



6 June 2018

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā mihi ki Te whānau o te Kura o Rimu – greetings to all families of Rimu School.

The topic of hot debate around our school over the last few weeks is should or should we not make our school uniform compulsory? Our tamariki had strong personal opinions about the topic, which they enjoyed sharing through writing persuasively. Here are some examples of what our tamariki thought:

*I don't want to wear a uniform because it itches me. ~ Paige  
I want to wear a uniform because I think it looks cool on me. ~ Jack*

*We should have a uniform because it would be easy for our Mums and Dads because it means that Mums and Dads don't have to spend lots of money. It would make life easy for me. I could have a sleep in every morning. I would look nice in it. Yes, it would be fantastic if we have a uniform. ~ Georgia*

*I definitely agree that we shouldn't have uniforms because if they rip Mum and Dad have to waste money. The school shouldn't have a uniform because then the school can't wear their cool clothes. The school might not like a uniform. ~ Jaxxx*

*I think yes we should have uniforms because it represents the school. If people come to the school they would know which school it is. I think yes because if we did not have a uniform other schools would be sad because they have to wear their uniforms. That's what I think about uniforms. ~ Maia*

*I think we shouldn't have the uniform because Mum or Dad will get sick of washing it. They will get dirty and ripped. It will cost a lot of money as well. When Mum or Dad is washing the uniform we won't have any other clothes. We might need two or three t shirts. ~ Tupufia*

*You know that Rimu School Students have never worn uniforms, so why don't we keep it like that?*

*Rimu school is not made for uniforms. Students aren't made for uniforms. Teachers aren't made for uniforms. Students have always worn whatever they wanted. Students have never had uniform because they like to be free, show how unique they are and be active. Wearing whatever clothes they want lets them be this.*

*Rimu School is not a common school, we aren't and we will never be a common school, we are a unique school. Not having a uniform means we can be unique. When we wear our Rimu School polo on sports days it makes us feel special. When the shirt touches my skin I feel proud and fired up. When I am up on stage at assembly I look in at all of the colours, it just feel right.*

*Is it not enough that Mum and Dad pay all our sport fees, is it not enough that Mum and Dad pay for us to go on bus, is it not enough that Mum and Dad pay for all our trips and camps, and now your going to make them buy a school uniform!*

*What if the quality is bad and the letters come off, waste of money. Washing counts to, students have to wash their uniform every night. What if students get really muddy or if it get stained, waste of money. If parents have more than one child it will cost twice as much. Plus if it gets ripped, you will have to buy another one, waste of money.*



*Do you notice that lots of students are really busy after school with sports or on farms. If we have a uniform we will have to carry our gear around and rush to get changed. For example some people go straight out on the farm when they get home, plus some people's houses are not on their farm. If they are in their uniform all they can possibly do is sit in the car. Students like me are really busy after school with sports, if we have a uniform we are not only carrying clothes but them getting stained and ripped in there school bag.*

*Rimu School should stay the same, No school uniform! ~ Sualo*

### **Why School Uniforms Should be Compulsory**

#### **Look the same Poor/Rich**

*School uniforms, they are a smart sophisticated piece of clothing, but most people think they are boring and non unique. But most people don't always realise that normal store bought clothes cost about the same. Having a school uniform will mean we all look equal and connected as a team.*

#### **Cost**

*Another problem parents worry about is the cost, but when you consider the cost, parents spend hundreds of dollars buying new clothes for us, however the Rimu School uniform can build up to a better quality. The prices range from \$30 to \$50 for each piece, which is about the same as buying normal clothes. However most of the clothes Rimu School students wear get ruined at school; from climbing in the hedge, rough play, dye and paint getting on your good top, whereas the Rimu uniform is a dark red and black and wont get stained.*

#### **Get a Say**

*The uniform can gradually be build up, with having shorts, skorts and skirts, and possibly having mufti day every 2nd Friday.*

*Once again school uniforms are a smart, sophisticated piece of clothing that I think **should** be compulsory.*

*~ Cassie*

We received an overwhelming response to our school uniform survey with 84% returned survey forms and Mitchell (Matai) was the lucky recipient of the entry draw, winning a book voucher for Paper Plus. The overall results showed that 61% of our whanau supported making our school uniform compulsory, but we needed 75% in favour to action the change. However, what did come through consistently in the comments from both whanau in favour and against was that you would like to see more consistency with our sports and activity uniform so that we look smart when we are out representing our school, for example all students in school hoodies and plain black pants or shorts. There were also many comments about the quality of the hoodies and the desire to investigate other options that will last longer.

As a response to this feedback we would like to form a subcommittee of interested parents to investigate uniform options and establish an affordable sports/activity uniform that will be compulsory when we are representing our school, effective from the beginning of 2019. If you are interested in being involved, please email me. Ideally it would be good to have this group up and running by the end of June and decisions made by August so that you have time to budget for extra uniform purchases before February 2019.

Our Year 7 and 8s are very fortunate to be heading off to Stewart Island for Thursday 14th and Friday 15th of June as part of our Southern Zone Year 7/8 Programme. The Zone has been awarded a grant to fund the majority of the cost for all Year 7/8 students. Halfmoon Bay School are hosting the event, which will include fishing, visiting Olva Island, kiwi spotting and even a "Stewart Island Styles Triathlon". What a great opportunity for our tamariki!

