

ROTORUA PRIMARY SCHOOL

PUKEROA ORUAWHATA

Te uru o te whetū - To be guided by the star.

PARENTS INFORMATION HANDBOOK

2026



Distinguished School

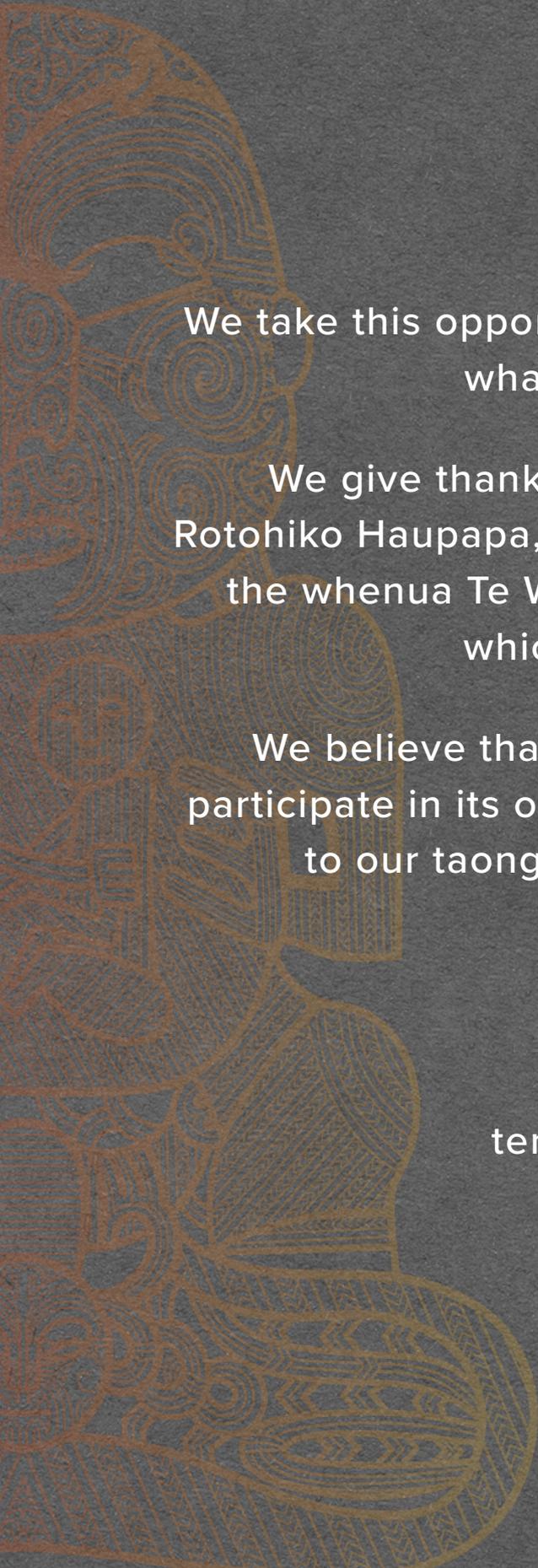


Tena koutou,

Tenei te mihi nui ki a koutou nga koeke, matua,
whanau, me nga tamariki toa o
Te Arawa me te tangi hoki ki a ratou kua riro atu.

Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to Rotorua Primary School -
Pukeroa Oruawhata.



We take this opportunity to welcome you and your whanau to our school.

We give thanks to the Tipuna of this area, Rotohiko Haupapa, for his foresight in setting aside the whenua Te Wharau a Tahora Whakarua on which our school sits.

We believe that this school and the way we participate in its operations will make a difference to our taonga who are educated here.

No reira,
Tena koutou,
tena koutou,
tena koutou katoa.

Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata (RPS) Strategic Plan in a Balanced Scorecard Framework

A Strategic Planning and Managing system for Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata to align its activities with its Vision and Mission, improve its internal communications, external messaging, and monitor its performance against its goals

VISION

TE URU O TE WHETŪ - GUIDED BY THE STAR

Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata will support our taonga to thrive in an environment that fosters their whare tapawha, confidence, capability and cultural connectedness as contributors to Ngati Whakauae, Aotearoa, and the world.

Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata will become a leader in culturally responsive education, recognised for its excellence in empowering its taonga to thrive academically, culturally, and socially, in an “iConnected” world.

MISSION

INSPIRING OUR TAONGA (STARS) IN THEIR WHARE OF LEARNING

PURPOSE - WHY

Cultural Identity is the foundation of success for our taonga, as lifelong learners, as future leaders, as champions of our heritage.

STRATEGY - HOW

We provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, communication and collaborative endeavours in our taonga.

VALUES - WHAT

Cultural Identity is the foundation of success for our taonga, as lifelong learners, as future leaders, as champions of our heritage.

PUKEROATANGA:

Through the valuing of a Te Ao Māori worldview, a "possibilities" perspective is created that accelerates our taonga's learning by identifying, enabling, and celebrating them as individuals with unique strengths and capabilities.

WHAKATANGATA:

Fostering a caring and inclusive environment where our taonga feel valued and supported, and in turn, value and support others.

MANA MOTUHAKE:

Empowering our taonga to make their own decisions about their learning, ambitions, and aspirations. Having high expectations of our taonga when it comes to their learning, ambitions, and aspirations

TU RANGATIRA:

Empowering our tanga to become leaders and advocates for themselves and "their world".

HONONGA:

Building strong relationships within the school, whanau, iwi, hapu, and mana whenua based on mutual respect and collaboration.

KAITIAKITANGA:

Resource management and Sustainability



The Ashridge Diamond
Why-What-How-Way

BEHAVIOUR STANDARDS- WAY

Cultural Respect

Inclusivity

Empowerment

Collaboration

Continuous Improvement

Tech-Savvy

PURPOSE

TO MAKE CULTURAL IDENTITY,
THE FOUNDATION OF OUR TAONGA'S SUCCESS AS LIFE-LONG LEARNERS,
FUTURE LEADERS, AND CHAMPIONS OF THEIR HERITAGE.

STRATEGY

TO PROVIDE A STIMULATING AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT
FOSTERS CURIOSITY,
CREATIVITY,
CRITICAL THINKING,
COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATIVE
ENDEAVOUR IN OUR TAONGA.



VALUES

PUKEROATANGA

Cultural Integration and Immersion

WHAKATANGATA

Excellence in Teaching & Learning

HONONGA

Community Engagement & Partnership

TŪ RANGATIRA

Maori Student Learning & Development Student

MANA MOTUHAKE

Holistic Support for Wellbeing

KAITIAKITANGA

Resource Management & Sustainability



Distinguished School

BEHAVIOURS & STANDARDS

Cultural Respect:

Demonstrate respect for Māori/all cultures and languages in all interactions and practices.

Inclusivity:

Foster a sense of belonging and acceptance for all students, regardless of background or ability.

Empowerment:

Encourage student voice and agency in decision-making processes and learning experiences.

Collaboration:

Work collaboratively with whānau, colleagues, and community partners to support student success.

Continuous Improvement:

Embrace a growth mindset, seeking feedback and opportunities for learning and development.

Tech-savvy:

Use technology seamlessly and enthusiastically for learning, collaboration, creativity, problem-solving, and responsible digital citizenship.

BALANCED SCORECARD

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RPS' actions and decision-making processes are guided by its enduring resolve that the taonga attending Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata, will thrive academically, culturally, and socially in an environment that supports ā-hinengaro, ā-tinana, ā-wairua, ā-whānau, making them confident, capable, and culturally connected contributors to Ngāti Whakaue, Aotearoa, and the world.

