



#3 - 1 May 2026

RiwakaNews

Kia ora e te whānau,

Term Two is well underway and there's plenty happening around Our Place over the coming weeks. Be sure to join us for the Teaching & Learning @ Our Place event, explore our refreshed Connected from the Start transition programme, and pop key dates in your calendar – including our learning celebration assemblies and the Matariki Lantern Walk.


Lots of great opportunities to stay connected and get involved.

Recently, the TDC connected our school to the town water supply, following years of ongoing challenges with access to a reliable, potable source. This is a reassuring step for the Board and for all of us who rely on a safe, consistent water supply.

Our bore remains in use for the pool and garden irrigation.

Our term focus, Forces of Change, is already sparking curiosity as tamariki explore the impact of weather on our local environment, communities, and industries, and begin to consider wider social, economic, and political responses to climate change.

I'm excited to see where their questions and thinking take them.

As always, it's a privilege to be part of your child's learning journey. A highlight for me this term has been the hand-made cards delivered to my office by some of our newest learners, proudly sharing how much they love being here and their 'Principul'  Add to that the steady stream of much-loved soft toys popping in to visit (and now gathering in their own 'secret' spot while learning is underway!)—it's these small, joyful moments that say so much about how safe and connected our tamariki feel at school.

Mauri ora,

Adele

Adele Lidgard
Tumuaki - Principal

Come Along!

TEACHING & LEARNING @ OUR PLACE

Ever wondered about structured literacy, Maths - No problem! or how we deliver our localised curriculum here at Our Place?

We hope to share some insights into teaching and learning with you in this 90 minute session.

Come along and get Connected!

RSVP for a session that suits you:

9:15 - 10:45am

6:30 - 8:00pm

office@riwaka.school.nz

MATARIKI LANTERN WALK

Make sure you get this date and time locked in! Gathering early outside school before we make our way down to the Riwaka Wharf for some karakia and star-gazing.

Bring your lantern, wrap up warm and bring a plate of food to share on our return to school.

Tamariki will need to be supervised at school or return home with their whānau.

To help with catering please RSVP to office@riwaka.school.nz

There's a real buzz across Te Puna as our youngest learners settle into school life. From first days in Awaroa to growing independence in Pukekoikoi, our tamariki are building confidence, curiosity and a strong sense of belonging. Here's a snapshot of the learning and energy across our Te Puna classrooms.



Pukekoikoi

In Pukekoikoi, teaching and learning is purposeful, engaging and responsive, reflecting our vision and a strong focus on developing confident AWHI learners. Programmes are thoughtfully planned around school-wide themes and learner needs, while allowing space for creativity, curiosity and individual strengths to shine. Learning is delivered through a mix of whole-class teaching, small-group instruction and targeted support, ensuring all learners are both supported and extended. A strong emphasis is placed on building positive mindsets — encouraging learners to persevere, take risks, and see challenge as part of growth. Relationships are at the heart of the classroom, supported by high expectations, consistent routines and a warm, inclusive environment where learners feel safe, valued and ready to learn.

In Year 3, learners are also developing their sense of agency — making choices, taking ownership of their learning, and reflecting on what helps them succeed. Pukekoikoi tikanga values are woven through daily practice, strengthening respect, responsibility and a strong sense of belonging.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, with learners bringing energy, curiosity and humour each day. Watching their confidence grow — and their willingness to celebrate both their own and others' success — has been a real highlight.

— Serena Holm,
Pukekoikoi Kaiako / Te Puna
Team Leader

Anarewa

In Anarewa, learning is centred around the changing weather, with connections woven across the curriculum. From writing and reading to statistics, art, te reo Māori and even PE, our tamariki explore the weather in meaningful and engaging ways — “can you run like the wind?” We've been fortunate to have Whaea Tania supporting our te reo learning — ngā mihi nui, Nana Moko! This connected approach helps children make real-world links, deepen their thinking, and strengthen understanding through repeated exposure across subjects.

Our days follow a clear and consistent routine, supporting focus and confidence in learning, while Fridays offer opportunities to explore topics more deeply or dive into hands-on science.

The positive energy and can-do attitude of our tamariki make Anarewa a fantastic place to learn.

