

Ruakituri School

Newsletter

Week 8 Term One 2026



Pānui Number Two

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our second pānui for 2026! As autumn settles in, we've certainly noticed a few cooler mornings, but hopefully the sunshine holds for the last few weeks of Term One.

It's been a really positive start to the year, with students quickly settling into routines. Our senior students have completed standardised testing (PATs), giving us valuable insights into progress and next learning steps. I look forward to arranging times with all whānau to touch base, discuss the progress each student is making, and possibly set some goals together as well.

Schools across Aotearoa are also beginning to roll out the refreshed curriculum for English and Mathematics, and we're steadily aligning our programmes to these updates. While change brings challenges, it also offers great opportunities to strengthen teaching and learning for our tamariki.

I recently joined other tumuaki at the Hawke's Bay Seminar Day and came away energised and reassured that we're all navigating these changes together with optimism.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jo Larsen

Award Winners Week 5



Tino Pai - Terrein and Cartia Mihaere
and Principal Award winner
Taylor Monk.

Award Winners Week 6



Wonderful Effort - Terrein Mihaere
and Ruby Renner. Principal Award
winners Isla and Brooke Monk.

Award Winners Week 7



Good Job - Cartia Mihaere, Marley
Herlihy and Principal Award winner
Maia McGurk.

Contact Us

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School Phone - 838 7140
Email - office@ruakituri.school.nz
Tumuaki/Principal Jo Larsen
principal@ruakituri.school.nz

School Policies | Procedures

School Docs

We value everyone's opinion and feedback so please visit School Docs and review the policies and procedures.

Community username: ruakituri
Community password: 4195



Welcome!

This site contains
Ruakituri School's
Policies and Procedures
along with useful checklists and forms.

Ruakituri RECIPE

Responsibility

Excellence

Courage

Integrity

Pride

Excellence

School Values



Cluster Swimming Event and Wairoa District Swimmers

Our first cluster event for the year took place on Friday, 27 February, at Te Kura o Waikaremoana. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all! A big thank you to Te Kura o Waikaremoana for hosting and to all our school families for coming along to support our students so enthusiastically.

Our students had the chance to showcase the swimming skills they've been developing during lessons with Denice Gasson. Everyone did an amazing job and should be very proud of their effort and achievements. Following this event, we're excited to have four senior swimmers representing our school at the Wairoa District Swimming Event, taking place at the Wairoa Community Centre on Tuesday, 17 March. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing about their success!

Swimming Success at Ruakituri School

This week we wrapped up our final swimming lesson with Denice, and what a fantastic programme it has been! A huge thank you to Denice, the Guardians of the Ruakituri, and all our whānau for your ongoing support and commitment. It's been wonderful to watch our tamariki grow in confidence and ability. We're already hoping to continue this valuable programme in Term Four.



Aurora Foundation – Leadership Opportunities For Our Year Six Students

The Aurora Leadership Programme continues to offer an outstanding extension of learning for Ruakituri School students. Over the next two weeks, our two Year 6 students will take part in two exciting leadership experiences.

Event One – Kōanga-Kotare (Wednesday, 25 March 2026)

The Aurora team will take a deep dive into heritage, sustainability, and the science behind our future food security. This hands-on inquiry explores why seed saving matters and how these tiny "blueprints" play a vital role in protecting our planet.

Event Two – Māori Reef Ecology & Tiaki Taiao (Tuesday, 31 March 2026)

At Tatapouri, Gisborne, the Aurora team will have the unforgettable experience of feeding the stingrays while learning about marine ecology and the importance of guardianship (Tiaki Taiao) within our ocean environments.

We wish our two Year 6 students all the best for these inspiring days of learning and adventure. We look forward to hearing their reflections and sharing their insights with our school community when they return.