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STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

This strategic plan underlines how alignment of its strategic focus areas with its Vision and Mission, enables RPS to simultaneously advance multiple facets of its performance: its internal operations and its external outcomes; its internal communications, and its external messaging; its program execution, and its monitoring and reporting. By doing so, RPS intends to underwrite the success of its taonga as life-long learners, future leaders, and champions of their heritage.

2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson:

Jocelyn Callaghan

Parent Representative:

Mariana Morrison, Stevee Wickliffe, Tamati Coffee, Kihi Tawhai

Staff Representative:

Cheryl Manley

Principal:

Fred Whata

The Board of Trustees are elected by the school community and are your representatives who govern the school.

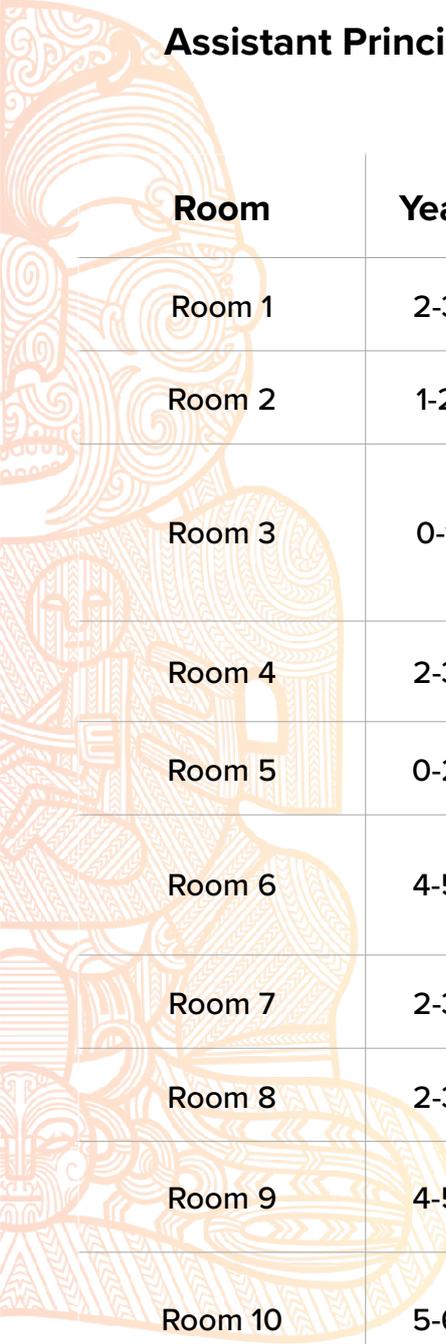
The Staff Representative and Principal are also full members of the Board and together they work to ensure that all students receive the best education that Rotorua School can give.

2026 STAFF

Principal: Fred Whata

Deputy Principal: Kelly Anaru

Assistant Principal: Cheryl Manley



Room	Year	Teacher	Medium	Syndicate
Room 1	2-3	Aimee-Lee Cook	Rumaki	Tiki
Room 2	1-2	Takiata Curtis	Rumaki	Tiki
Room 3	0-1	Margie Te Aonui	Reo Rua	Tiki
Room 4	2-3	Briar Grace	Rumaki	Tiki
Room 5	0-2	Tiria Kiel-Vercoe	Reo Rua	Tiki
Room 6	4-5	Sheree Savage Jasmin Hurihanganui	Reo Rua	Tiki
Room 7	2-3	Frances Whata	Reo Rua	Tiki
Room 8	2-3	Rachael McDonald	Reo Rua	Tiki
Room 9	4-5	Czenamin Barlow Avi Tuielu	Rumaki	Tiki
Room 10	5-6	Kararaina Iasona	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Room 11	4-5	Waimiere Tiaho	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Room 12	5-6	Jessie Heke	Rumaki	Pukaki

