



Ruapotaka School Newsletter

Term 1, Week 3, 2025

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

Learning Focus for Term 1: Our focus this term is "Getting to Know Us," with an emphasis on the curriculum areas of Health and Physical Education, where we will be focusing on the strand relationships with others, and in Music our students will be exploring and expressing musical ideas. This is part of our overarching theme for the year- "**Manaakitanga**". Each class will have swimming lessons this term. Our students will also be participating in the Tamaki Cluster sports tournaments.

Year 7 & 8 Camp: The Year 7 and 8 students are very excited to go on camp in Week 6. Thank you to the students who have returned their consent forms and medical forms. Please return these forms to your classroom teacher or to the office if you haven't already done so. Camp costs \$150 per student. Please make any payments to the school office. There is a camp meeting for parents on Tuesday 25th February at 5pm.

Celebrating Our Learning

Each newsletter our teachers will be putting up information about their classroom. If you would like to see more of what your children are doing, go to our school website and look for our classroom learning sites and you will see more about your child's class there. In the meantime, check out what they have been doing...

Room 1: Room 1 brought their 'A game' this week. From day one we settled in and organised our learning journey, the roles and responsibilities we all have this term and welcomed two new students to our school. We have lots of exciting events coming up, one of them being camp. So remember to check out our School Facebook page and School sign. We are currently updating our classroom learning site so please check in with that in the next couple of weeks.



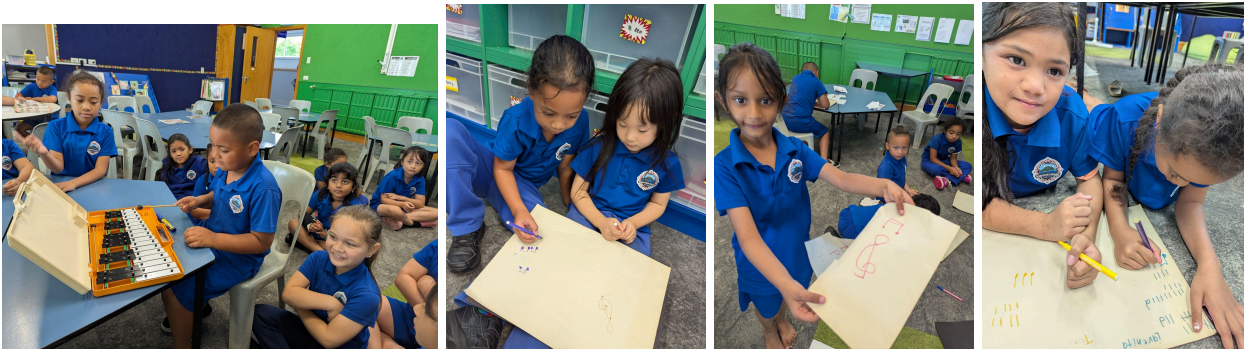
Room 2: Welcome dear whanau. It is lovely how students have settled in Room 2. We have been exploring our school and getting to the new place. They have been engaging in different activities and building confidence in their learning. Room 2 has been practising writing their names and enhancing their pencil grips. We were lucky to go to the swimming pool and have fun in the warm weather.



Room 3: “Fale Fun” Room 3 could hardly wait to go and check out our new school fale, Since the start of our school year the students have eagerly watched the construction process and now they could finally enjoy it!!! We brought our library books along and settled in for a cozy reading session. Room 3 enjoyed their time and suggested that next time, we should bring our bean bags for extra comfort!



Room 4: Students listened to a conductor’s rhythm and the “orchestra” responded. They also listened to music ranging from peaceful lullabies through to exciting marches and expressed their emotions through gestures. There was some creative music-note writing as well.



Room 5: Our tamariki have had an awesome start to term one with introductions and weaving ‘Manaakitanga’ in our learning. We kicked off with ‘getting to know each other activities’, music rhythm and beat, swimming, reading and writing letters to our future selves. Next week our year 7 students will be going down to technology at Tamaki College and engage in rugby training sessions every Friday afternoon. Ka pai to mahi room 5!