Playground conflicts are not something new to school yards, in fact I am sure you will remember them from your time at school? So, have you ever wondered how we deal with conflict at Rimu School? It is important to remember that our tamariki are on a learning journey both academically and socially and as such they will make mistakes along the way. The most important thing is that they learn from their mistakes and grow positive prosocial skills for the future.

Consequently, we believe in using restorative justice approaches when dealing with conflict between students. Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right. Restorative responses focus on accountability, healing & needs. Questions that the staff ask our students are:

1. What happened?
2. Who has been affected? How?
3. What needs to be done to put things right?
4. What do we need to do to move forward?



Our health programme focuses on teaching our tamariki how to positively deal with conflict using “I statements”, using our WITS (walk away, ignore, tell someone, seek help) and not being a bystander (watch and do nothing about it). Our teachers use strategies to proactively redirect students and mitigate potential conflict as part of their active playground supervision. However if any issues do arise, we take the time to deal with and resolve the issue while maintaining every child’s mana (personal integrity).

When required we do use strategies such as “time out” to help students to calm down and take responsibility for their behaviour and senior students complete a “think sheet” which has reflective questions like the restorative questions above. We also think it is important that our students give back to our community through physical tasks, when their behaviour has impacted on others or the environment.

If you have any concerns regarding behaviour related incidents, please pick up the phone or email your child’s teacher or myself - we are more than happy to help! As you will appreciate, your child will share their version of events but there are always many sides to a story and our teachers are in the best position to get to the bottom of issues through investigating all perspectives.

We are very sad to announce that Maddy Grant is leaving Rimu School at the end of Term 2 to take on a teaching position at Donovan Primary School where she will be working as part of a large collaborative junior teaching team, while pursuing her passion for learning through play. We have been very fortunate to have Maddy working within our community for the last 2 1/2 years. Her passion, enthusiasm and commitment as a new teacher has been highly valued and she will be missed by staff, students and whanau.

**Akomanga Values Awards:**

MATAI	KOWHAI	MANUKA	MIRO	RATA
Liam - Mana Motuhake Renee - Ako	Samuel - Whanaungatanga Pippa - Mana Motuhake	Sienna - Ako Ruby - Ako	Maddison - Mana Motuhake Lily - Ako	Briley - Mana Motuhake Braxton - Aroha

**Principal's Awards:**

MANA MOTUHAKE	MANAAKITANGA	MANA MOTUHAKE
Mahaileyah	Quade	Jax



Nāku noa nā – yours sincerely,  
**KATE**

## IMPORTANT TERM 2 DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES

Mon 11th June	5.15pm BOT Meeting 7.00pm RHSC Meeting
Fri 15th June	Pita Pit Assembly hosted by Miro
Sat 16th June	Southland Cross Country
Fri 22nd June	Assembly hosted by Rata
Fri 29th June	Pita Pit \$3 special
Tues 3rd July	3-6pm Student Led Conferences <b>(school finishes at 3pm)</b>
Wed 4th July	12.30-7.30pm Student Led Conferences <b>(school finishes at 12pm)</b>
Fri 6th July	Last day of Term 2



### From the Admin team:

#### Accounts

Thank you to everyone who has so promptly paid Term 2 accounts. Your attention to this is much appreciated.

The SPCA Invercargill Centre is running a Cheese Roll drive to help fundraise for much needed funds to support the care of the unwanted, abandoned and mistreated animals that find their way to the SPCA centre on a daily basis. I was wondering if there was any chance you could please put the attached flyer into your newsletter over the next few weeks or on a community notice board in your school. We appreciate your time in doing this and if you need any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Home and School committee

A short update on what's been happening behind the scenes.

First of all we have been able to supply the school with a new sound system, which most of you must have seen and heard by now, valued at \$2500. Hope we get much use out of it!

Further we are very fortunate to have Hannah Price taking on our cookbook fundraiser and she has already done some work with her team to get the ball rolling. In this newsletter you will find her request for sending in recipes, please feel free to share your favourite one with us!

I'd like to thank the families who have put their name down to cook the sausages on Fridays which had been requested in an earlier email. It is really appreciated not only by the Home and School Committee, but also by the teachers and definitely the children!

Early next term we will be organising a disco for the children and welcome the new families who have joined us so far this year with a shared supper. More information will come closer to the time.

Next term we are going to have a lamb and calf fundraiser which will tie in with our Annual Pet Day and Community Gala (Term 4). Thank you to Pene Visser who is willing to bring an extra opportunity for the children to this day. There will be an email going out at the end of the term with all the information and a paper copy will be given out after the holidays.

Our next meeting is this Monday 11 June at 7.30pm at school. Please come a bit earlier for a catch up with others so we can promptly start at 7.30pm. New people are always welcome!

Judith Cillekens  
RHSC President

# Rimu School Cookbook Fundraiser

The RHSC are so excited to announce we will be making our very own community cookbook!

We would love to have Rimu families and community members contribute to this book. If you have any great family recipes please send them in to us. Feel free to type it up or simply take a clear photo and email it in.

## Recipe chapter ideas to get you thinking:

Soups & Breads

Salads & Dressings

Sauces & Marinades

Pickles & Relish

Lunches & Sides

Pies & Pasta

Meat dishes

Poultry dishes

International ideas

Puddings/ Desserts

Cakes & Loaves

Muffins & Scones

Biscuits

Slices

Sweets & Truffles

Kids stuff ie. slime, play dough, soap dough, salt dough etc.

Homemade cleaners