2026 STAFF

Room	Year	Teacher	Medium	Syndicate
Room 13	5-6	Claira Rika	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Room 14	5-6	Raiha Tuahine	Rumaki	Pukaki
Room 15	7-8	Te Wairere Ngaia	Rumaki	Pukaki
Room 16	7-8	Omera Roimata	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Room 17	7-8	Sam Iraia	Rumaki	Pukaki
Room 18	7-8	Hemi Leonard	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Room 19	7-8	Cheryl Manley	Reo Rua	Pukaki
Whakapiki Te Reo		Kath Mason	Director of International Learners	Esther Beattie
Sports Coordinator		Mel Rika	Intervention Program Lead	Hinemoa Anaru
ASL / SENCO		Esther Beattie	Engineers Club	Lavinia Shepard
Assessment - Teaching & Learning		Hinemoa Anaru		
Learning Support Coordinator		Lavinia Shepherd		

TEAM LEADERS:

TIKI	Year 1-3 Reo Rua Team Lead	Kelly Anaru
PANUI O MARAMA	Year 4-6 Reo Rua Team Lead	Waimiere Taoho
PUKAKI	Year 7-8 Reo Rua Team Lead	Cheryl Manley
TIKI	Year 0-3 Rumaki Team Lead	Tamara Simpkins
PANUI O MARAMA	Year 4-6 Rumaki Team Lead	Tamara Simpkins
PUKAKI	Year 7-8 Rumaki Team Lead	Te Wairere Ngaia

Release Teachers:

Jazmin Hurihanganui	
Atarangi Manley	Te Aroha Bidois
Tayla Ua Lindebaum	Jade Gerrard
Cheryl Hinga	Bill Anaru
Nayoka Hulton	Kevin Lum
Layla Rask	

School Responsibilities:

Literacy Lead	Waimiere Taoho
Numeracy Lead	Cheryl Manley
Sports Coordinator	Mel Rika
Te Reo	Te Wairere Ngaia - Tamara Simpkins - Kath Mason
SENCO	Esther Beattie
Learning Support Coordinator	Lavinia Shepherd
Assessment - Teaching & Learning	Hinemoa Anaru
Director of International Learners	Esther Beattie

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT STAFF

Administration Accounts Manager

Sonja Williams

Administration Assistant

Brenda Green

Caretakers

Paris Kingi

Martyn Halleur

Gardener

Wayne Boucher

TEACHER AIDES:

Cheryl Hinga

Raewyn McPhee

Michell Fergusson

Nayoka Hulton

Ruihana Kirk

Duncan Te Aonui

Puti Hopa - Jackson

Nikki Wharerau

Aroha Gotz

Waitiahoaho Emery



ROTORUA PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE PLAN



ROTORUA PRIMARY ENROLMENT ZONE

A Ministry of Education approved enrolment zone has been adopted by the Board of Trustees and is now in effect.

Home Zone

All students who live within the home zone, as shown on the map, shall be entitled to enrol at the school. A full description of the home zone is available at the school office and on our website.

Proof of residence within the home zone will be required.

Out of Zone Enrolments

Each year the Board of Trustees will determine the number of places which are likely to be available in the following year for the enrolment of students who live outside the home zone. The Board will publish this information by notice in a newspaper circulating in the area served by the school. The notice will indicate how many applications are to be made and will specify a date by which all applications must be received.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Rotorua Primary has a Rūmaki Reo unit as a special programme.

Applications for out of zone enrolments will be processed in the following order of priority:

First priority must be given to students who have been accepted for enrolment in the above special programmes

Second priority must be given to applicants who are siblings of current students

Third priority must be given to applicants who are siblings of former students

Fourth priority must be given to any applicant who is a child of a former student of the school

Fifth priority must be given to any applicant who is either a child of an employee of the BOT or a child of a member of the BOT

Sixth priority must be given to all other applicants



Rotorua Office, Level 3, 1144 Pukaki Street, Rotorua 3010
 PO Box 1749, Rotorua 3040 Phone: +64 7 349 7399



ENGLISH & IMMERSION MĀORI MEDIUMS OF EDUCATION

As of 2026 our school offers two mediums of education:

Te Reo Māori Reo Rua classes are taught predominantly in English and 30 -50%
in Te Reo Māori Rūmaki offers a minimum of 80% - 100% instruction

in Te Reo Māori TE WHĀNAU RŪMAKI

We reserve the right when classes are full to limit entry into the Rūmaki Unit.

