāpara:

Oliver R, Atawhai

C-S, Irāia O

Papatūānuku:

Miles A, Ivy H

Rongo-mā-tāne

Oscar B, Kaio M





Team Rāwhiti News

(formerly known as the PTA)



Welcome to the newly branded Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Corner!
Our new name 'Team Rāwhiti' embodies more of who we are and what we do "we are more than just sausage sizzles" – Jody

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!

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to all our new members and friends of Team Rāwhiti (PTA). It's lovely to meet some new faces, so let's keep building great representation across all our studios. We meet about twice a term, so please come join us for some kai and kōrero at our next meeting.



Next Team Rāwhiti (PTA) hui is **Wednesday 29th April, 7pm** in the staff room.



We had planned to hold an exciting new event next month, a school wide Colour Run! but unfortunately due to logistics we've had to postpone this. Date to be confirmed for later in the year, so watch this space!

We have just had a new shipment arrive of our very popular Rāwhiti coloured hair accessories. These can be purchased from the office and prices are from \$6.50. All profits go directly to Team Rāwhiti (PTA), so a great way to support our kura! Thanks to all those who have purchased previously and the office staff for their support.



Riddle "What can run but never walks, has a head but no eyes, has a mouth but never talks and has a bed but never sleeps...?"

Any questions, suggestions or feedback for the Team Rāwhiti (PTA) please email us at pta@rawhiti.school.nz. Our Executive Team members are Co-Chairs Brooke Frew and Bonne Becconsall, Treasurer Geoff Walker and Secretary Jess Brown. A copy of the Team Rāwhiti (PTA) constitution and previous meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/pta>

(Riddle answer – a river)

