Parent Information Book

2026

Mission Statement

Kei te whakatakataka a matou akonga mo nga ahei a tona wa

Preparing our students for the possibilities of tomorrow

Welcome to Lake Rerewhakaaitu School

Welcome to our wonderful small rural school in a peaceful setting beside Lake Rerewhakaaitu and near Mount Tarawera. Our school is surrounded by farmland and forestry, this helps remind us of the importance of our natural environment and the importance of community, traditions and history. We pride ourselves on getting to know each child individually and creating a wonderful learning environment while having professional teachers who provide high quality programmes. Together we grow.

Our most recent ERO report was excellent and is available at the ERO website ERO 2025.

School Contact Details

Phone	07 3666 814
Absentees	**Preferred** - SKOOLLOOP App
Bus Changes	07 3666 814 (leave a message)
Email (office)	office@lakerere.school.nz
Address	9 Ash Pit Road, RD 3, Rotorua 3073
School Website address:	https://www.lakerere.school.nz/
School App	SKOOL LOOP

Staff

Principal		Rick Whalley	principal@lakerere.school.nz
Deputy Principal		Julieanne Bull	julieanneb@lakerere.school.nz
Year 0-2	**Kakano**	Vicki Arnott	vickia@lakerere.school.nz
Year 2-4	**Tupu**	Kylie Goddard	kylieg@lakerere.school.nz
Year 4-5	**Mahuri**	Julieanne Bull	julieanneb@lakerere.school.nz
Year 6-8	**Rakau**	Tabatha Fensom	tabathaf@lakerere.school.nz
Relief Teacher		Lynda Bullock	lyndab@lakerere.school.nz
Finance & Admin		Carla Williams	office@lakerere.school.nz
Teacher Aides			Rora Arnott, Sarah Glasgow & Laura Forlong
Cleaner			Donna Northcott
Caretaker			

Board & PTA Contacts

Board	Presiding Member	botpm@lakerere.school.nz
	Parent Representatives	Bianca van Emmerik Catherine Farrell Megan O'Dea Jacinda Poland Daniel Schutt
	Staff Representative	Vicki Arnott
PTA	Chairperson	pta@lakerere.school.nz

Helpful Information

Absences

Absences need to be notified, with the reason, for each day of absence, by 9.00am via the **SKOOL LOOP** App or phone 3666 814 and leave a message.

Please send your child to school each day they are well enough to be here.

Check exclusions for infectious diseases https://healthed.govt.nz/products/infectious-diseases-1.

Absenteeism

4 x 10 week terms = 40 weeks per year

% Present	Weeks Present	Weeks Absent	In their school Life	Years of school missed
90	36 weeks	4 weeks	48 weeks	1.2 years
80	32 weeks	8 weeks	96 weeks	2.4 years
70	28 weeks	12 weeks	144 weeks	3.6 years
60	24 weeks	16 weeks	192 weeks	4.8 years
50	20 weeks	20 weeks	240 weeks	6 years

Assembly

School Weekly Assembly Friday 2.00pm All welcome

Lake Rerewhakaaitu School Board

The Lake Rerewhakaaitu School Board is a tri-annually elected group of parents and a staff representative. The school board is responsible for governing the school via policies and procedures, planning for the future, employment, complying with the law and managing budgets. The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.

Meetings are held in the staffroom twice a term, usually 7pm Wednesdays in weeks 2 & 8. Meeting dates are advertised in the school newsletter. Community members are welcome to attend but do not have speaking rights.

Buses/Pick up

We have two buses run by Go Bus: Waimangu Run (Route 9) & Lake Run (Route 1). For bus enquiries email: rotorua@gobus.co.nz. Parents need to ensure that their children are ready in time to catch the bus in a safe place. After school, the children that travel on the bus meet quickly outside the Boiler Room or on the decked area on a wet day.

If a child is being collected from school by someone other than their caregiver or travelling on the other bus on a particular day, notification must be made via phone call to the office 07 3666 814 (please leave a message) or a note must be sent to school by the parent explaining the change.

Behaviour on the bus is a shared responsibility between the bus company, parents and the school. The school reserves the right to withhold permission to travel on the bus with instances of poor behaviour. **If you pick your child up from school, please ensure they are signed out and let the teacher know.**

Complaints

If there is something happening at school that you are unhappy about, please do not hesitate to contact us. The school procedure is as follows:

1. Ring the school and arrange a suitable time to talk to the classroom teacher and clearly outline your concern with them.
2. If you're not satisfied, meet with the Principal and clearly outline the steps you have taken to date.
3. Arrange a second meeting with the Principal to follow up on how the complaint was handled. (time frame will vary according to the complaint)
4. If you are still not happy, write a letter to the Lake Rerewhakaaitu School Board. A copy also needs to be given to the Principal. The matter will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Please ensure children are not exposed to adult talk.

