



Te Whakatipu me to Honohono  
Hei Ākonga  
Growing and Connecting as  
Learners

WADESTOWN SCHOOL

# Wadestown School

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Growing and Connecting as Learners*



## Pōhutukawa Team (Year 1 & 2) Newsletter Term 1, 2026

Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to Term 1



It is exciting to welcome new students and their whānau to our Pōhutukawa Team for 2026. Room 1 welcomed Sacha, Nir and Ivan as our newest students. We are looking forward to having Elio and Max join us later in the term.

Welcome to Melissa Kosmadakis who is joining the Pōhutukawa Team for 2026. We're so pleased you are teaching with us in Room 3! Melissa was previously teaching Year 3 and 4 students at Rose Street.

### Introducing the Pōhutukawa Team:

Amanda Lamble - Room 1 (New Entrants and Year 1), Pōhutukawa Team Leader,  
SENCo (Years 1 - 4) [amanda@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:amanda@wadestown.school.nz)



I enjoy seeing the start of each child's journey at Weld Street and then seeing them continue their journey over at Rose Street. I make it a priority to build relationships with family/whānau and students so that there is a smooth transition to school.

On Thursdays I have classroom release which also covers my new role as SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) for Years 1 - 4. Ann Marshall will be teaching in Room 1 on a Thursday.

It is important that everyone feels welcome and happy to be here. I am thankful for the excellent parent support and involvement that we have here at Wadestown School.

Melissa Kosmadakis - Room 3 (Year 1 and 2) [melissa@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:melissa@wadestown.school.nz)



This is my 4th year teaching at Wadestown School. After three years teaching Years 3 and 4 in the former Rātā Team at Rose Street, I moved to Weld Street to join the Pōhutukawa Team. Wadestown School is the place that inspired me to become a teacher during my time here as a Teacher Aide. My whānau is a blended one, both with family and with our cultures. I think it is important to build strong relationships with our students and to understand the diversity of knowledge and skills within our classrooms. Giving our learners the opportunity to bring aspects of their lives outside of school directly into their learning builds happy students and creates a sense of belonging.

Joy Henderson - Room 4 (Year 1 and 2) [joy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:joy@wadestown.school.nz)



I am very fortunate to have been both a parent and a teacher at Wadestown School and have taught at both Wadestown School sites. Wadestown School holds a special place in my heart as my own children began their educational journey in Room 1. Currently I am on my 2nd stint at Weld Street in the Pōhutukawa Team having taught at Rose Street in the Rātā Team for 4 years.

Helping the children to understand their emotions and alleviating anxiety by being mindful each day is a particular passion of mine. Already Room 4 students are learning how to breathe mindfully!

Ann Marshall - Classroom Release Teacher (Year 1 - 4) [ann@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:ann@wadestown.school.nz)



This year I am lucky enough to be based with the Pōhutakwa and Tōtara Iti Teams (Year 1 - 4). I am looking forward to working with children I have taught in previous years. I will be releasing teachers for their Classroom Release Time (CRT). I will be working at Weld Street every Wednesday and Thursday and at Rose Street on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Every Thursday I will be teaching in Room 1 to release Amanda Lamble and on Fridays I will be teaching in Room 6; teaching 1 day a week in Anna Wilson's class.

Jenny Ebershon - Teacher Aide [jenny.ebersohn@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:jenny.ebersohn@wadestown.school.nz)



Our youngest son finished Year 8 at Wadestown in 2024, and it has been such a delight to continue my connection with the school.

I have relished time in the classroom and playground, sharing in the learning experience, the giggles and interactions, progress and achievements. This year I will be spending time at both school sites, providing support in classrooms, and assisting the English Language Learners.

Nicola Parsons - Teacher Aide, [nicola@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:nicola@wadestown.school.nz)



This is my 4th year as a Teacher's Aide at Wadestown School. I'm fortunate to be able to work across both sites, but particularly enjoy Weld Street and the energy the Years 0-2 bring in abundance! My passion is supporting neurodiverse learners, in and outside the classroom.

Lachlan Bruce - Teacher Aide, [lachlan@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:lachlan@wadestown.school.nz)



This is my 4th year working as a Teacher's Aide with neurodiverse students. I have the privilege of working between Weld Street and Rose Street sites. I relish the opportunity to help grow and teach the students throughout both sites.

My goal this year is to work with all students and learn as much as possible from the amazing teachers and staff we have at Wadestown School.

The following is an outline of the exciting learning opportunities planned for this term, with the theme being: **'Journeys'**.

### Literacy: Reading and Writing

A STRUCTURED LITERACY APPROACH follows a scope and sequence.

- Oral language is developed through *listening* to rich texts and *talking* about the key ideas and the use of vocabulary
- We use Phonics Plus, *decodable* readers, and teach the sounds in words
- 'Heart words' (words that you cannot sound out using phonics) e.g. "the" are taught in our **spelling programme**
- **Punctuation** and grammar are taught in sentence construction
- **Handwriting** is taught daily with practice leading to mastery in terms of correct letter formation and automaticity

### Numeracy

A STRUCTURED NUMERACY APPROACH focuses on **building foundational skills** in number sense, patterns, measurement, and shape. Students will **explore** mathematical ideas using equipment. Explicit teaching will enable them to **make connections** and **develop their reasoning**.

The focus this term is on:

- **Statistics** - students will collect, organise and classify data
- **Number** - the aim is for students to confidently work with numbers up to 100. They will learn place value and basic facts (addition and subtraction). They will learn time, days, weeks and months
- **Measurement** - length and perimeter
- They will be introduced to problem solving

## Inquiry /The Arts

- **Arrivals** - students will get a brief introduction to *The Treaty of Waitangi* and then through our Inquiry Theme of 'Journeys', students will talk about how their family came to arrive in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Students will start their **journey with the school values** by setting a goal related to one of our GROW values.
- Students will learn our **school Pepeha** and go on a walking journey down to familiarise themselves with their local awa - Kaiwharawhara Stream.
- Later in the term students will get to visit Wellington Zoo and learn about **animal journeys** (e.g. zebras have migration journeys looking for food) .

## Physical Education (P.E) and Health

- Wellbeing and belonging will be a focus for this term.
- The students will experience P.E. through running, jumping & throwing and working collaboratively, through relays and games
- **Sports Day event** at school on the field in Week 4

## Te Reo

- **Mihi Whakatau** - please join us to welcome our newest students and Rose teacher to Rose Street in Week 3.
- **Thursdays:**  
Mātua Alwyn teaches a half hour Te Reo lesson in the 1st block  
Mātua Hemi teaches a half hour Kapa Haka session at midday

## Our Wadestown School Values

Our GROW values are integrated throughout our classroom programmes and are also celebrated and discussed in our Weld Street Assemblies.

- **G**ratitute (Whakawhetai),
- **R**esilience (Manawaroa),
- **O**thers (Whānaungatanga)
- **W**onder (Mīharo)

## Homework

- **Newstime:** It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during newstime. This helps develop their oral language skills and helps students get to know one another.
- **Reading and Poems:** Students benefit from a daily time when they can read to their parents or a caregiver. This builds up their self-confidence and creates 'reading mileage', which is so important for children learning to read. Poems on a Friday help students develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme, and fun with words. They are perfect for practicing reading with expression.
- **Writing and Handwriting:** Students need to have authentic writing opportunities to practice their handwriting, e.g. writing their own birthday invitations or in cards.

## Reminders

- Arrival at school - no students onsite before 8:30am. Prior to this, it is teachers' time for planning and classroom organisation.
- If you have any parental concerns then please email your child's teacher in the first instance and/or make a time to meet them.
- Your child needs to have a named school sunhat kept at school in their chair bag.
- Please apply sunscreen at home before school. Your child can reapply sunscreen during the day with a named roll on sunscreen (kept in their school bag).

We look forward to a wonderful term together 😊

Ngā mihi nui

Amanda Lamble (Team Leader), Ann Marshall, Melissa Kosmadakis and Joy Henderson.

[amanda@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:amanda@wadestown.school.nz)

[ann@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:ann@wadestown.school.nz)

[melissa@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:melissa@wadestown.school.nz)

[joy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:joy@wadestown.school.nz)

The Pōhutukawa Team

*Thank you to Kelly Sports Phil (manager) + Jayden for coaching our students their relay running in Week 1, it was fun!*

### Dates to Remember

**Thurs 19 Feb:** Mihi Whakatau

**Thurs 19 Feb :** Meet the Team

**Tues 24 Feb:** Meet the Teacher

**Movin March is coming**

**Fri 27 Feb:** Sports at Weld

**Tues 17 March:** Kaiwharawhara Stream visit walk

**Mon 23 March:** Zoo Trip



### Pōhutukawa Team Activity Donation Breakdown 2026

**Amount added to Student Statement for Terms 1-4 = \$110.00**

**Term 1:**

**Zoo trip with return bus fare** n.b. includes entry fee for Parent Helpers (final price - TBC)

**\$20.00**

**Term 1 Balance remaining**

**\$90.00**