— Becky Hawkswell, Anarewa
Year 1/2 Kaiako

Awaroa

In Awaroa, our new entrant classroom, our youngest learners are gently supported as they begin their school journey at five. Each day is thoughtfully structured with a balance of routine, creativity and exploration — including early literacy and maths alongside rich opportunities for PE, inquiry, art and science.

Our classroom is a calm, nurturing space where kindness, respect and a sense of belonging are at the heart of everything we do. Through hands-on learning, children are encouraged to take risks, solve problems, share ideas and grow as confident, capable learners.

It is a privilege to be part of these early school moments — the laughter, the learning, and the joy our tamariki bring each day make Awaroa a truly special place.

— Stevee Rhind, Awaroa
Year 0/1 Kaiako /

Spotlight on Te Puna



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to Term 2. A special welcome to the whānau and tamariki joining us at Riwaka School for the first time, we're really glad you're here and part of our community.

As a Board, our focus is simple: making sure Riwaka School is a place where children are well taught, well supported, and set up to thrive. We remain focused on supporting a strong and stable school, where great teaching and positive learning outcomes are at the heart of all we do. Our aim is for every child and whānau to feel connected, supported, and able to flourish, supported by the fabulous teachers and team we have here at Riwaka School.

Adele and the teaching team have some great opportunities for you to connect with the school and see teaching and learning in action this term, so keep an eye out for those.

Something I found particularly impactful last week was when my kids came home full of questions to discuss after learning about Anzac Day at school. Those questions led to some really interesting conversations about much bigger subjects, and it was unexpected and wonderful to see.

I hope you are all having a great week,

Ngā mihi nui,

Tim Norman

Riwaka School Board of Trustees



Connected • Nurtured • Empowered

Riwaka te puna wai, whakatipu ngā tamariki - The flowing waters nurture our future generation

Connected from the Start

We are excited to introduce our new Welcome to Riwaka School programme, **Connected from the Start** – designed to support our newest tamariki and their whānau as they begin their journey with us here at Our Place.

As your child's start date approaches, we warmly encourage whānau to register for our New Entrant (NE) programme.

All visits take place in our NE classroom, Awaroa, on Tuesday mornings from 9:00–11:00am.

Week 1

You and your child will be welcomed into our classroom environment, spending the morning together becoming familiar with classroom life. This first visit is about connection, comfort, and getting to know the space and people.

Weeks 2–4

After settling your child into Awaroa, parents and caregivers are invited to attend one of our short 50 minute information sessions (rotating across the weeks):

- **All Things School Admin** – everything you need to know to feel confident and connected
- **Structured Literacy** – how we support early reading and writing
- **Maths** – an introduction to how maths learning looks at Riwaka

These sessions are designed to give you a strong understanding of how learning happens at Riwaka, while also building connections with other whānau.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child as part of our Riwaka School community 🧡

Celebrating Term One Attendance

Every Day Matters

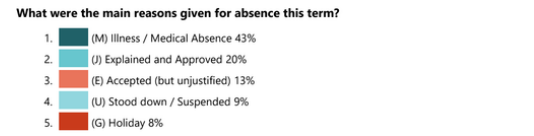
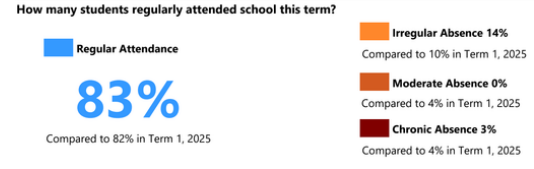
We're really excited to share that our Term 1 attendance has been excellent with 83% of our students attending regularly, one of our strongest starts in recent years. This achievement belongs to our families, our wonderful teachers and support staff, and our amazing students. Those daily routines you build, the effort you put in on the tough mornings, and the value you place on learning, it all makes a real difference.

We want to acknowledge the real commitment behind these numbers. Regular attendance helps our tamariki stay connected, confident and ready to learn, and your mahi makes that possible. At the same time, we know for some families, attendance can be a very real challenge. If you're finding things hard, illness, routines, transport, anxiety, or anything else, please know we're here to help. Reaching out early means we can work alongside you to find the best support for your whānau.

