



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

It has been such a busy start to the term here at Te Akau School! There is so much growth and success to celebrate across our kura, and I'm delighted to share what we've been up to. This week, I am away attending a week-long course to become a qualified Literacy Intervention Teacher. This is a Ministry of Education initiative designed to train teachers to be true experts in literacy, and I'm looking forward to bringing that knowledge back to better support all of our students. Whaea Hayley is also away for a day this week for a course on speech-language development, while Whaea Jodie and Whaea Hayley have both jumped into the "Incredible Years" program—a six-month journey into understanding behavior and neurological development in children. We are so committed to ensuring our team has the best tools to help our tamariki thrive.

Speaking of progress, national 'reporting to parents' criteria for schools have recently changed. We are currently waiting for the Hero platform to catch up with these shifts, so look out for a "new look" Hero in Term 2 with updated data. In the meantime, please just chat with your child's teacher if you have any questions. On a proud note, our junior school Phonics Check results are in from the Ministry! This nation-wide, standardised assessment specifically measures how well our younger students can read and blend sounds to decode words—a vital foundation for reading success. We were thrilled (although not surprised, I have to say) that Te Akau School is performing very well against the national data.

We are also very happy to announce that our administration block project is finally complete! We are so excited to be settled into such a fresh, bright new space. Please do pop in and say hello and check it out the next time you're at school.

Don't forget that parent-teacher conferences are just around the corner—make sure to get your preferred times in soon so we can get everyone caught up.

On the sporting front, our Te Akau swimming sports were a huge success! While the racing was great, the real highlight for me was seeing the way our students encouraged one another. Thank you to everyone who came along to cheer them on. I want to wish the very best of luck to our seniors competing at the cluster swimming in Huntly this Friday. We know you'll represent our kura with respect, responsibility, and resilience.

Looking ahead, we have some fantastic opportunities coming up, from St John in Schools and Dog Safety Day to Smart Water education and the AgriKids competition. I want to say a massive, personal thank you to our incredible teachers. In a large school, a teacher might lead one of these events a year; here at Te Akau, it's common for our teachers to lead five or six, often organising them in their own time. Their dedication is what makes our school such a special place for our tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hannah O'Brien
Principal

Important Dates

6th March 2026

Rural Cluster schools
Swimming Sports at
Huntly Pools - Year 4-8's

13th March 2026

Senior Leaders Hosting a
Mufti & Shared Lunch day

9th and 11th March

Parent Teacher Interviews

AgriKidsNZ Competition

28th March 2026

3rd April 2026

CLOSED - Good Friday

Term 1 Last Day

2nd April 2026

Term 2 First Day

20th April 2026

1st April 2026

Vision and Hearing testing

- For Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit, require rescreens or follow up
- New Immigrants
- Year 7 student's vision only
- If you have any concerns and would like your child tested outside of the normal schedual please contact office@teakau.school.nz

RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata

DAILY SCHOOL BELLS

9am	School Starts
11am	Morning Tea
11.30am	Session Two
12.50pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Session Three
3.00pm	Home Time



HOT LUNCHES

Mondays and Fridays, students can bring hot lunches wrapped in tin foil and clearly labeled to heat up in the oven.

When is sick too sick for school?

A regular attendance routine is important for your child's well-being and learning. These tips can help you decide when to keep your child home when they don't feel well.



SEND ME TO SCHOOL IF...

- I have a **runny nose** or just a **little cough**, but no other symptoms.
- I have **NOT** had a **fever overnight** and have **NOT** taken **fever reducing medicine** during that time.
- I have a **mild stomach ache**.
- I have **not thrown up** overnight and can drink liquids without throwing up.
- I have a **mild rash** and no other symptoms.



KEEP ME AT HOME IF...

- I have a **temperature higher than 37.5 degrees celsius**.
- I have **thrown up two or more times** in the past 24 hours.
- My **stool is watery** and I may not make it to the bathroom in time.



SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF...

