



## Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back, everyone! It has been wonderful to see the school grounds buzzing with energy again as we kick off another exciting year of learning and growth. We hope you all had a refreshing break and are ready for the adventures ahead.

Our school pool is looking pristine and ready for action. A massive thank you to the Board (Jamie, Danielle, Jimmy, Tom, Chrissy), as well as Gabbie, Hayden Johnston, and Mike van den Bemd for the hard work they put into cleaning out and refilling the pool before school started. This is perfect timing, as our School Swimming Sports are just around the corner (27th February), followed closely by the Interschool Swimming Sports in Huntly (6th March). Get those goggles ready!

While students were enjoying the end of their holidays, our teachers were busy training for our new Maths programs and the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) framework. We are incredibly grateful for their dedication to these new initiatives, which will help create a focused and supportive environment for all our tamariki in 2026.

The building work in our administration block is looking fantastic thanks to the extra painting work put in by Gabbie and Brendon Sheehan. We also want to extend a huge thank you to the entire staff for their patience and flexibility during the building project. You have all done a great job navigating the disruption, and we are thrilled to announce that the project should be finished this week.

We would also like to remind families that our school's new Attendance Management Plan is now in place. Consistent attendance is key to student success; please be aware that if a child misses five days of school within a single term, you will receive a letter from the school as soon as that fifth day passes.

With the weather finally turning hot and sunny, it is vital that students come prepared each day. A sun hat, a full water bottle, and togs are absolute essentials for the term. Please ensure everything is clearly named so it can find its way back to you.

We are thrilled to welcome seven new students and their whānau to our school community. A very warm welcome to our new students: Aaria, Ovelia, Legacy, Mason, Brodie, Jaxon and Peter. We are thrilled to welcome you and your whanau to Te Akau School.

In other news, Technology sessions officially started this week for our Year 7 and 8 students. This is a fantastic opportunity for our older students and something they really look forward to. Finally, we encourage you to call in and say hello to your child's teachers and catch up about your goals for your child for 2026 and ask any questions that you want to.

Here's to a fantastic Term 1!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Hannah O'Brien  
Principal

## Important Dates

**24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
Year 7 & 8 Tech

**27th February 2026**  
Te Akau School Swimming  
Sports

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
Rural Cluster schools  
Swimming Sports at  
Huntly Pools - Year 4-8's

**9th, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
Parent Teacher Interviews

**AgriKidsNZ Competition**  
11<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**  
CLOSED - Good Friday

- 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*

# 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.

# House Groups Confirmed for 2026!

Our house groups are officially confirmed for 2026!

A huge congratulations to our awesome House Leaders Noah, Jessica, and Angel, and to our amazing Deputy Leaders Billie, Aiden, Ariana, Frankie, Benjamin, and Samantha 🌟



Check out the 2026 house teams below!

Throughout the year, students can earn house points both individually and in teams through sports, academics, attendance, and positive behaviour. Every effort counts and every point matters! And during in house sports day you can even dress up in your house colours!! **Blue for Kauri, Green for Rimu** and **Yellow for Totara**.

Each term, the house with the most points will score a lunch shout 🍕🍷  
And at the end of the year, the ultimate prize is up for grabs – the House Shield 🏆  
Let the games begin! 🏽🏽

**Kauri House:** Noah (Captain), Billie (Deputy), Aiden (Deputy), Gracie, Katara, Mason, George J, Peter, Lillie, Delilah, Lucy, Declan, Esme, Piper, Katie and Aaria

**Rimu House:** Jessica (Captain), Ariana (Deputy), Frankie (Deputy), Jaxon, Blake, Reagan, Koby, Lyla, Legacy, Lucian, Jocelyn, Rhyda, Macey, Lachie, Olivia and Grace

**Totara House:** Angel (Captain), Benjamin (Deputy), Samantha (Deputy), Rory, Kade, Brodie, Jayden, Paige, Sadie, Henry, George O, Sasha, Luka, Ruby, Ovelia and Henley

## 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>
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<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>

TERM 1, WEEK 2

# 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!



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RESPECTFUL  
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Welcome back everyone, Just a quick reminder for Room 1 whānau to please pack a spare change of clothes and book bags each day.