Dental Unit

Dental Therapists visit in the mobile van. They will examine all children during this time. If you require additional assistance outside this time phone the mobile unit on 027 9735253 or Community Oral Health Service on 349 7955 ext. 8504.

Homework

Each Teacher has their own homework ideas and programmes. These are outlined and get sent home with students. Please contact your child's teacher for any queries.

ICT devices / Cell Phones

Children are not permitted to have personal digital devices at school.

Students must have a letter from home and permission from school before they bring any ICT equipment/device from home. This includes items such as: mobile phones, iPods, games, cameras, and USB drives.

Internet Use

The school is equipped with the facilities for internet use and this is integrated into the curriculum. We have a 'Cyber Safety Policy' that your child needs to have signed. This is kept on file and carries over from year to year although it is updated from time to time.

KickStart Breakfast Club

Thanks to KickStart Breakfast Club, which is sponsored by Sanitarium and Fonterra, we are able to provide breakfast to our tamariki each day in Ngahere. This enables our students to be engaged in their learning, improve wellbeing and social interactions. Thanks Kick Start!

Library

All children are encouraged to read at home on a regular basis. School and Library books may be brought home, any that are lost/damaged incur a replacement cost.

Lost Property

All children are encouraged to have their clothing and shoes clearly named. Children's lost property is kept in Ngahere, parents/caregivers are welcome to come and check for any missing items. At the end of each term any unclaimed items are collected up and sent to the Salvation Army.

Newsletter

This is a school and community newsletter. It is sent home every Friday with the eldest sibling, either on paper or by email. They are available to view on the school website and SKOOL LOOP app. Please ensure you ask your child for it and read it each week to keep up to date with activities and events.

You can advertise in the newsletter for $2 per ad per week. Adverts must be written down and delivered to the office or emailed (office@lakerere.school.nz) by Wednesday.

Outdoor Education

All children will be involved in outdoor education/trips throughout the year. For our Rakau class this involves a 3-4 night camp each year. Children are encouraged to fundraise for these events to aid keeping costs down for families. Each year a selected group of senior students with leadership qualities have the opportunity to attend Hillary Outdoors Camp, alongside other students from our Cluster. This camp focuses on leadership, growth & development skills.

Updating Permission and Medical Forms

These are handed out on enrolment or at the beginning of the year. They give teachers important information about your child's medical needs etc. This permission covers day trips to local areas and local sports events. Any overnight trips will require a specific permission form to be completed. Parents will **always** be notified of trips etc and have the right to withdraw their child from any event or trip. This must be done in writing.

Photocopying

The school offers photocopying to the community.

The price is currently 10 cents black and white and 20 cents colour per A4 copy.

PTA / Fundraising

Our school has a very active PTA. We encourage all parents to join and support their fundraising ventures. These usually include: Fishing competitions, Amazing Races and catering opportunities. New ideas are welcomed. Please contact the office, or email pta@lakerere.school.nz if you are interested in helping.

Reporting to Parents

Our school aims to provide accurate feedback to parents on their child's achievement/progress.

This is done through the following methods:

- Written Reports
- Parent Interviews
- Phone calls/Informal discussions
- One-on-one meetings by arrangement
- Information sessions
- Notification of involvement in special programmes

Reading, Writing and Mathematics Levels

Teachers use a range of tests or procedures to assess reading, writing and mathematics skills and overall abilities. There is no single test that will measure all skill levels. Results of tests are expressed in a form of 'reading age' for reading, 'stage' for mathematics and 'level' for writing. This indicates the level of achievement reached. During the year, you will receive information that explains these systems and outlines expectations of the expected levels for children at each year level and their age group. This information will also explain what forms of assessment we use and what they are used for. In 2025 LRS started using the Ministry supplied PR1ME numeracy booklets for every child. This is part of the structured numeracy approach to maths. We are also using a structured literacy approach to our English curriculum. Reporting has been adjusted to show this.

Scholastic Book Club

Our pupils are invited to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Club. The books are very reasonably priced. There is no obligation to buy.

School Donations

Our school has opted into the Ministry of Education's Donations Scheme which means there are no School fees to pay.

Sports Uniforms

All pupils are provided with a sky/navy blue school shirt when participating in inter school sports events, these are to be returned after the event or you will be invoiced for the cost of replacement. If you prefer to purchase your child a personalised shirt, we can order for you at cost.

