



## Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to everyone for the start of Term 2! We hope you had a refreshing break and are ready for another busy and exciting term ahead. A very special welcome to our newest student, Henley. We are so glad to have you join our school family!

This term, our schoolwide focus is on Respect – Aroha ki te tangata, with a particular spotlight on 'tone of voice'. We will be encouraging everyone to think about not just *what* they say, but *how* they say it, ensuring our communication is always kind and considerate. In terms of academic progress, the government's new assessment tool, SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool), has just been released this week. Our teachers are currently busy working through these assessments with all our students. This tool is designed to provide a clear snapshot of learning and help us identify the next steps for each child, so I really want to extend a big thanks to our wonderful teachers for tackling yet another change and prioritising this important work.

Reflecting on Term 1, our attendance was lower than we'd like, with only 50% of our students meeting the 'regular attendance' threshold. We have noticed that holidays taken during school time are having a significant impact on learning. We ask that you please keep the importance of schooling in mind when booking your family trips, as every day in the classroom counts.

On a brighter note, a huge congratulations to Room 2 for winning our Term 1 attendance challenge! All Room 2 students who achieved over 85% attendance last term will be rewarded with a trip to Ninja Valley in a few weeks. We have also started a new challenge for this term where all students who achieve 90% or above in their attendance will get a trip to Ninja Valley in term 3.

Winter Sports is fast approaching, and we are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen and to referee games. If you can lend a hand, please let us know.

We also have some big thank-yous to share. Huge appreciation goes to Mike van den Bemd and Jack Bregmen for giving up their time to fix our mower so Gary can finally have it back!

We also want to thank everyone who carried out their Term 1 working bee tasks. Since we don't have a budget for a caretaker, we truly rely on our wonderful parents to help with these maintenance jobs. Our school looks great thanks to your hard work!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Hannah O'Brien  
Principal



## Important Dates

**Enviro Schools Visiting**  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**PINK Shirt Day -  
Say NO to bullying  
campaign**  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**CLOSED -  
TOD for professional  
development in  
mathematics**  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Enviro Schools Visit**  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Cluster Schools Winter  
Sports year 4-8**  
22 May 2026

**CLOSED -  
Kings Birthday**  
1 June 2026

## Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

Tuesday - 21 April  
Tuesday - 5 May  
Tuesday - 19 May  
Tuesday - 2 June  
Tuesday - 16 June  
Tuesday - 30 June

**RESPONSIBLE**  
*Kia mau to tikanga*

**RESILIENT**  
*Kia kaha mahia te mahi*

**RESPECTFUL**  
*Aroha ki te tangata*

# Housekeeping

## 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.

# Agri Kids

Congratulations to our Agri Kids who travelled to Te Teko on the final weekend of term to compete in the 2026 BOP Sector – what an incredible weekend it turned out to be!

A huge thank you to Becks Jackson for organising accommodation in Rotorua so everyone could stay together. The kids made the most of it, enjoying the heated indoor pool, go-karts, late-night games, and those classic early-morning whispers. Despite the busy schedule (and very little sleep!), we weren't sure how much energy they'd have left in the tank for competition day – but as it turns out, in true Te Akau form they smashed it!

Saturday saw 23 teams competing, each made up of three students, with Te Akau School proudly entering four teams managed by Morgan Lilley thank you so much Morgs!

- **Te Akau 1:** Jessica Horsley, Angel Sheehan, Frankie Toia-Lewis
- **Te Akau 2:** Reagan Lilley, Mason Toia-Lewis, Paige van den Bemd
- **Te Akau 3:** George Jackson, Blake Bregmen, Noah Crawford
- **Te Akau 4:** Mason Lilley, Lillie Crawford, Billie van den Bemd



After the first round, the top seven teams progressed to a race-off, with only three advancing to the grand final. We're thrilled to share that **Te Akau 3** and **Te Akau 4** placed in the top seven and battled it out in the race-off – narrowly missing a spot in the grand final by just one point.

An outstanding effort from all our students – you represented our kura with pride, determination, and resilience. Well done! 🌟

We are incredibly grateful to be part of this opportunity, and having the 2025 NZ Young Farmer of the year Hugh Jackson as their coach is pretty special! **Thank you Hugh** for supporting our kura and dedicating your valuable time every week.

If this sounds like something you'd love to be part of, watch this space for the 2027 team search!



## 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](http://www.teakau.school.nz)

<a href="mailto:hannah@teakau.school.nz">hannah@teakau.school.nz</a>
<a href="mailto:office@teakau.school.nz">office@teakau.school.nz</a>
<a href="mailto:donna@teakau.school.nz">donna@teakau.school.nz</a>
<a href="mailto:jodie@teakau.school.nz">jodie@teakau.school.nz</a>
<a href="mailto:hayley@teakau.school.nz">hayley@teakau.school.nz</a>
<a href="mailto:ann@teakau.school.nz">ann@teakau.school.nz</a>

# Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their ongoing support in helping us maintain our school-owned bus.

Your contributions make a real difference, ensuring our students have safe and reliable transport to and from school, as well as to valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Thanks to you, our school community continues to grow stronger, and our students are given more opportunities to thrive. We truly appreciate your belief in our vision and your role in supporting our journey.

