



# Ruapotaka School Newsletter

TERM 1 WEEK 1 2025

Kia ora koutou, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Aweh, Kia orana, Annyeonghaseyo, Malo e lelei, Kumasta, Fakaalofa lahi atu kia mutolu oti and warm greetings to all our friends and whānau. A special warm welcome to all our new families joining us this year. We look forward to working alongside you and your child or children.



We have a number of new staff this year and our classrooms have changed a bit as well. We are very pleased to have Mrs Sandy Lagitupu as our new Deputy Principal, Mrs Rewa Vowles, our Year 2/3 teacher

who are new but all experienced teachers. Mrs T returns to us part-time for the first two terms of the year. A full list of our staff can be found on our school website under "Our People".

Mrs Sandy Lagitupus - Deputy Principal, who will be in the DP's office next to Room 3

Room 1 - Mrs T/Ms Erick with Year 7/8

Room 2 - Mrs Sanjitha Joshi with Year 1

Room 3 - Miss Morgan Ibbertson with Year 5/6

Room 4 - Mrs Rewa Vowles with Year 2/3

Room 5 - Miss Zina Setefano with Year 6/7

Room 6 - Mrs Damitha Molamure with Year 3/4

Room 7 - Mrs Steph van Wijk - CRT release

Our Learning Assistants will be working in different areas than last year:

**Mrs Nicholas**

**Mrs Folu**

Other support staff we have are:

**Miss Ellen Clarken/Ms Leanne Martin** will be in the office as our school secretary all day, every day and she will be the one you will be speaking to if you contact the office.

**Mrs Udeni Silva** will be in her office in the front area Monday to Thursday. She deals with all things about Chromebooks, devices and is the school's finance officer.

**Ms Akairi Rata** returns to us this year and is working full time in our resource rooms.

**Mr Mike Niuloa** is our property assistant/caretaker and he works part-time as he did last year.

**Ms Senolita Uasia'a** is our Social Worker. She is at our school Thursdays and Fridays.



**School Hours:** Our school office is open from 8am - 3:30pm each day. If you need to come into the office please use the intercom at the gate on Taratoa Street or ring the office and make time to speak to the school secretary Leanne Martin.

**School gates** will be open at 8:30 am each morning on both the Tripoli Road entrance and Taratoa Entrance. They will be locked again from

8:55am when the school bell rings to start the day. Please ensure your child or children are at school on time each day so they do not miss any learning or messages.



### Term Dates for 2025:

Term 1 - Thursday 30 January - Friday 11th April

Term 2 - Monday 28th April - Friday 27th June

Term 3 - Monday 14th July - Friday 19th September

Term 4 - Monday 6th October - Friday 12th December

Each term finishes at 2pm on the last day of term and we finish at 12 noon on the last day of the year.



**Ways to keep in Touch:** There are many ways to keep in touch with what is happening at school. Please remember if your email, phone number or address changes please contact the school office.



Download our school app to get up to date information straight to your phone.



Follow us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/ruapotaka.school.nz>



Our school office phone number is 09 527 6244. To contact the principal directly her number is 09 5276248.



Our school office email is [office@ruapotaka.school.nz](mailto:office@ruapotaka.school.nz) to contact our school secretary Ellen Clarcken.

## Meet the Kaiako/whānau BBQ/Picnic Evening:

A great way to make some fresh connections between home and school and get the term/year off to a positive start. This is a relaxed meeting for the whānau of each class to view their children's class, meet their teacher/s and ask any questions about the year ahead. Save this date in your diaries: **Thursday 20th January 5:30pm to 7:30pm.**



### Format of the Evening:

#### 5.30pm - 6.30pm:

Families on rotation meeting their child's teacher in their classroom environment. Teachers share the class programme, routines, expectations and a bit about themselves. Whānau have an opportunity to ask questions.

#### 6.30pm - 7.30pm:

This year we thought we would try something different and have an opportunity to have a picnic on our field **after** you have been in the classroom environment and met your child's/children's teacher. This is an opportunity to mix and mingle with other families as well as staff. Please bring your own picnic rug/drinks/plates/cutlery etc. so you can take your own dishes home at the end. The Board will be selling sausages/bread and a small amount of soft drinks. This is an alcohol free event so please respect this.

**Meet the teacher** – each teacher will be in their class to do a 20 - 30 minute presentation about their class programme. *It is helpful for your child to attend these meetings with you.*

**Rm 1** - 6pm - 6:30pm

**Rm 2** - 5:30pm - 6pm

**Rm 3** - 6pm - 6:30pm

**Rm 4** - 5:30pm - 6pm

**Rm 5** - 6pm - 6:30pm

**Rm 6** - 5:30pm - 6pm



*Welcome!*

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

**School Policies and Procedures:** All our policies and procedures are available for all our whānau to view through our school website. Click on the link on our website and put in the following information: **Username:** ruapotaka **Password:** empowers



You will have noticed on the Taratoa Street side of the school there is a lot of building construction going on from the housing around the school and especially across the road from the school.