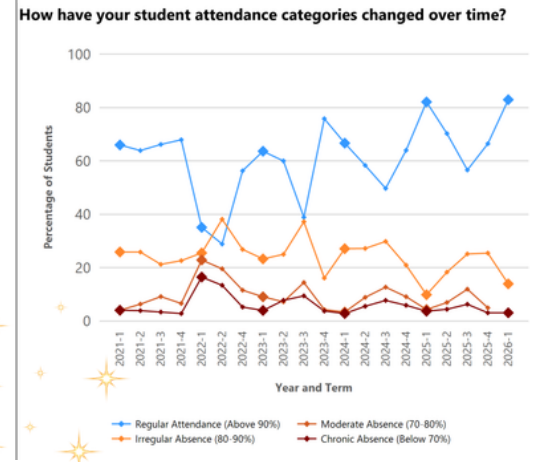
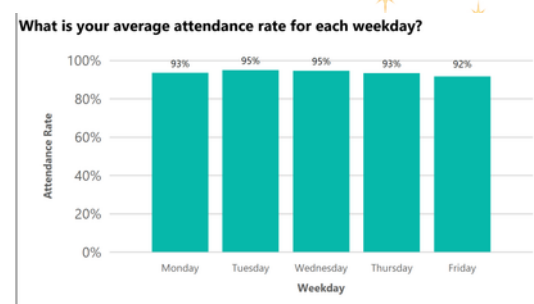
As we move into the colder months, when regular attendance often gets tougher, let's keep the momentum going by supporting each other, staying connected, and continuing the great habits built last term.

Keep up the awesome commitment!
Shay Gill
 on behalf of the Riwaka School Board

Term 1 Summary



How many students were on time to class?
97% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)



Our school works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. Different policies are under review each term and our school community can submit feedback. Follow the instructions below to contribute to the review.

- Go to the SchoolDocs site for our school by clicking on this link:
<https://riwaka.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
 This will take you to *Current review and review instructions*.
- Enter the username (riwaka) and password (awhi).
- The policies listed here are the key policies under review this term. Click on the policy you want to review.
- Click the "Start your review" button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
- Follow the prompts to submit your review.

Note that you can review any policy that has a "Start your review" button, not just the key policies listed in *Current review and review instructions*. There will be other related policies in that section of the site open for review.

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

Current review

Review opens	20 April 2026
Review closes	3 July 2026
Review topics this term	Who reviews ?
Daily School Bus*	All
School Swimming Pool*/Swimming Off Site*	All (esp Board)
Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)	All (esp Board)
EOTC Governance Roles and Responsibilities	All
EOTC Risk Assessment and Management	All

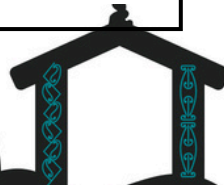
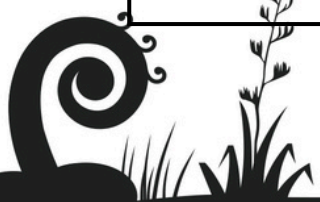
*Not all schools will have this policy

[Go to the current reviews on my SchoolDocs site](#)

SOME UPCOMING DATES



Tue, 5 May	10am - 12pm	Colossal Squid Museum visit - Y4-6
Tue, 12 May	10am - 12pm 6pm - 8pm	Colossal Squid Museum visit - Y2-3 School Board meeting
Tue, 19 May	9:15 - 10:45am 10am - 12pm 6:30 - 8pm	Teaching & Learning @ Our Place event Colossal Squid Museum visit - Y7-8 Teaching & Learning @ Our Place event
Thu, 21 May	10am - 2pm	School Cross Country
Fri, 22 May	Teacher Only Day - school closed	
Tue, 26 May	9am - 11am	Connected From The Start session
Fri, 29 May	4.00 - 5.00pm 5.15 - 6.15pm	Winter Wonderland School Disco - Years 1- 3 Winter Wonderland School Disco - Years 4 - 8
Mon, 1 June	King's Birthday - school closed	
Tue, 2 June	9am - 11am	Connected From The Start session
Tue, 9 June	9am - 11am 6pm - 8pm	Connected From The Start session School Board meeting
Tue, 16 June	9am - 11am	Connected From The Start session
Tue, 23 June	9am - 11am	Connected From The Start session
Tue, 30 June	9am - 11am	Connected From The Start session
Fri, 3 July	6:00am 9:10am 2:50pm	Matariki Lantern Walk and shared breakfast Learning Celebration Assembly School finishes for Term 2
4 - 19 July	School Holidays	
Mon, 20 July	8.50am	Term 3 starts



COMMUNITY NOTICES

SPORT TASMAN

SPORT START FUNDING

Sport Tasman provides funding to support tamariki and rangatahi participate in sport and physical activity. This funding is here for families who need a little extra help due to financial pressures, so kids can keep playing and having fun!

