Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School Trust

NGĀ KAITIAKI TE KURA O RUDOLF STEINER I ŌTAUTAHI

TERM 2 UPDATE - 2026

What a Term 2 it has been! As we, the Proprietor Trust, pause to reflect on everything that has unfolded across our school community, we want to take the opportunity to share what your generosity has made possible — and to give you a glimpse of what lies ahead in Term 3.

As we move through another rich and vibrant season at Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the unique role of the Proprietor and the important work carried quietly in service of our school's Special Character.

The Proprietor is entrusted with a very special responsibility: to **honour, protect, and nurture the Steiner philosophy that forms the heart of our school**. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is woven into every aspect of school life.

The Proprietor works alongside the Board, leadership, teachers, and our wider community to ensure that the ideals and intentions of Steiner education continue to flourish for today's children and for generations yet to come.

Artwork by Angela Lord

Our role is not simply to *preserve what has been handed down*, but to *thoughtfully steward it into the future*. We seek to ensure that *decisions are made with the child's holistic development at their centre, that the curriculum remains true to its pedagogical foundations, and that the school's environment continues to reflect the values of beauty, reverence, creativity, and respect for human development*.

The Special Character is far more than a document or a set of principles—it is something living. It is expressed in the rhythm of the school day, the festivals we celebrate together, the artistry within our classrooms, the meaningful relationships between teachers, students, and families, and the shared commitment to educating the whole human being: head, heart, and hands.

As Proprietor, we are grateful to be guardians of this living impulse. We recognise that the strength of our Special Character is sustained through collaboration and through the goodwill of our entire community. Every family, every staff member, and every child contributes to the culture that makes Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School such a unique and inspiring place to learn and grow.

The Trust exists to protect and nurture the special character of our Steiner school. That means ensuring the Waldorf philosophy is a living, breathing reality for every child, every day.

WHAT YOUR PAYMENTS MADE POSSIBLE THIS TERM

A Beautiful New Gateway for Our School

This term we were delighted to see the installation of our hand-carved fence and gates around the school perimeter — a truly beautiful addition that reflects the aesthetic values at the heart of a Steiner environment, while also improving safety for our tamariki. This is exactly the kind of improvement that your attendance dues cover, and it exists because of your dedication to our school.

Parent Education Series

This 6-week series was a wonderful success. Parents came together to explore:

- **The Twelve Senses** — a foundational Steiner concept that deepens understanding of child development
- A restorative **sound bath** experience
- Talks on **medicine and wellbeing** from a Steiner perspective
- An introduction to **eurythmy**

Parent Education Series – Sound Bath session

Those who attended found the evenings inspiring, connective, and a meaningful chance to share both learning and the challenges of parenting. We are so grateful to everyone who made these evenings possible. The proceeds raised from this series help to go towards our special character including supporting our student therapies fund.

SUPPORTING OUR SPECIAL CHARACTER SUBJECTS

To put it simply, your donations are paid to the Proprietor Trust that we then give to the school. This goes directly to the special character subject teachers and programmes (Handwork, Eurythmy, Outdoor Classroom, Costumes, Festivals) that make our school uniquely Steiner.

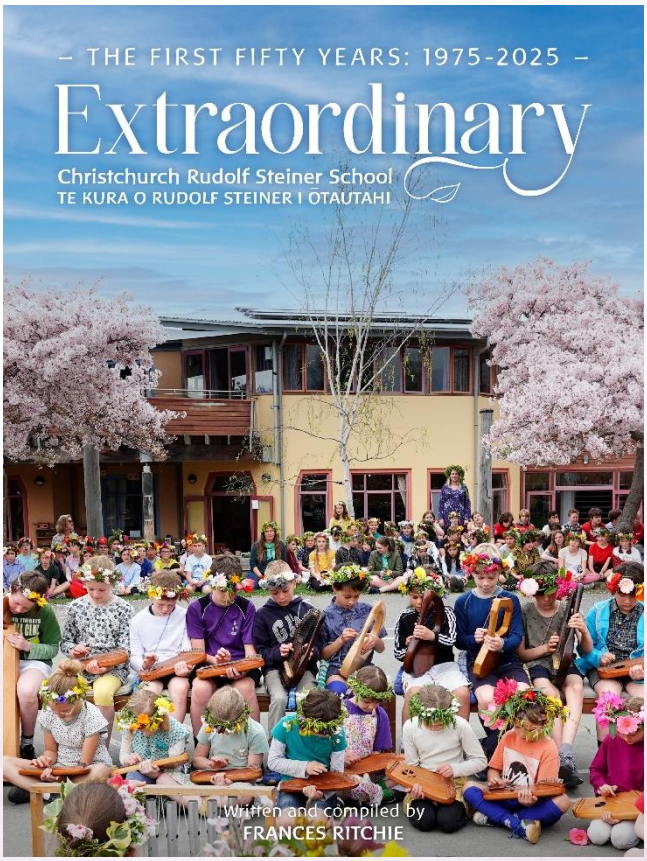
- Janice — **Handwork**, nurturing fine motor development and the joy of making
- Simone — **Eurythmy**, the movement art that is central to Waldorf education
- Naomi — the **Outdoor Classroom**, where children learn in and through the natural world
- Colleen and Lynda — **Costumes** for class plays, bringing artistic expression to life on the class stage

Class 6 dolls with Janice

The donations are voluntary, but only your donations fund this, and without them these special character subjects are at risk. We simply cannot fund these areas of our school without you. They are not luxuries — they are the heart of what makes this education transformative.

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK LAUNCH

What a milestone to celebrate together. Our 50th anniversary book launch brought together current families, staff, alumni, and friends of the school from across Aotearoa and around the world. It was a powerful reminder of the legacy we are part of — and the future we are building together. Purchase your limited edition copy today for only $55.



ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Trust has continued to support special character professional development for our staff — ensuring that the teachers who carry our Steiner philosophy are well-resourced, connected to the wider Waldorf world, and inspired in their work, and in turn support and inspire our children's learning and those around them.

"Without your donations, we cannot fund these amazing areas of our school."

COMING UP IN TERM 3

We have some wonderful things to look forward to:

- **Eurythmy sessions open to parents** to experience this unique art form for yourself, more info to come.
- **Parent Education Series** on Wednesday evenings, Introduction to Steiner education — what makes this approach so distinctive and enduring. Starts Wednesday 5th August.
- **French lessons** for students continuing in the library
- **Kindo info session** for community on Wed 5 Aug, 6.30pm

HOW TO SUPPORT THE TRUST

If you have found value in any of what you have read today — marvelled at your child's handwork creations over the years, heard about a Eurythmy session and felt something, watched your child in a class play, enjoyed their Main Lesson subject focus — please consider making your donation to the Trust this year.

These donations can be made on Kindo

The Trust is a registered charity, and all donations are receipted for tax purposes. **You can claim a tax refund of 33% on all donations.** For more information, please contact us.

Wishing all whānau a lovely, restorative school holiday and thank-you for being part of our precious, cherished community.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Alan Cummins

On behalf of the Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School Trust

50th CHRISTCHURCH RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

Midwinter Spiral Festival