Stationery

School stationery is provided for our students expected to start each year, to help support our local families. For students starting throughout the year, please check with their teacher.

Sun Protection

We encourage all children to take sensible precautions against the sun. School hats are required in Terms 1 & 4 and it is strongly encouraged for your child to come to school with sunblock applied. We regularly discuss being sun smart with the children and have sunscreen available for children to reapply during the day. Thanks to PTA funding, we provide our students with free school hats.

Swimming Pool

All classes are involved in class swimming lessons throughout the warmer months. Please ensure your child brings their own named togs and towel. Pool keys are available to hire over the summer months, if we have enough interest. Each year we are fortunate to have Rotorua Swim Magic run the Water Skills for Life programme for each class at school.

School Lunches

We are fortunate to be enrolled in the Ka Ora, Ka Ako Free School Lunches scheme for all our tamariki. If your child/ren have special dietary requirements, please request a form. A medical certificate may be required for dietary restrictions. Please note that any additional lunches may take one week to implement, due to the production timeline.

School Events

Our main events are; Swimming Sports, Summer & Winter Sports, Pet Day, Athletics, Cross Country, Kapa Haka/ Cultural Festival are run annually and biannually a School Production. These are in our school calendar and outlined in the school newsletter and SKOOL LOOP.

Working Bees – Caretaker

We employ a caretaker for 5 hours per week, but much of the caretaking of the school is completed by parents and working bees. This is another way that our school is able to direct more funds into learning. If you can offer a bit of your time, get in touch with us.

SCHOOL HOURS			
School Starts	8.55am	**Morning Tea**	11.00am
Second Block	11.30am	**Lunch**	12.30pm
Third Block	1.15pm	**School Ends**	3.00pm

Term Dates 2026			
Term One	9th February	-	2nd April
Term Two	20th April	-	3rd June
Term Three	20th July	-	25th September
Term Four	12th October	-	18th December

Warrant of Fitness for Students

Be sure to send your children to school with their WOF.

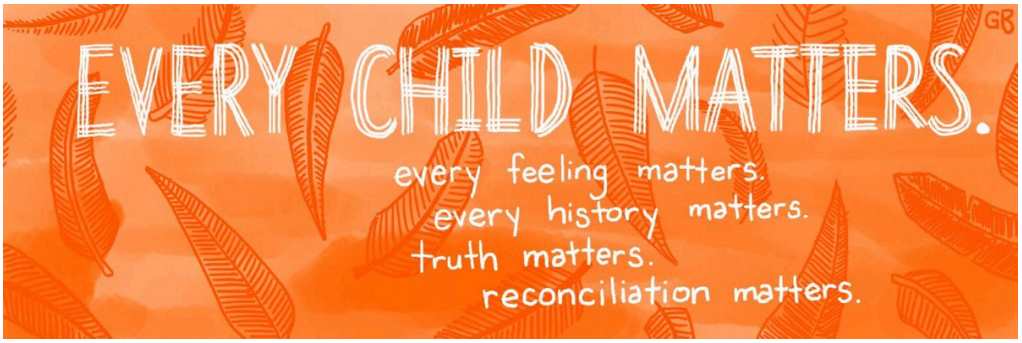
They need:

1. **Plenty of sleep**. Children have trouble learning when they have had too much screen time on devices and TV, or have stayed up late.
2. **Be well fed**. Children need a balanced diet with regular mealtimes and healthy food. Breakfast is essential. Morning tea and lunch are also essential. Fruit, vegetables and less processed foods help children concentrate at school. Too much processed food can have a negative effect on performance at school.
3. **To be secure**. Our pupils come from caring homes. Children need reassurance, encouragement and to have realistic expectations from their parents.
4. **Have a positive attitude.** If children expect good things to happen at school then they will have a keen, sparkling attitude to school.
5. **Have the correct gear.** Comfortable clean clothes, their stationery, drink bottle, library books, homework etc. Please encourage independence.

Before your child starts school, it's helpful if they can:

- do up their shoes
- put on and take off their coats
- go to the toilet and wash their hands independently
- blow their nose
- unpack and hang up their bags where they are asked
- recognise when they are thirsty and get a drink of water
- ask for things they need.

Help them get ready to learn

They may find it easier to participate in the class if they:

- can sit on a chair at a table for a short time to complete an activity
- are comfortable being away from you
- know how to take turns, and wait for things
- Get dressed themselves
- know the names of colours
- know the letters of the alphabet
- know the numbers 1 to 9
- can hold a pencil correctly and use scissors
- can write/recognise their name
- are able to hold a picture book and turn the pages carefully.