Room 6: It was a pleasure to welcome our lovely students in Room 6. They have been engaging in a range of activities around Reading, Writing and Mathematics over the last few days. The writing focus has been, "Myself and My Family". We have also had many discussions around showing manaakitanga and being kind to each other. The children were very eager to start their swimming lessons on Tuesday. We have swimming every Tuesday and Friday.



STEAM Classes:

We are excited to begin our STEAM lessons. The junior classes will be learning about habitats - what we need in our habitats both at school and at home, and also what our native birds will need in their habitats. The senior classes are learning about the science of music. How loudness and pitch can be shown in sound waves, and how to use this knowledge to make our own instruments.

Special School Events

Swimming: Term 1 has seen the hot weather be more consistent across the term and we are lucky that we have a school pool. Classes are allocated a time to go swimming and swimming is a compulsory part of our curriculum. It is important that every child in Aotearoa learns how to swim and be safe around water. Please ensure they bring their swimming togs and a towel to school every day. They will need a separate bag to keep them in. Teach your children how to get dressed and undressed quickly. Togs are not required for swimming but if you choose to buy some, please put their name on it and it is your child's responsibility to look after them.

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 February 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

Important Notices and Reminders

PB4L: Positive behaviour for learning: At Ruapōtaka Primary School, we are committed to creating a safe and positive learning environment for our students. Our PB4L approach promotes respect, resilience, responsibility, and integrity, aligning with our shared vision of empowering learners and shaping a better future. Let's work together to foster these values in our children both at school and at home. Help us promote the values of respect, resilience, responsibility, and integrity in our students by having conversations with your child about these values and how they can apply them in their daily lives.

Uniform Expectations for Term 1: From this week, school hats **MUST** be worn everyday at school. If students do not have a school hat, they will not be able to play outside during break times. Please ensure that your child has a SCHOOL HAT while they are at school and on school trips. They can leave their hat at school and have a mufti hat to wear to and from school.



New Enrolments: If you know of anyone living near you that has a 5 year old birthday soon please ask them to contact our school office to pick up an enrolment pack. This term all new enrolments will get the opportunity to meet the Principal and have a look around the school.

classroom.

Coaching sports teams- If you are available to help coach a sport or support our students at these tournaments, please reach out to our Sports Coordinator, Mrs M on damitham@ruapotaka.school.nz We have softball, cricket and volleyball tournaments coming up this term.

Talanoa with the Principal: My office is always open for any parents or community members to come in and see me. On Friday mornings, I have made a point to keep some time free to meet with parents. Feel free to

come and see me on Friday mornings to come and chat about anything, your concerns, how well we are doing or even how you can support the school and how we can support you.

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/Ruapōtaka.school.nz>



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



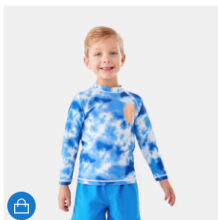
Our school office email is office@Ruapōtaka.school.nz to contact our school secretary Ellen Clarken.

Swimming:

Classes are now in the middle of swimming lessons. It is important that students, no matter what age they are, wear the correct clothing in the pool. **The purpose of taking classes to use our swimming pool is to teach them how to swim and be safe in water.** It is important that what they are wearing does not stretch from the water and that nothing can be seen underneath their clothing. **Muffi clothes and school uniforms are unacceptable** to wear when you are trying to learn to swim. We expect the same clothing as you would wear in a public pool. Please also remember, **NO TOWEL NO SWIM**. Students will be expected to show their towel to their teacher before they go to the pool. There will be no sharing of towels as it may take a while for towels to dry if the sun is not shining.

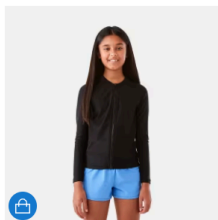


Girls need to wear proper swimwear which can be purchased from the Warehouse for \$12.00. Rash shirts can also be purchased for girls and boys who want to cover up from the Warehouse, KMart, The photos below are from KMart or Warehouse. There is an affordable option.