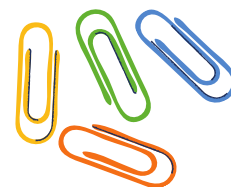
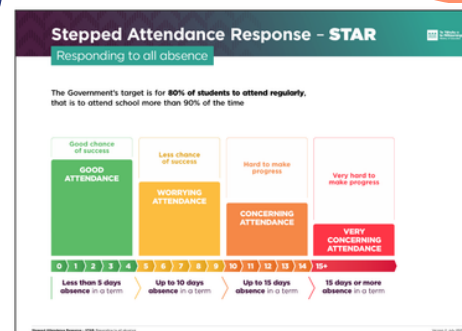
Ruakituri Mission

Kia tipu, kia manawanui, me nga akonga pai
To create active, confident and positive learners

Every Day Matters At Ruakituri School

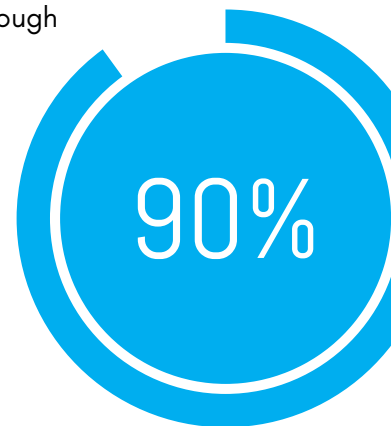
Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's learning and wellbeing. Every day at school helps tamariki strengthen their knowledge, friendships, and confidence. To keep up to date with your child/childrens attendance I will arrange an attendance update at the end of each month so you can see the information that is recorded on our school management system (SMS)

I am thrilled to share our attendance Year to date is +90% as a school which is a very positive start to meeting our first strategic goal based on attendance - Strengthen Student Engagement Through Regular Attendance.



Bottle Top Mural

Our Bottle Top Mural project is underway! While we haven't started assembling the mural just yet, we're picking up the plywood sheets this week and getting them undercoated in preparation. In the meantime, please keep collecting plastic bottle tops of all colours and sizes. Every contribution helps bring our design to life, so we'd love you to spread the word with friends and family too.



RUAKITURI SCHOOL

MINI GUARDIANS OF THE RUAKITURI VALLEY
COMMUNITY BOTTLE TOP ART PROJECT



Community Recycling

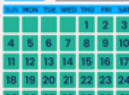
A reminder that recycling is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

School Working Bee

Friday the 27th of March - Your help and support is important!
Start time - 2.30pm to help clean up our school house and grounds.

2026 School Dates

Ruakituri School Term Dates



Term 1
28th Jan – 2nd April
Public Holidays
Waitangi Day Fri 6th February

Term 2
20th April – 3rd July
Public Holidays
ANZAC Day 25th April Observed Mon 27th
King's Birthday Mon 1st June

Term 3
20th July – 25th Sept
Public Holidays – None

Term 4
12th Oct – Date in Dec TBC
Public Holidays
Hawke's Bay Anniversary Fri 23th October
Labour Day Mon 26th October

Please Contact Our School Team
For All Student Absences



Ruakituri Playgroup

LOCATION
Ruakituri Community Hall

Free !

Every Wednesday
9 AM – 12 PM

Tairarwhiti REAP

We are so excited to welcome our families back to the Ruakituri Playgroup! Whether you're a regular or new to the area, come along to the Ruakituri Community Hall to kick off a brand-new year of learning, play, laughter, and connection.

CONTACT: Amanda McGurk
0226912906
reap.ruakituri@tairarwhitereap.org.nz

Expect fun, learning, and engaging activities for the little ones and a great chance for the adults to catch up over a coffee. Let's build our community together!

See you there!!!






Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 17 March – Wairoa District Swimming Sports
 Tuesday 24 March – Board of Trustees Meeting from 5:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 25 March – Aurora Day for Year 6 Students
 Friday 27 March – Working Bee at School from 2:30 p.m.
 Tuesday 31 March – Aurora Day for Year 6 Students
 Thursday 2 April – End of Term One