There are criteria of entry for those who wish to enrol into the Rūmaki Unit.

YOU MUST MEET ALL OF OF THESE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Prior attendance of Kōhanga Reo / Puna Reo / other Rūmaki environment
 2. Interview with the Rūmaki Leader - Tamara Simpkins (senior) or Te Wairere Ngaia (junior)
 3. Whānau support at home
 4. An ongoing commitment to immersion education and to Kaupapa Māori philosophy
- The Rūmaki classes are taught in Te Reo Māori.

The Year 0 to Year 4 classes are total Immersion classes, however the children in Year 5 to Year 8 are introduced to a formal English Language Programme for a minimum of 30 minutes a day. Students in years 7 and 8 are monitored closely;

English will be given extra attention and boosted by the classroom teacher through an English Structured Literacy programme.

By the end of Year 8 both the Maori and English languages will have been taught to prepare the student for High School.

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAYS 2026

TERM ONE

START	FINISH	½ DAYS	WEEKS
Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 2 April	92	10
Friday 6 February - Waitangi Day			
Tuesday 1 April & Wednesday 2 April - The Beatles - School Production			
Good Friday 3 April - School Holidays			
Easter Monday 6 April - School Holidays			

TERM TWO

START	FINISH	½ DAYS	WEEKS
Monday 20 April	Friday 26th June	96	10
Monday June 1st - Kings Birthday			
Tuesday 1 April & Wednesday 2 April - The Beatles - School Production			
Friday 26 June Academic Review Day / School Reports			
Friday 10 July Matariki - School Holidays			

TERM THREE

START	FINISH	½ DAYS	WEEKS
Monday 20 July	Friday 25 September	100	10

TERM FOUR

START	FINISH	½ DAYS	WEEKS
Monday 12 October	Wednesday 16 December	94	10
Monday 26 October Labour Day			
Wednesday 16 December PRIZE GIVING			

SCHOOL HOURS

8.00am - 8.45am	<p>Tier 3 - Intervention Programme SL - Reo Rua Rachael / Frances / Margy /</p> <p>Tier 3 - Intervention Programme SL - Rumaki Kath / Aimee / Takiata /</p> <p>Tier 1 & 2 - Intervention Programme Maths - Reo Rua Kararaina</p> <p>Tier 1 & 2 - Intervention Programme Maths - Rumaki Raiha</p>
8.30am	Arrived at school and classroom opened ready for instruction
8.55am	Roll / Karakia / Waiata / Notices etc...
9.15am - 10.20am	<p>Numeracy</p> <p>Maths No Problem / Poutama Pangarau / DIMIC / Maths Whizz</p>
10.30am - 10.50am	Morning Tea
10.55am - 11.40am	<p>Structured Literacy / Rangaranga-a-Ta</p> <p>Spelling / REading / Writing</p>
11.40am - 12.25pm	<p>Structured Literacy / Rangaranga-a-Ta</p> <p>Spelling / Reading / Writing</p>
12.25pm - 1.10pm	Lunch
1.15pm - 2.00pm	Te Reo / Science / Waihanga / Physical Education
2.10pm - 3.00pm	
3.15pm - 4.30pm	<p>Scheduled Meetings</p> <p>Weekly Planning Checklists</p> <p>HERO - Data Entry</p> <p>Assessments</p>



SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

Phone : 07 348 8159

Email : office@rp.school.nz

Website : www.rp.school.nz



2026 UNIFORM



2026 JUNIOR UNIFORM - (Yr 1 - 6)

Full Zip Hoodie	\$60
Standard T-Shirt	\$40
Shorts	\$40
Trackpants	\$45

2026 SENIOR UNIFORM - (Yr 7 & 8)

Full Zip Hoodie	\$70
Standard T-Shirt	\$45
Shorts	\$45
Trackpants	\$55



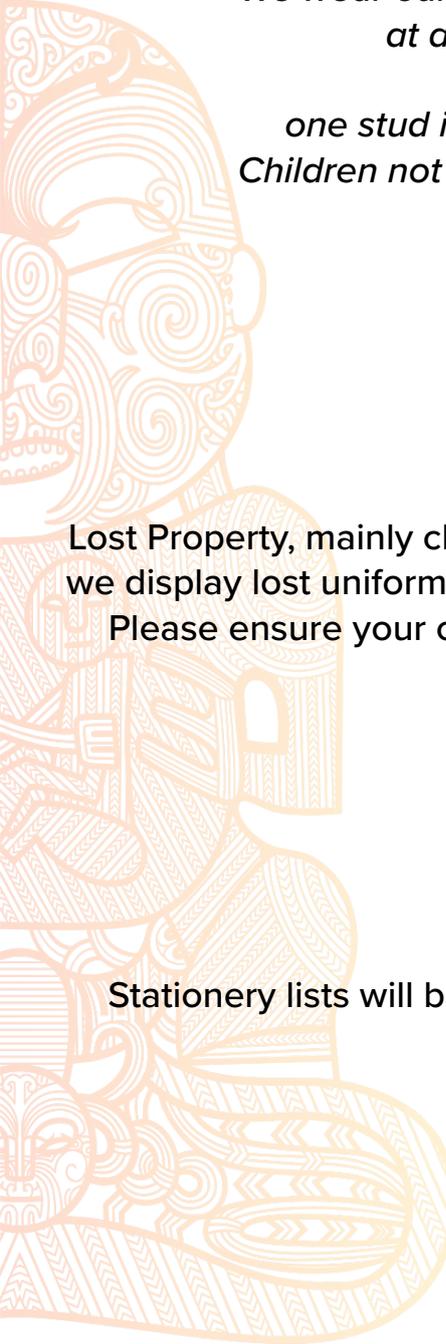
Uniforms can be ordered and collected from the school office

Online payment details
 Rotorua School Board ASB Bank: 12-3155-0280768-00
 Code - 8001
 Reference - Student name

Please ensure correct code and reference are used for payment tracking



To order online please follow this QR code to our website



We wear our uniform with pride and children must be in full uniform at all times when participating in school activities.

*NO jewellery except watches,
one stud in each ear only and taonga are allowed to be worn.
Children not wearing uniform must have a note from their caregiver explaining reasons why.*

LOST PROPERTY

Lost Property, mainly children's uniforms, can be a major problem if unnamed. Each term we display lost uniforms and only named uniforms are normally returned to their owners.

Please ensure your child's uniform items are named clearly. The lost property box is located outside of the hall.

STATIONERY

Stationery lists will be issued by your classroom teacher for purchase at Warehouse Stationery.

FREE HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

The Government will be continuing to provide a free healthy and nutritious daily school lunch in our school for all Year 1 to 8 students in 2026.

We know that all of you try to provide your children with a good lunch every day. But, as you all know, many in our community are struggling, despite their best efforts.

Offering a free lunch for all our children who need it will go some way to assisting many of our families.

The lunches cater for the dietary, health and cultural needs of all our students.

Our provider will be required to meet New Zealand food safety standards.

It is important that the school is aware of any food allergies of your child so that the lunch providers can be informed.

The lunches are optional and all students may continue to bring their own.

ABSENCES

If for any reason your child is unable to attend school or is absent at any time, please advise the school office/teacher by either telephone (07-348-8159), email (office@rp.school.nz) or via HERO on the morning of absence or prior to the absence.