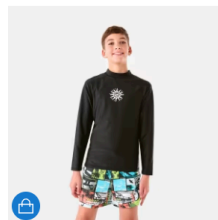
Printed Long Sleeve Rash Vest

\$14



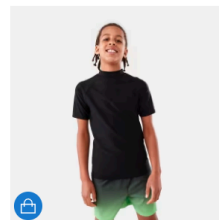
Long Sleeve Zip Through Rash Vest

\$17



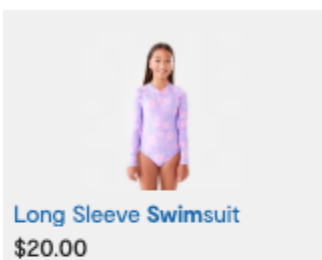
Long Sleeve Printed Rash Vest

\$14

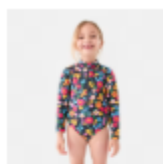


Short Sleeve Basic Rash Vest

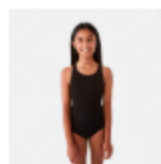
\$12



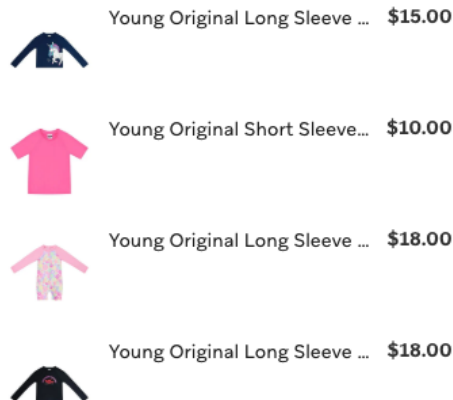
Long Sleeve Swimsuit
\$20.00



Long Sleeve One Piece Swimsuit
\$18.00



Cross Over Bather Swimsuit
\$17.00



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.

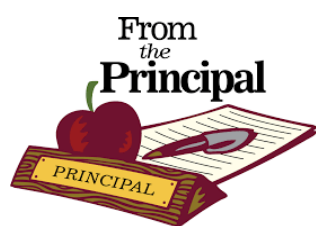
Whole School Assemblies: These also happen fortnightly during the same weeks as the newsletters come out. All whānau are invited to attend any of these assemblies. Assemblies start at 9:15am this year.

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 |
|--------------|---|--------------|--|
| 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 | Wed 5 March | Year 7&8 camp |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Rugby training for Y6-8 | | |
| 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 Y5/6 students | Wed 2 April | Tech @ TC |
| Wed 9 April | Tech @ TC | Thurs 10 April | HPV1 for Year 8s 11.30am |
| Fri 11 April | Last Day Term 1 | | |



Fakaalofa lahi atu kia mutolu oti and Kia Ora Koutou e te whānau. The holidays are like a distant memory for me. We have certainly hit the ground running from day 1.

A huge welcome to all our new families. To date we have had 15 new students enrol and attend our school, which is so great to see. This means the classroom sizes in some year levels will be getting bigger than 25 and as our classrooms are old and only small, it may mean that we will need to start another classroom. The Ministry has funded our school for 130 students. Currently, we are at 131 students and we have another 3 students who have pre-enrolled and will start sometime this coming week. We have to have at least 140 for two weeks before we can ask the MoE for permission to recruit another teacher. So, it is very important that all new families in the area who are in our zone, enrol as soon as possible as it gives us time to ensure we have enough staff to accommodate the students.

With the weather getting hotter and hotter in the afternoons, it is important that your child comes to school with a hat and a water bottle. Please do not put any clothing under their uniform as we are noticing some students coming into the classroom after playing and becoming overheated.

Thank you again for your support. We are looking forward to meeting you all at the Meet the Whanau + Meet the Kaiako Evening coming up.



Monuina e aho nei,
Allison Hamilton
(Principal)