We ask that you drop your children or child off on the side of the road closest to the school and **DO NOT** stop in the school driveway as we will have trucks coming and going as well from our lower block demolition. Please be careful also on Tripoli Road as the apartments are going up and driveways will be made over the next few weeks and there will be further yellow no parking markings to be aware of. Please ensure your child comes to school on time and is also picked up by 3pm each day. As we are

a small school most children are off the school grounds by 2:50pm.











**School Lunch:** All our students are able to have lunch provided for them by the Ministry of Education for free. If your child has special dietary needs and the office is not aware of it, please contact the office and let us know.

We have a new lunch provider, School Lunch Collective, who will be providing our school. Our last provider, Kiwi Canteen, was excellent and we did not want to change and neither did they but due to government decisions we have had no choice. This is not a compulsory part of our school. You can still bring your own lunch to school if you would like and you can also have school lunch and some lunch from home.



## Term 1 Menu

January, February, and March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week One</b> Tex-Mex Beef & Beans with Rice & Cheese	Butter Chicken served with Rice & Veg	Mac & Cheese Pasta with Ham in Cheese Sauce	Beef Pasta Bolognese in Classic Tomato Sauce	Thai Jungle Curry Chicken & Veg with Rice
<b>Week Two</b> Beef & Veg Risssoles with Potato & Gravy	Mac & Cheese Pasta with Ham in Cheese Sauce	Beef Cottage Pie & Veg with mashed potato	Chicken Pasta Bake with Creamy Veg Sauce	Beef Meatballs & Tomato Sauce on Golden Rice
<b>Week Three</b> Butter Chicken served with Rice & Veg	Tex-Mex Beef & Beans with Rice & Cheese	Mac & Cheese Pasta with Ham in Cheese Sauce	Beef Meatballs & Tomato Sauce on Golden Rice	Chilled Chicken Teriyaki Rice Bowl with Veg
				
Beef Risssoles	Pasta Bolognese	Cottage Pie	Mac & Cheese	Beef Meatballs
				
Butter Chicken	Chicken Pasta	Mexican Mince	Teriyaki Chicken	Coconut Curry



**Fruit in Schools:** Fruit delivery will resume in Week 3 when our students will be given free fruit at morning tea time. In the meantime, we ask that you send your child to school with a piece of fruit for morning tea in Weeks 1 and 2.



**School Hats:** The sun is getting hotter and hotter each day in summer. At Ruapōtaka School we do not allow students to play in the sun without any hat on. School hats can be purchased at the school office. Please make sure your child has a school hat to wear at school. We **recommend** they leave their school hat at school and have a muffi hat to wear to and from school. All students going on school trips must wear a school hat. All students who want to play in the new sandpit will also need to have a hat on.



**School Student Stationery:** Stationery packs are available at the school office. We have had to unfortunately, increase the price of some of the packs from last year due to the increased prices from Office Max who provide our stationery. The prices of the stationery packs for each classroom is:

Room 1 - \$30.00

Room 2 - \$30.00

Room 3 - \$30.00

Room 4 - \$30.00

Room 5 - \$30.00

Room 6 - \$30.00

**Please purchase your child's stationery as soon as possible if you have not already, so your child can be ready for their learning.**



**School Uniforms:** You will need to go to NZ Uniforms in Botany. You can order your uniform online and they will deliver it to your home or you will need to visit the store in Botany Junction. We do not have a summer and winter uniform but all our uniform pieces can be mixed and matched. **Years 0-6 wear royal blue uniform and our Year 7/8 will wear navy blue uniforms.** Please make sure you purchase the correct

coloured uniform for your child.



**Term 1 Swimming:** This term we have swimming as part of our Physical Education Curriculum. It is a compulsory part of the curriculum and we encourage all our tamariki to come to school every day with their togs and towel. At Ruapōtaka School the Year 3-6 students will have the opportunity to have an instructor for 10 lessons to teach them how to swim, although our teachers are more than capable of teaching as well. Our Year 7/8 are too big to learn swimming skills in the pool but will use it to play some water sports





and to cool down during the day, so they will also need to bring their togs and towels to school. If your child does not have togs, they may wear shorts and a tight fitting tshirt than a loose fitting one. Please remember to name all your child's togs, tshirts, underwear, towels. It is surprising how much clothing is left behind at the end of the day.