- I have a **temperature higher than 40 degrees celsius AND any of the following**: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.
- I have **stomach pain and fever**, I have **bloody or black stool**, or I am **dehydrated** (tired and sleepy, dry mouth) and/or I have **not urinated** in the last 8 hours.
- I have a **persistent cough** or **trouble breathing**, or have a fever with the cough.
- I have **eye swelling**, **eye pain** or an **eye injury**.
- I have a **rash that has blisters**, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises, and/or I have a fever with the rash.

#ShowUpForSuccess

Skate Park Safety



We are very lucky to have our very own skate park at Te Akau School, and we encourage all students to make the most of this awesome space.

With skate parks comes responsibility and safety. To ensure everyone stays safe:

- **Helmets must be worn at all times** when using any equipment with wheels.
- If you are sending your child to school with their own skateboard, scooter, roller blades, or any other wheels, **you must also send them with a helmet**.
- **No helmet, no ride.**

These rules are in place to keep everyone safe while having fun. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all students.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone

Website

Hannah O'Brien	Principal
Gabbie Bregmen	Office
Donna Palmer	Room 2
Jodie Redpath	Room 2
Hayley Smith	Room 1
Ann Reeves	CRT Release

07 825 4777

www.teakau.school.nz

hannah@teakau.school.nz
office@teakau.school.nz
donna@teakau.school.nz
jodie@teakau.school.nz
hayley@teakau.school.nz
ann@teakau.school.nz

Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their support in helping us achieve our goal of maintaining our school-owned bus.

Your contributions have made a significant impact, ensuring our students have safe and reliable transportation getting to and from school and also to various educational activities outside our school.

Thanks to you, our school community is stronger, and our students have more opportunities to thrive. Thank you for believing in our vision and for being an essential part of our journey!





We want to say a HUGE thank-you to Te Akau Transport and Josh and Laura MacDonald for their super generous donation of sand and cartage for our sandpit!

Our tamariki have been really enjoying the opportunity to get back into the sandpit to play and explore during break times.



Thanks Ed!

A huge thank you to Ed Swindells for generously bringing in swan plants for our students to take home and also plant here at school. 🦋
Ed heard that our tamariki were becoming increasingly invested in the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and, as is often the way with Ed, he just so happened to have some on hand and delivered them to school in time to distribute at Swimming Sports! What a fantastic way to support authentic, hands-on learning. We truly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness, Ed.
On another note, there is a missing green tray that the plants were in. If this was accidentally taken home, could you please ensure it makes its way back to either Ed or the school.
Thank you everyone!

Agri Kids

Te Akau School is proud to be sending three teams to the Agri Kids competition later this month!

Our Agri Kids have been busy building their practical farming skills with the support of Ann Reeves and Hugh Jackson. Students have been learning essential hands-on skills including pipe fittings, safe spraying practices, and tying wire knots.

Back in the classroom, they have been expanding their knowledge of different sheep breeds, cattle breeds, and pig breeds – developing a strong understanding of livestock and their characteristics.

This week, students are taking part in dairy farming training, focusing on temporary fencing, further pipe work, and motorbike maintenance training.

There has been a strong emphasis on safety throughout all activities, ensuring our students not only gain practical skills but also understand how to work responsibly and safely in agricultural environments.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm our Agri Kids continue to show.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Helen from The Shepherd for generously sponsoring our Agri Kids team uniforms and hats. Helen, you are amazing and we are truly grateful for your support!

A special acknowledgement also goes to our unsung heroes – our team parents – who are busy behind the scenes organising travel, booking accommodation, and reaching out to wonderful supporters like The Shepherd to ensure our tamariki are well equipped and ready to represent our school with pride.

Thank you to everyone who is helping make this opportunity possible!



THE SHEPHERD
home of
THE SHEPHERD & THE SHEPHERDESS
www.theshepherd.co.nz



Congratulations to all of our superstar students who competed in our Te Akau School swimming sports!

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you – not only for your effort in the pool, but for the way you showed up for one another and supported your peers throughout the day.