You can leave a message on our answerphone. If your child arrives late to school please sign them in at the office before they go to class.

Our roll is electronic and we are required to enter a code indicating the type of absence. All attempts to contact parents will be made on the day of absence to confirm your child's whereabouts. If we are unable to contact you, the Truancy code is automatically applied.

Attendance is important.

Our school target for attendance is that the children attend school 95% or more of tuition days.

If your child is leaving school within school hours, please sign them out and leave a reason for the absence at the school office.

Please advise the office if your contact details have changed.

All these procedures are part of our school safety policy.
We appreciate your co-operation.



VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Any visitors including parents/caregivers entering the school between 9.15am and 2.45pm must report to the office to scan and sign in providing a reason for visit.

Please report back to the office immediately after you have completed your business. This procedure also ensures that we are able to maintain a safe and responsible learning environment for our students.

BICYCLES

Children cycling to school must wear their helmet at all times. Bicycle racks are available in the school grounds. While we have some supervision over the bikes they cannot be monitored throughout the day, especially during class time and we recommend all bikes are locked.

ROAD SAFETY – CAR SAFETY

Road Safety Education is carried out regularly but we ask parents to make sure children know the correct and safest way to and from school.

The entrance to the staff car park must be kept clear at all times. Access for any emergency vehicles is through the staff car park. Vehicles parked there may be towed at the owner's expense.

We ask that parents drop off and pick up children from the school car park and not from Arawa Street or Rangiuuru Street.

Children waiting for parents must, at all times, stay within the grounds for safety reasons until parents arrive. A Waharoa (shelter) by the car park has been erected specifically for that purpose.

Adults who are charged with collecting children are asked to park their cars and use the white paths and crossing spaces to escort their children safely back to their transport.

Our Road Patrollers are there to help keep our students safe in the carpark and road area at the end of the school day. We ask that you please respect them and follow their instructions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The 10 numbered car parks are rented out to local businesses.

Please do not park here.

HEALTH

Our school is serviced by a Public Health Nurse. In emergencies where we cannot contact caregivers, we will take the child directly to the Emergency Department at the Rotorua Hospital.

From time to time cell phone numbers, landline numbers and or addresses change. In order for us to be able to keep in contact with you, it is crucial that you keep the school informed as to a current living address and phone numbers at all times.

If your child suffers from allergies, illness or medical condition, please let the office and classroom teacher know. This information will be shared with the school's Special Education coordinator and where appropriate a health management plan will be put in place.

Immunisation Certificates are required when enrolling a student.

Our School is a Sunsmart School. During Terms 1 and 4 we ask our children to wear hats. We allow children to wear any hat with a brim as long as it covers the face, neck and ears. We encourage parents to consider purchasing a yellow wide brim hat in order to preserve our uniform's mana.

SPORTS

The school is involved in a number of sports throughout the year. Each sport sets their registration fees each year leading up to the start of the season. Parents / Caregivers will be given the cost at the start of each code's season.

All sports are dependent on the number of children wanting to play a sport and the availability of whānau to help with coaching/management of the teams.

DENTAL CLINIC

The School Dental Service is now a mobile clinic which visits the school annually. If your child has a dental emergency outside the clinic's visit, you are advised to phone Lakes District Health Board for the Dental Service and they will advise you where the closest Dental Clinic is.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of a large-scale emergency such as an earthquake or lockdown, children will remain at school in the care of their teachers until collected by their parents / caregivers.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Throughout the year your child will be involved in a Health and Fitness programme. On a daily basis children will be supported to increase their fitness levels and strength. Rotorua Primary recognises the benefits and values of holistic learning. We acknowledge the links between a healthy mind, body and spirit. Children at Rotorua Primary School are also taught the important lesson of mindfulness and meditation. We believe our wellness practices contribute to developing strong, healthy and present citizens.