SPORT START GRANT AWARD T's & C's:

- Tamariki (ages 5 to 17 years) are entitled to up to \$60 per calendar year
- Rangatahi (ages 18 to 19 years) are entitled to up to \$100 per calendar year
- Age is relative to the date of application
- You MUST have a CURRENT Community Service Card, either in the Parent/Carer's name or the Child's name
- Up to 2 sports with the same organisation may be applied for at a time
- Multiple applications for the same child through different organisations will be considered
- You may apply as many times per year as you like, until you reach your entitlement (see above)

SPORT START PROCESS:

- Sports clubs and schools must be registered as a Provider with Sport Tasman (see our website).
- Funding rounds are processed and paid out monthly, on/around the 20th (excludes Jan)
- Applications to be submitted by the 10th of the month
- Funds are paid directly to the Registered Provider School/Club/Organisation (any difference between fees and funding is NOT covered by Sport Tasman)
- Funding must be used for sport subscriptions only; for example, it cannot be used for travel or uniforms

03 546 3301
admin@sporttasman.org.nz

SHRED WITH FRIENDS IMPROVE SKILLS & CONFIDENCE HAVE FUN! SAFE SENDS!

KRANKIN' KIDS TERM 2

6 WEEKS OF MOUNTAIN BIKE COACHING

NELSON NIGHT RIDES
WEDNESDAYS
Codgers MTB Park
4-6pm, 10+ yrs

SUNDAY SHREDS
MINI SHREDDERS
Rabbit Island
12.30-2pm
6-9 yrs

RICHMOND
Silvan Forest MTB Park
3-5pm
8-15 yrs

MINI SHREDDERS
THURSDAYS
Maitai Recreation Hub
3.30-5pm, 6-9 yrs

BOOKINGS OPEN FRIDAY 20TH MARCH @ 5PM - VIA WEBSITE

www.krانkinkids.co.nz info@krانkinkids.co.nz

A.T.L.A.S

COME HANG OUT WITH US!
WEDNESDAY 3.30PM - 4.30PM
WEEKLY DURING TERM TIME - STARTING 22 APRIL

TERM 2, CELEBRATE "THE ARTS"

A.T.L.A.S
(AT THE LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL)
IS A PLACE FOR FUN, CONNECTION, CRAFTS AND GAMES!
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED, PARENT SUPERVISION ADVISED

tasman district libraries



July 'Amazing Race' Day Camp:

From 13th-17th July, we have a day camp for 7 - 13 year old's. The theme is 'Amazing Race' - so each day we will be competing to the finish line in fun team challenges to see who takes it out. This is along with our classic Bridge Valley activities such as Archery, Luge, Rock Climbing and more. We'd love to see you here!

To register visit <https://www.bridgevalley.co.nz/holiday-camps> or email us at holidaycamps@bridgevalley.co.nz

SKATE ABOUT Sessions

Wednesdays 3:30-5:30pm

Sessions designed for 5- 14 year olds.

Skating skills with a focus on balance, safety, and fundamental movement patterns. Equipment tips. Learn a variety of drills and skills. Focus and fun!

Gradually building toward hockey-specific skills. Apply these to a modified game.

\$5 per session. All gear provided.
Skate About with us

For More Information message: 0273016209

Kaiteriti gold

Kids Race

3.2km Trail Course
11:45 am, 31 May

- Ages 5 - 14
- \$5 entry. Spot prizes. Earn a donation for your school (t&cs)
- More info: <https://www.kaiteritigold.org/>

Another fundraising event from the team at Active4Good

Veda Organics

ORGANIC WEEKLY VEGE BOXES

Simply register, select which size box you'd like (\$50 or \$80), set up automatic payments online, then your box is packed and ready for pick up weekly.

Perfect for busy families!

"Knowing we will have fresh, seasonal produce grown locally that lasts the whole week takes a big load off our busy schedules"
- Philippa Treerise, Customer

Register at: www.vedicorganics/deliveries
\$50 weekly box shown above - produce changes weekly