A huge thank you as well to our wonderful parents and caregivers who came along to cheer our tamariki on.

Your support makes such a difference and helps create such a positive, encouraging atmosphere for our ākonga.

We are pleased to share the final results:

Freestyle Finals

12 Year old girls: 1st Angel Sheehan, 2nd Jessica Horsley and 3rd Frankie Toia-Lewis

12 Year old boys: 1st Noah Crawford, 2nd Aiden Chamberlain and 3rd Ben Chamberlain

10 & 11 Year old girls: 1st Ariana Potter, 2nd Billie van den Bemd, 3rd Samantha Towl and 4th Katara Williamson

10 & 11 Year old boys: 1st Jaxon Purcell, 2nd Rory McRoberts-Maihi, 3rd Kade Copeland and 4th Blake Bregmen

8 & 9 Year old girls: 1st Lillie Crawford, 2nd Reagan Lilley, 3rd Paige van den Bemd and 4th Lyla Merilees

8 & 9 Year old boys: 1st George Jackson, 2nd Koby Smith, 3rd Mason Purcell and 4th Jayden Smith

6 & 7 Year old girls: 1st Rhyda Johnston, 2nd Jocelyn Chamberlain, 3rd Lucy Glenn and 4th Piper Lilley

6 & 7 Year old boys: 1st Lachie van den Bemd, 2nd George O'Neill, 3rd Declan Tovey and 4th Luka Bregmen

5 Year old girls: 1st Olivia Jackson, 2nd Katie Kereopa, 3rd Ruby Horne, 4th Grace Glenn, 5th Ovielia Pitts and 6th Aaria Rewi

4 Lengths open Freestyle: 1st Angel Sheehan, 2nd Jessica Horsley, 3rd Noah Crawford and 4th Koby Smith

Breaststroke Finals

12 Year old girls: 1st Equal Frankie Toia-Lewis and Angel Sheehan and 2nd Jessica Horsley

12 Year old boys: 1st Noah Crawford, 2nd Ben Chamberlain and 3rd Aiden Chamberlain

10 & 11 year old girls: 1st Ariana Potter, 2nd Billie van den Bemd, 3rd equal Katara Williamson and Samantha Towl

8 & 9 year old girls: 1st Paige van den Bemd, 2nd Lyla Merrilees, 3rd Reagan Lilley and 4th Delilah Andrews-Wright

8 & 9 year old boys: 1st George Jackson, 2nd Koby Smith, 3rd equal Jayden Smith and Mason Purcell

6 & 7 year old girls: 1st Jocelyn Chamberlain, 2nd Rhyda Johnston, 3rd Lucy Glenn and 4th Legacy Taia

6 & 7 year old boys: 1st Declan Tovey, 2nd Lachie van den Bemd, 3rd George O'Neill and 4th Henry Jackson

Backstroke Finals

12 year old girls: 1st Frankie Toia-Lewis, 2nd Jessica Horsley and 3rd Angel Sheehan

12 year old boys: 1st Noah Crawford, 2nd Ben Chamberlain and 3rd Aiden Chamberlain

10 & 11 year old girls: 1st Ariana Potter, 2nd Billie van den Bemd, 3rd Samantha Towl and 4th Katara Williamson

10 & 11 year old boys: 1st Rory McRoberts-Maihi, 2nd Jaxon Purcell, 3rd Blake Bregmen and 4th Kade Copeland

8 & 9 year old girls: 1st Reagan Lilley, 2nd Lyla Merrilees, 3rd equal Sadie MacDonald and Paige van den Bemd

8 & 9 year old boys: 1st George Jackson, 2nd Koby Smith, 3rd Jayden Smith and 4th Lucian Williamson

6 & 7 year old girls: 1st Rhyda Johnston, 2nd Jocelyn Chamberlain, 3rd Lucy Glenn and 4th Legacy Taia

6 & 7 year old boys: 1st Declan Tovey, 2nd George O'Neill and 3rd Lachie van den Bemd

House Relays

1st Rimu (Rhyda, Lyla, Reagan, Blake, Ariana and Jessica)

2nd Kauri (Declan, Lillie, George J, Katara, Billie and Noah)

3rd Totara (George O, Sadie, Paige, Rory, Samantha and Angel)

House points were accumulated throughout our Swimming Sports event.