CURRICULUM

Our school strives for excellence when delivering The New Zealand Curriculum, Te Mātauranga o Aotearoa. In order to respond to the continual ongoing changes and development in education we hold the up-skilling of our teachers through professional development a major priority. The teacher is the most important resource in a classroom. Targets are set each year specifically in Numeracy and Literacy. When your child leaves our school we hope that they will be confident, creative communicators and innovators. We strive to ensure that they are supported to develop the necessary academic skills to engage with their communities and contribute positively to their whānau and society.

ROTORUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our children enjoy excursions to our public library from time to time. The public library staff enjoy having our children participate in topic relevant activities.

USE OF MOBILE PHONES

Children ARE NOT permitted to use cell phones during school hours. If there is a necessity for your child to bring a cell phone to school, they need to hand this into the office before school commences and collect it at the end of the day.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

All parents are asked to become involved in the education of their children. Your commitment is the support you show to your child which reflects your confidence in their future.

You may help in the following ways:

1. Prepare your child for school each day.
2. Provide a healthy breakfast
3. Neatly dressed in their uniform
4. Provision of a healthy lunch
5. Having your child at school by 8:45 am
2. Encourage children when doing their homework and ensure books are returned
3. Ask your child for newsletters so that they remember to give them to you
4. Help out with lots of activities around the school such as reading, music, sports, library etc.
5. Joining in on social occasions held by the school
6. Telling others about things we do well and telling us when we could do better
7. Attend all whānau hui, Parent-Teacher interviews and Academic Review Days
8. Coach and manage a sports team.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

The school will report to parents / caregivers at least twice a year through written reports or interviews with whānau. Opportunities to hear about your child's progress will be given in Term 1, Term 3 and Term 4.

Teachers will also be keeping a portfolio of children's assessment data which will have evidence of your child's progression, should you wish to see it.

Where teachers may have concerns or have identified strengths, the teacher may send home a note requesting an interview. Parents/Caregivers can also organise interviews through the teacher.

A report will be given at the end of the year summarising your child's progress.

Only with everyone doing their part will there be good communication and positive outcomes for the students. Remember to always consult the classroom teacher first, regarding your child. Teachers can be contacted in their class from 8:30am - 9am or after school 3:00pm - 3:30pm, or by appointment arranged through the school office.

SCHOOL'S MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Keeping in touch is important to us. There are several ways in which you can access the most current news and events.

- Principal's Newsletter. The newsletter is posted on our Facebook page, on the school website and on our App.
- Our school website www.rp.school.nz A list of current events and information about the school, sports teams and draws can be accessed here. This Parent Information booklet can also be accessed on the website.
- HERO - We have engaged in a new Student Management System and will periodically update this so this will be your first point of contact.

Choose *Rotorua Primary School* Select *Alert Subscriptions* and select the groups you wish to receive alerts for. Absentees, newsletters, sports draws, term dates can all be accessed from our school App.

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PUKEROA ORUAWHATA ROTORUA PRIMARY

Global Standout. Local Pride.

Out of 1000 schools worldwide, Rotorua Primary School - Pukeroa Oruawhata stands alone.

We are the **only indigenous Māori full primary school on the planet** to achieve this elite global status — a true testament to our innovation, culture, and commitment to excellence.

At the heart of our kura is one of the world's most advanced education technology platforms built not just to keep up, but to lead.

Our **1:1 device programme** gives every one of our taonga access to tools that empower them to **learn, create, and express themselves** in the ways that work best for them through voice, drawing, video, animation and Ai.

With a fully integrated **Apple ecosystem**, Rotorua Primary boasts the most sophisticated setup of any kura in Aotearoa.

We're not just connected. We're leading the way.

"Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence that demonstrate Apple's vision for learning with technology and we believe they are some of the most innovative schools in the world. "
- Apple Inc.



Distinguished School