With these cooler mornings and much warmer afternoons, we're finding some tamariki are arriving in pants and thick socks and then getting a bit stuck once it heats up, with no shorts to change into. A spare set of clothes makes a huge difference for comfort as the day goes on.

We would also greatly appreciate any donations of size 4, 5 & 6 black shorts, tights, skirts, etc. to keep in the cupboard as emergency spares. No biggie at all if they have a couple of holes or marks – they'll still be very well used!

Thanks so much for your support - Whaea Hayley

## ★ Show up and Shine ★



### Win a free class trip to Ninja Valley in our Show up and Shine attendance challenge!

We have partnered with Ninja Valley to bring an attendance challenge to Te Akau School to encourage and celebrate consistent attendance.

At the end of Term 1, the class with the highest attendance percentage will win a class trip to Ninja Valley!

Every day you are at school helps your class win so... Show up and Shine!

# Room 2 Panui

We have started the new school year with 31 students in Room 2, and they have settled in beautifully and are already enjoying the mahi.

Now that the holidays are over, the warmer weather has finally arrived, and the new air conditioning is working a treat!

We have also been enjoying swimming and, as always, getting out for a game.

A big and warm welcome to our new ākonga joining the Te Akau School whānau – we're so glad to have you with us.

There is a range of spare resource work books surplus to requirements free to a good home, please come in if you would like to take some home.

Nga mihi Whaea Donna and Whaea Jodie





**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

**WAIKATO SCHOOLS  
XC MTB CHAMPS 2026  
OPEN TO ALL BOP SCHOOLS**  
Sponsored by **ALITECH** Window Systems

Track suitable for all abilities, a bit of off-road experience would be helpful.  
Open from Year 5 - Year 13  
Enter through your school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
**TEAM RELAYS ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

**Thursday 12 March**  
**Te Miro MTB Park**

Please email  
**temiromtbevents@gmail.com**  
for any queries

Food and drink available - please bring cash

**ALITECH** **FCG** **TE MIRO**  
MTB CLUB

For more information, please read the Event Manual on the Te Miro MTB Club website

**DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDRAISER**  
**Te Akau Rugby Club**  
**Family Touch Rugby & Burger Night**

*Come on down to the Complex for a game of Touch Rugby and Burgers! The Bar will be open.*

Friday 27th February  
6pm: Kids Game (under 12)  
Followed by Adults Game - all are welcome!!

## Board Of Trustees Update

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had an awesome break – it sure went fast!

Welcome back to all our teachers and staff. I hope you're feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. A big welcome as well to our students, parents, and especially our new families – it's great to have you on board.

The new staffroom and office are really starting to take shape, which is fantastic to see. The bus is fixed and back on the road, with the new route starting this year. A big thank you to Andrew Culley for generously covering the insurance excess – we definitely need more people like you in the world.

While I'm thanking people, I'd also like to acknowledge Te Akau Transport for donating the cartage of sand, and Josh and Laura MacDonald for donating the sand itself. Hopefully we'll have the sandpit up and running in the coming weeks.

The grounds are looking great – well done, Gary! I hope the kids are enjoying the pool in this hot weather. Cheers to the board, partners, and Gabbie for helping get everything ready.

Here's to another great year and smooth sailing ahead!  
Cheers Jamie Andrews

## Board Of Trustees Contact Details

**Jamie Andrews (Presiding Member)** jamie@teakau.school.nz  
**Tom Lilley** tom@teakau.school.nz  
**Christina Johnston** chrissy@teakau.school.nz

**Hannah O'Brien (Principal)** hannah@teakau.school.nz  
**Hayley Smith (Staff Rep)** hayley@teakau.school.nz  
**James Glenn** james@teakau.school.nz  
**Danielle van den Bemd** 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  
LOGIN: teakau  
PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

## Next Meeting

1st December 2025  
5.30pm  
Te Akau School

All Welcome!

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