Pōhutukawa Team Newsletter
Year 1 & 2
Term 3, 2026

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

Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to Term 3

Thank you to all families and students who attended our Three Way Conferences! Whānau engagement is critical to student success.

Room 1 welcomes: Ihaia, Veronica, Rowan, Lachie, Lochie, Florence, and Sophie. We also look forward to having Liam join us later in the term.

To make room for our newest students, eight students have transitioned to our Year 1 and 2 classrooms; four to each class. At the beginning of this term, Room 3 welcomed Billy, Nir, Sacha and Maisie, while Room 4 welcomed Henry A, Isla, Henry C and Ivan.

We would like to extend a **warm welcome** to all new students and whānau at our **Mihi Whakatau on Thursday 13 August** - please mark your diary and come and support them! This is being held at our Rose Street School Hall.

Wadestown Library Visits Us

Last Friday, Eleanor from Wadestown Library and Stephen from Wellington Central Library visited us at Weld Street. They came with a wonderful pile of very special pop-up books and engaging story books. They read interactive stories and had lots of fun engaging with our students. “Hairy Pet” came with them and he was such a hit too!



Thank you to Katy Synge, our Literacy Lead Teacher, for organising this event.

The following is an outline of the key learning opportunities planned for this term:

LITERACY: Reading and Writing Students learn **phonics** and phonological awareness (which is the foundation for spelling and word recognition) as part of our Literacy programme. Students have daily opportunities for practising letters and sounds and reviewing those that have been previously taught.

'**Heart words**' (words that you cannot sound out using phonics e.g. "the") are taught in our **spelling programme**. Students then apply these words to their reading and writing.

Students are assessed using the Ministry of Education's standardised assessment known as the *20 Week and 40 Week Phonics Test*. These happen after a student has been at school for 20 weeks and then again after 40 weeks at school. Test results are shared and discussed with parents.

Our **Reading** programme follows a 'scope and sequence' to support phonics acquisition. The Reading skills our students are focusing on this term are:

- Making Meaning: Students will develop their knowledge of different text types and their purposes, and
- Thinking Critically: Students will learn to be critically aware when reading and writing.

Our **Writing** programme includes opportunities for students to apply their **handwriting** skills and **spelling** knowledge to their writing. This term, our students are focusing on: learning to *write in sentences* using a variety of *punctuation* for effect and interest.

Students will learn to record personal experiences, write short descriptions and imaginative stories. They will get to share a published piece of writing with their whānau.

During handwriting lessons, students practice their tripod grip and they learn correct letter formation and to have correct posture.

Oral language is integrated into the classroom programmes and helps students to broaden their vocabulary, develop good listening and questioning skills, and organise their ideas for writing. Daily opportunities are provided for students to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions with daily 'news' sessions being a particular highlight.

Look out for BOOK Bingo for Year 2 students starting in Week 4 - a notice will follow.

Numeracy

A STRUCTURED NUMERACY APPROACH is where students have explicit teaching at their year level, and they learn how to apply their knowledge and articulate their mathematical thinking when problem-solving with others.

This term, students will explore the following mathematical concepts:

- In Number: Number Structures: counting (including in Te Reo), order of operations, and place value and Rational Numbers: naming and identifying fractions
- In Measurement: Measuring - time, volume, weight and capacity
- In Algebra: Equations and Relationships: shapes and repeating patterns
- In Geometry: Pathways: position and instructions

Students will be encouraged to **make connections** between maths and everyday life…… this should come alive for them when they learn all about ***MONEY*** (financial literacy).

Students will also learn some of the history of money, which is part of our school-wide inquiry JOURNEYS theme.
A coach from the ASB Bank is coming into school to present an interactive lesson on money titled *Getwise*.

Rooms 3 and 4 will have a **100 Days Celebration** next week - this is a tradition we have at Weld where students who have attended school for 100 days have a special afternoon tea celebration.

Inquiry: The Arts

- Our Inquiry for this term is themed 'TIMELINES', and each class is busy preparing a **School Production** item which will be performed on stage on **Friday 18 September at Wellington High School Hall** - please mark your calendars! If it's your thing to help with costume items or stage props, then please let your child's teacher know. For our new parents - School Productions are held every second year.
- **Calendar Art**- students will make a piece of calendar art which will be part of a PTA fundraiser for Christmas gifts.

Physical Education (P.E) and Health

- Week 1 - Thank you to Phil (owner), Kelly Sports and his coach Merrick for giving each class a free 30-minute coaching session in football skills
- Ākau Tangi Sport sessions - We have two sessions booked on Monday 10 and Monday 17 August. Students will be coached in gymnastics, netball (by Netball NZ) and football. Due to Wellington City Council providing one free bus, we have two parents who will be assisting us with additional transportation; thank you to Darren Chin and Alice O'Styke for assisting us with this
- Fun Ferns - Netball coaching by selected Year 8 students during Thursday lunchtimes, with a weekend tournament for students to put their skills into action.

Te Reo

- Mātua Alwyn teaches a half-hour Te Reo lesson weekly on a Thursday, where the Pōhutukawa Team will be having conversations to ask how people are feeling.
- Mātua Hemi also teaches a half-hour Kapa Haka and waiata (singing) session at midday on a Thursday.

Our Wadestown School Values

Our GROW values are integrated throughout our classroom programmes and are a key focus at our Weld Street Assemblies.

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

Dates to Remember

For key dates, please check the online school calendar:

- **Monday 10 August** — Ākau Tangi trip - Sports sessions with coaches
- **Monday 17 August** — Ākau Tangi trip - Sports sessions with coaches
- **Thursday 13 August** — Mihi Whakatau - **Morning drop-off to Rose St.**
- **Wednesday 2 September** — School photos - scheduling to be confirmed
- **Friday 18 September** — SCHOOL PRODUCTION @ Wellington High School with daytime practice
- **21 - 25 September** — Maōri Language Week

Reminders

- Arrival at school for students is from 8:30 am onwards. Before this time, it is teachers' time for planning and classroom organisation.
- Your child needs to have a **named raincoat** in their schoolbag, as the weather can change during the day.

We look forward to a wonderful term together,

Ngā mihi nui, The Pōhutukawa Team

Amanda Lamble (Team Leader)	amanda@wadestown.school.nz	Room 1 Teacher
Melissa Kosmadakis	melissa@wadestown.school.nz	Room 3 Teacher
Joy Henderson	joy@wadestown.school.nz	Room 4 Teacher
Ann Marshall	ann@wadestown.school.nz	CRT and Room 1



Football Skills

Pōhutukawa Team Activity Donation Breakdown 2026 (Terms 1 to 4)	
Amount added to Student Statement **$110.00***	
Term 1: **Zoo trip**: • Return bus fare @ $15.00 • Zoo Entry fee & workshop @ $10.00 ***Please note that this is a confirmed cost and differs from what was published in Term 1 Team newsletter***	$25.00
Term 2: **Hannah Playhouse** - "Puss in Gumboots" @ $6.50 **Botanical Gardens Trip** • Return bus fare $13.50 • Workshop $6.50	$6.50 $20.00
Term 3: • **Wadestown School Production Bus and Costumes** • **Ākau Tangi Sports Sessions**	$20.00 $8.50
Balance remaining	**$30.00**

This amount is for the full school year. For students who start in Term 3 the amount is reduced to $55.00