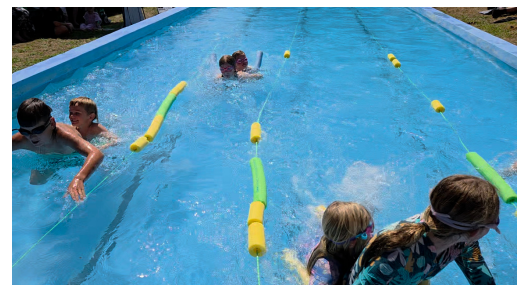
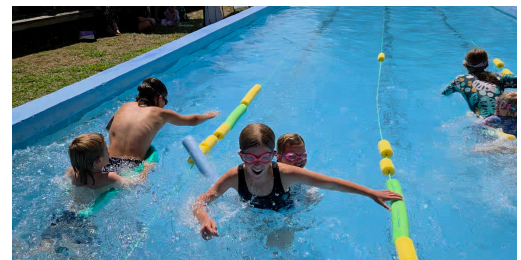
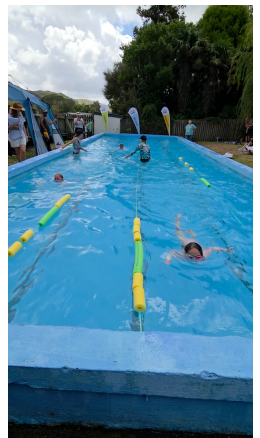
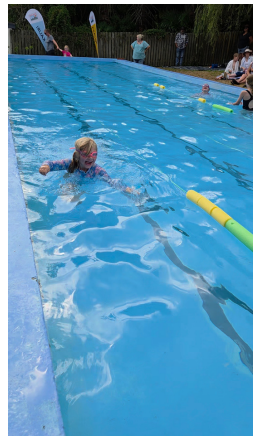
Points were awarded not only for placing in races, but also for participation.

We love seeing our students giving things a go, supporting one another, and showing great sportsmanship – every effort counted!

Rimu House: 464 points

Kauri House: 371 points

Totara House: 300 points





WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL MONTHLY RECYCLING DROP-OFFS FREE FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS

WHEN: 8:30am and 12:30pm on third
Saturday of each month,
starting on 16 August 2025 for two
years.

WHERE: The location will be Te Akau
Hall carpark (next to the school).

Te Akau School Marquee for Hire

100% of hire costs goes straight into our School.



9m x 12m - \$250

Bookings through
Te Akau School
Ph 8254777
office@teakau.school.nz



Jamie Ward
Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer
021 947 321

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School

RAGLAN JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

REGISTRATION & WEIGH-IN DAY!

SIGN UP FOR THE 2026 SEASON!

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH
4 - 5.30PM

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH
1PM - 3PM

AT THE RAGLAN RUGBY GROUNDS

AGES 4 - 13

12TH & 13TH GRADE WEIGH-IN DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

NEW PLAYERS PLEASE BRING ID WITH YOU

Pānui from our Year 8 Leaders



Kia ora Te Akau School whānau,

We are excited to share that we have some awesome events planned for 2026!

To kick things off, we will be holding a whole school mufti day and shared lunch with a movie for everyone to enjoy together.

Friday 13th March 2026
Wear Mufti and bring a shared plate

As Year 8 leaders, we are proud to support our younger students, help out in the playground and classrooms, and be positive role models for our school. We are looking forward to creating fun opportunities that bring our whole kura together.

Keep an eye out for more events coming soon!

From your 2026 Year 8 Leaders
Ben, Aiden, Angel, Frankie, Jess,
Noah & Samantha



RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata