



Wadestown School

*Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Akonga
Growing and Connecting as Learners*



Pōhutukawa Team (Year 1 & 2) Newsletter Term 2, 2024

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to Term 2



Students and teachers alike were thrilled to arrive back at Weld Street after the holidays to discover our wonderful slide has bright yellow sides – Rawe/awesome!

Rūma Tahi (Room 1) welcomes new entrant ākonga (students) and their whānau (families); Leo, Emily and Lara started on Day 1 of this term. Four more students will join Room 1 during this term: Jasper, Jaxon, Martha and Alexander. Rūma Toru (Room 3) welcomes Rose.

During May we will be farewelling Catherine and Leonardo as they leave for overseas. We wish them well for their continued schooling.

This newsletter outlines the exciting learning opportunities and events that we have planned for this term.

Our Wadestown School Values

Our school values are 'G-R-O-W': **G**ratITUDE (Whakawhetai), **R**esilience (Manawaroa), **O**thers (Whānaungatanga) and **W**onder (Mīharo).

Each term there are new opportunities for our students to express these values.

Gratitude:

We are all grateful for:

- our new Rata Block rebuild and the opportunity for our Pōhutukawa students to join in the recent opening ceremony
- our upcoming Book Week and all the wonderful mahi (work) that Derek Piper, our school Librarian puts into this special week.

Resilience – nurturing students' well-being will help them develop resilience; this follows on from the topic of "Our Amazing Brains" last term. It takes time to develop resilience. Goal setting is an important step that supports students with developing resilience.

Others – friendship and kindness will be celebrated in this term’s Hannah Playhouse’s performance of “The Reluctant Dragon”.....“*this hilarious and interactive adaptation of Kenneth Grahame’s classic story will have your students (and teachers) laughing and thinking about the value of friendship, kindness, solving problems without fighting and not judging dragons by their covers*” .

Wonder – during Book Week our student’s sense of wonder will be cultivated along with their **imagination and creativity**. They will wonder what it would be like to live in a different scene and how they’d feel in the role of a different character?

Core Curriculum Learning Areas

Students are expected to have an hour of reading, writing and mathematics daily.

Year 1 students are learning how to read and write using a Structured Literacy approach which has a scope and sequence. This continues in Year 2.

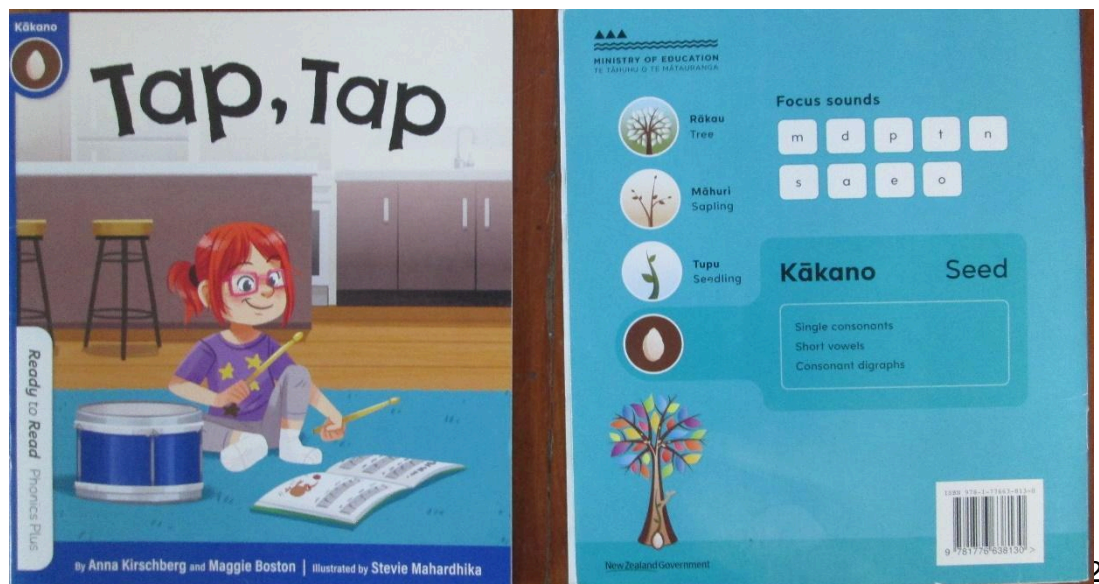
Literacy: Reading and Writing

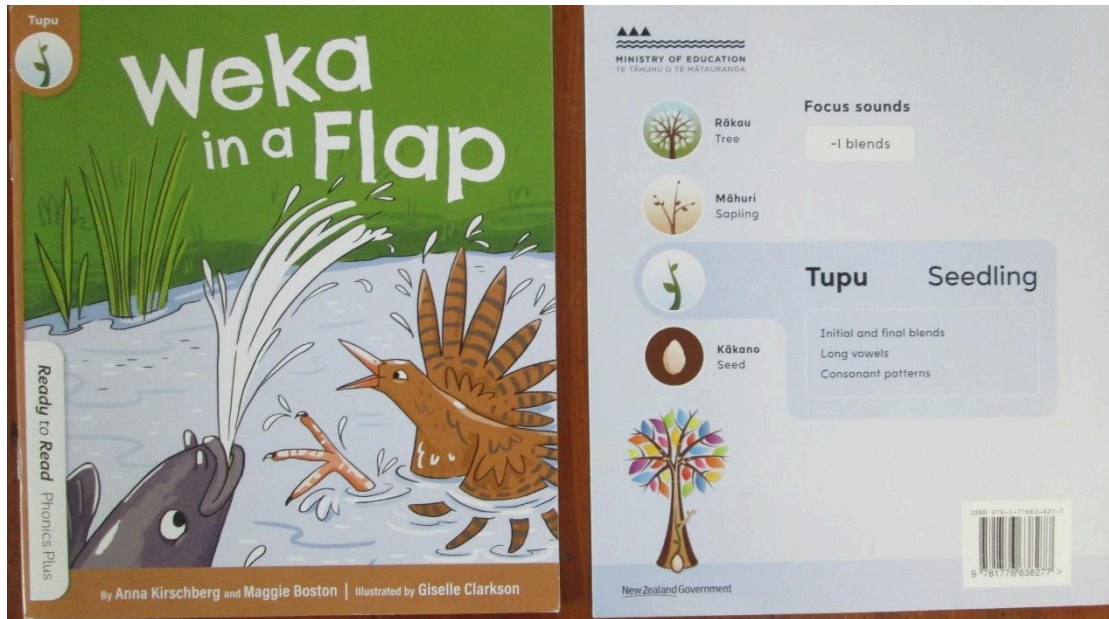
Pōhutukawa Team students have instructional reading and writing for one hour each day. This includes the teaching of phonics, spelling, handwriting, oral language development and grammar.

Phonics Plus books have a ‘scope and sequence’ of letters and sounds on the back of them and Teacher Notes which parents can see on the inside back cover. Students gain knowledge of Phonics in reading, and they are given the opportunity to apply it during writing time.

The following is a brief explanation of the scope and sequence for Phonics Plus:

1. Kākano, or Seeds, and the scope is: single consonant sounds, short vowels, vowel-consonant (VC) and consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words with frequently used consonant digraphs e.g. sh, ch, th
2. Tupu, Seedling, long vowels are introduced
3. Māhuri, Sapling, suffixes -ing, -ed, -s & ‘vowel teams’ for example: ai, ay, ea, ow etc
4. Rākau, Tree, use of apostrophe, prefixes (for example, re & un), suffixes (for example, -er, -est -ly)





During writing sessions, we are continuing to teach students how to write a simple sentence. Students will learn some different ways they can join their ideas in a sentence using ‘and’ or ‘because’. They will learn how to read their sentences and take note of the punctuation used.

Teaching of ‘The Code’ (a systematic approach for the teaching of spelling) will continue this term. Students learn that some words cannot be sounded out but rather they must be learnt by heart; these we call **heart words**. Teachers know the best writing comes from students having experienced something as then they have more ideas to write about.

Last term students wrote about the *fun they had at Sports Day*, teachers will be happy to share this writing with parents during Parent Conferences later this term.

Book Week (Monday 20 - Friday 24 May) is a fun week that promotes a LOVE of literacy learning. Parents are invited to attend the Book Character Parade and to read to their child’s class in the afternoons. Our visiting author Moira Wairama visits on Monday 20 May. Moira is the author of “*The Taniwha of Wellington Harbour*”. Prior to her visit, Mr Piper will introduce our students to some of her books.

NZ Playhouse will perform “The Reluctant Dragon” on Wednesday 22 May. Our students will go over to Rose Street to see this performance in the school hall.

Please remember that pick up will be from Rose Street at 3:00 pm on this day.

Mathematics

In mathematics, students are encouraged to think mathematically and to solve problems in a meaningful context. Their **number knowledge** (counting sequences, skip-counting and place value) helps them to problem-solve.

The language of position and orientation will be developed as part of the Geometry and Measurement strand. Students will learn their 'left' from their 'right' and will be able to give instructions for movement. Students will learn to tell the time - on the hour and half hour. This work is developed alongside the teaching of fractions, with halves and quarters.

Our Term 2 Inquiry - Aotearoa New Zealand Histories

This term our inquiry is about "A Famous Person and her Power".... but not the "Dead Famous" kind that will be at this year's PTA party 😊.

Students will be able to:

- explain why Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM, QSO, Governor-General, is famous
- recognise she has special power
- know some ways in which the Governor-General represents New Zealand in her Head of State role

On Wednesday 5 June, we have a trip booked to Government House where students will hear some of the ways our Governor-General interacts with different people and communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. Whilst studying Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and the role of our Governor-General students will also learn about The Treaty of Waitangi.

Physical Education (PE) Curriculum

In a few weeks students will start their **Cross-Country** practices on a regular basis. This is in preparation for our upcoming 'Weld Street Cross-Country' in which students run around the field and then up around the top court on the concrete. They will earn points for their schoolhouse from the number of laps they do, and they will be asked to wear a coloured top that is in their house colour.

Parents are invited to watch the Cross-Country race on Friday 21 June from 12 noon until 12:30pm.

Health Curriculum

Life Education will visit our school from Monday 10 – Wednesday 19 June to support the Health curriculum. Further information will follow.

Te Ao Māori

Every fortnight, on a Thursday morning, Matua Alwyn teaches te reo Māori to each class for half an hour. Matua Hemi also works with our students each Thursday to teach them Kapa Haka (action songs). Students really engage with these lessons.

The focus for this term is on **Matariki** which falls later in the term. On the morning of Thursday 27 June the whole school will come together to celebrate Matariki. This will be in the form of a whole school breakfast at Rose Street. We encourage our families and students to join us for this whole school celebration.

The Arts Curriculum

In the **visual arts**, students will learn about the colour wheel and different moods that colour evokes. Matariki will provide a stimulus for class artworks.

During **drama** lessons, students will participate in a character role when they perform class plays to an audience.

Technology Curriculum

Discovery Time on a Friday has a technology curriculum focus integrated with literacy. Each week has a theme, for example recent themes have been Autumn and ANZAC. Students will learn to follow instructions for making things; step-by-step. They will be given the opportunity to compliment others on their work.

We like to have a variety of materials on offer and would appreciate parent contributions of loose parts such as: buttons, straws, and egg trays.

Students will have group access to i-pads to support their literacy and numeracy learning.

Homework

- **Newstime:** It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during news time. This helps develop their oral language skills and helps students get to know one another.
- **Reading with Phonics Plus:** On the inside back cover parents will see a list of the focus sounds - these should be recited with increasing speed. There is also a list of sight words and words that can be sounded out and then blended to make a word e.g "shed" = sh-e-d then blended to make "shed".
- **Writing and Handwriting:** Students need to have time at home when they are expected to write, for example: writing a card for a family member/friend or writing a list. Please make these opportunities available for your child/ren.

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

17 May:	Pink Shirt Day
20 May:	Book Week author "Moirā Wairama" visits Weld from 9:30 am – 10:15 am
22 May:	Hannah Playhouse "The Reluctant Dragon" 1:30pm - 2:30 pm *** Please note the 3:00 pm pick-up from Rose Street on this day.
31 May:	Kōhui Ako Teacher Only Day - school closed for instruction
3 June:	King's Birthday - school closed
4 June:	MOE Teacher Only Day - school closed for instruction
5 June:	Trip to Government House 9:30 – 12:30 noon (details to follow)
21 June:	Cross Country 12 noon
27 June:	Matariki Breakfast & Reports go home
28 June:	Matariki holiday - school closed
2 July:	3 Way Parent Conferences
4 July :	3 Way Parent Conferences

Pōhutukawa Classroom Activity Donation Breakdown 2024 Terms One and Two	
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement for 2024</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
Term 1 Costings:	
Zoo Trip cost for return bus and zoo entry	\$22.00
Sports Day	\$12.00
Term 1 Total	- \$34.00
Term 2 Costings:	
Book Week Author Visit	\$2.00
Hannah Playhouse "The Reluctant Dragon"	\$6.50
Life Education booklet	\$8.50
Trip to Government House – return bus fare	\$11.50
Term 2 Total	- \$28.50
Terms 1 and 2 TOTAL	\$62.50
REMAINING BALANCE FOR 2024	\$37.50

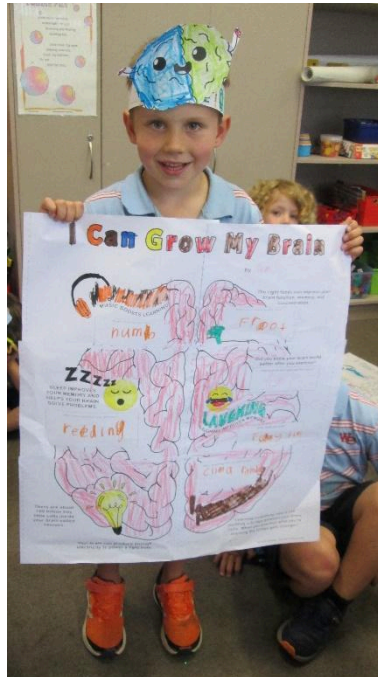
Reminders

- Your child needs to have a named raincoat kept in their school bag.
- At 3:00pm pick-up time, if the 2 minute car parks outside school are full then please drive round the loop one more time. Please do not wait directly outside the "Kiss N' Drop" area as this is where teachers will be crossing their students.

Discovery Time – Term 1



“Our Amazing Brains” headbands



We look forward to another great term as we all “GROW” together, with your continuing partnership and support.

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** Please note that Amanda Frater's email is:

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