## A special thank you to our long-standing sponsors who continue to stand by us year after year:

- Te Akau Transport
- Te Akau Racing
- Hinemoa Produce
- Waikorea Quarry
- Peter Glidden Honda

## We also warmly welcome and thank our new sponsors for 2026:

- Andrew Culley
- C & H Johnston
- James Jackson & Mich Kooij
- On Road Transport – Don
- AC & MA Crawford Partnership

We are always seeking additional sponsorship to support our school bus. If you're in a position to help, we would love to hear from you—please get in touch.



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# Rimu House Lunch Shout!

TERM 2, WEEK 2

Congratulations to Rimu House for winning the overall house points for Term 1 with an impressive 1247 points!

On Wednesday, we celebrated their achievement with a shared lunch. Congratulations to House Captain Jessica Horsley and team members Ariana, Frankie, Jaxon, Blake, Reagan, Koby, Lyla, Legacy, Lucian, Jocelyn, Rhyda, Macey, Lachie, and Olivia.

Each term, the house with the highest points earns a lunch shout. While we keep a running total across the year, these rewards are based solely on the previous term's results. So even if your house isn't in the overall lead, you may still be leading for the term—keep it up!

Well done, Rimu House—enjoy your well-deserved celebration! 🎉



## In search of spare pants please



Kia ora whānau,

We're putting out another call for donations of spare black pants/leggings—especially for our Rm 1 tamariki (ages 4–8).

With wet and muddy weather on the way, we're seeing a few more accidental (and sometimes intentional!) slips and slides. Extra clothing would be hugely appreciated to help keep everyone comfortable.

Ngā mihi nui

Whaea Hayley

## Winter Sports

Winter Sports is upon us and set to take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 at The Complex for year 4–8 students. This is a cluster school event hosted by Te Akau School (meaning Waikaretu, Ruawaro, Glen Massey and Waingaro will be joining us too). Permission forms have been sent home on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. In order for events like this to run smoothly we need your help. Please if you are able to help in the Kitchen please contact our PTA.

We are also looking for volunteers to help referee games. This event is all about getting the kids involved in team sports and giving things a go, so the atmosphere is fun and supportive.

We need two referees each for Soccer, Rippa Rugby, and Netball. Please don't be intimidated—you only need to know the basic rules to help out! If we get enough volunteers, you will likely only need to ref a few games throughout the day.

If you or a family member (older kids?), relative or friend can lend a hand to help our students have a great experience on the field, please let us know which sport you can cover. Just give us a call, message the school chat or send me an email - hannah@teakau.school.nz Thank you for your support!

## Term 1 Attendance Awards

### Congratulations to our Term 1 Attendance Award winners!

Each term, we recognise the top three attendance percentages, provided overall attendance is above 90%. Students who achieve 100% attendance and place 1st earn 50 house points, 2nd place earns 30 points, and 3rd place earns 20 points.

### This term, the points have been awarded as follows:

Totara – 180 points

Rimu – 150 points

Kauri – 180 points

Well done to everyone for your commitment to showing up and making the most of your learning! We are excited for our new challenge for this term, where all students who achieve 90% (no more than 5 days absent in term 2) or above in their attendance will also get a trip to Ninja Valley in term 3.



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**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 Aakau  
 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](mailto:office@teakau.school.nz)

**Te Akau School Board**  
**Casual vacancy for a parent representative**

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.  
 The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

*Te Akau School Board*

[bot@teakau.school.nz](mailto:bot@teakau.school.nz)

by: 27 May 2026



Jamie Ward  
 Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer  
 021 947 321

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School

## Board Of Trustees Update

Hello everyone, great to see some sunshine.

We apologise for any inconvenience for postponing the bus meeting. We are working hard behind the scenes on a plan to keep our wonderful bus going and part of this will be to form a dedicated bus committee to help with managing the logistics, sponsorship, fundraising, and sustainability of the school bus.

As you all know, a lot of time, effort and cost goes in to keeping this service running for our bus students, getting them safely to and from school each day.

The bus committee will be essential for support and we are excited to be forming it, if you'd like to join this bus committee then please send your expression of interest to [bot@teakau.school.nz](mailto:bot@teakau.school.nz) by Tuesday 5 May. The Board will then reconvene to put the committee together and get it underway. Once the committee is formed, they will then be in touch with the school community on plans going forward.

Cheers  
 Jamie Andrews

## Board Of Trustees Contact Details

**Jamie Andrews (Presiding Member)** [jamie@teakau.school.nz](mailto:jamie@teakau.school.nz)  
**Tom Lilley** [tom@teakau.school.nz](mailto:tom@teakau.school.nz)  
**Christina Johnston** [chris@teakau.school.nz](mailto:chris@teakau.school.nz)

**Hannah O'Brien (Principal)** [hannah@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hannah@teakau.school.nz)  
**Hayley Smith (Staff Rep)** [hayley@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hayley@teakau.school.nz)  
**James Glenn** [james@teakau.school.nz](mailto:james@teakau.school.nz)  
**Danielle van den Bemd** [danielle@teakau.school.nz](mailto:danielle@teakau.school.nz)

## School Policies

All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page:  
[teakau.schooldocs.co.nz](http://teakau.schooldocs.co.nz)  
 LOGIN: teakau  
 PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

## Next Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
 5.30pm  
 Te Akau School

All Welcome!

RESPONSIBLE  
*Kia mau to tikanga*

RESILIENT  
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