**Important Dates for Term 1:** There are many extra activities that happen over the term and some activities are regular throughout the year. Here are a few to remember:

**Newsletters:** These come out to the eldest and only in hard copy each fortnight in Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

**Whole School Assemblies:** These also happen fortnightly during the same weeks as the newsletters come out. All whānau are

invited to attend any of these assemblies. Assemblies start at 9:15am this year.

**Frozen Fridays:** We are having these again this year every Friday ice blocks will be on sale at \$2.00 each. Students pick these up on the way home on Friday from the school staffroom.

**Wellbeing Wednesdays:** All staff and students are expected to be off site by 3pm each Wednesday. This is an opportunity for our staff to work on their wellbeing. There will be a staff member who will remain onsite until the last child is picked up. Please do not be late picking up your children.

Date	Activity	Date	Activity
Thursday 30 Jan	Start of Term One	Fri 31 Jan	Whole School Assembly
Thurs 6 Feb	Waitangi Day - School Closed	Wed 12 Feb	Tech classes start @ TC
Fri 14 Feb	Whole School Assembly Rugby training for Y6-8 Miss Ellen's last day	Wed 19 Feb	Softball Cluster Day Tech at @TC
Thurs 20 Feb	Meet the Kaiako Evening	Fri 21 Feb	Rugby training for Y6-8
Wed 26	Tech @ TC	Thurs 27 Feb	Camp information evening for Y7&8 parents 5-6pm
Fri 28 Feb	Whole School Assembly Rugby training for Y6-8	Wed 5 March	Year 7&8 camp
Thurs 6 March	Year 7&8 camp	Fri 7 March	Year 7&8 camp
Tue 11 March	Curriculum Information Evening	Wed 12 March	Cricket Cluster Day Tech @ TC
Fri 14 March	Whole School Assembly	Wed 26 March	Volleyball Cluster Day Tech @ TC
Thurs 27 March	Consent Talks for HPV Y7&8 11.30am-12.30pm	Fri 28 March	Whole School Assembly
Mon 31 March	Positive Puberty Talks for	Wed 2 April	Tech @ TC

	Y5/6 students		
Wed 9 April	Tech @ TC	Thurs 10 April	HPV1 for Year 8s 11.30am
Fri 11 April	Last Day Term 1		



**Sports Coaching:** Last year we could not participate in some of the Manaiakalani Sports Cluster Events because we did not have anyone to coach the teams. This year we are no different. Our teachers who took some of the sports teams have now left the school and we are looking for parents who would have the time and skills to coach some of our teams. **We need sports coaches for**

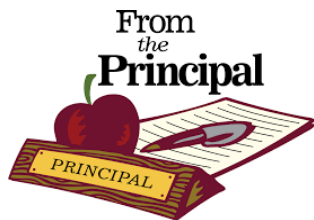
**the following sports:**

**Softball, Ki-o-rahi, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Rippa Rugby**

School staff will support with paperwork and transport on the day we just need coaches and coaches who can be with the team on the day.

We would also like to run a **Ukulele group** during lunchtimes and hopefully perform at the Kiwileles show. If you know anyone who could help us please contact the school office and speak to Leanne on 09 5276244.

**Property Update:** To start the year off, we are building an outdoor fale in the lower field area which will help provide shade in our grounds. It can also be used for classes to use as an outdoor learning area.



Fakaalofa lahi atu kia mutolu oti and Kia Ora Koutou e te whānau. What a hot start to 2025 we have had in Auckland. Some of the days and evenings are getting really too hot. I hope that you all managed to get some rest and relaxation during these holidays so that you are ready back to work. I love the Christmas break because it gives you plenty of time to actually relax together with the rest of the nation. I was fortunate enough to spend a lot of time with my daughter Hunteur who lives in Wellington for the 5 weeks she was on

holiday in Auckland. Our family also got to travel to Melbourne and not only experience the local cuisine but spend what will probably be the last time together as they move into their own lives living out of Auckland. After such a great holiday this year, I am looking forward to being back at school and working with our staff, whanau and tamariki.

With the weather being so hot lately, it is important to ensure your child is drinking plenty of water and keeping out of the sun as much as possible.

**Please remember to have your child wear a hat to school every day and they will also need a water bottle.**

You will have noticed the changes to our staffing this year. We are very fortunate to be fully staffed. It is important that if you have neighbours moving next door to you or you know of any families with children that are in our zone, that you encourage them to come and enrol their children as soon as

possible. We start the year with our theme of learning which is “**Manaakitanga**”. The focus for term one is Health + PE and Music. The focus will be “Getting to know Me” focusing on relationships.



Monuina e aho nei,  
Allison Hamilton  
(Principal)