Tōtara Team Newsletter

Years 3 to 6

Term 2, 2026

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

WADESTOWN SCHOOL

Tēnā koutou Parents and Whānau,

It was wonderful to see you all at our Three-Way Conferences in the final week of Term 2. We value your partnership in working together to support your children in their schooling at Wadestown School.
This term we welcome Agostino and Gaudenzio, Eva and Lucy, Avyan, Ufair and their whānau into the Tōtara Team. We hope you have all had a positive start to your time here at Wadestown School.

Term 2 Curriculum Overview:



Literacy (Reo matatini)

Reading: Pānui

In **Year 3/4,** students will use journals and varied text types to:

- Retell a text in order.
- Make statements, explanations and draw conclusions about the author's intended meaning in a text.
- Discuss differences and similarities between characters' viewpoints and perspectives to interpret meanings in the text.

In Year 5/6, students have chosen a novel for their novel study, where they will:

- Find and interpret evidence from the text to draw reasoned conclusions.
- Work out how key ideas and messages develop across the course of the novel.
- Infer from implied information and share and justify opinions with others.
- Make connections within and across texts, as well as to their own knowledge and experiences.

Writing: Tuhituhi

Alongside explicit daily lessons, writing will be integrated across the wider curriculum whilst working towards creating a persuasive piece of writing.
Students will learn to:

- Introduce a topic and state a position about it.
- Group related ideas and structure their writing accordingly.
- Use persuasive techniques such as emotional appeal, rhetorical questions and expert opinions to persuade the reader.
- Use linking phrases to build an overall argument.

Spelling: The Code

We will continue to use 'The Code', a structured and systematic spelling programme. Daily lessons are designed to build skills in a clear, progressive way. Students revisit prior learning to strengthen their understanding, while also being introduced to new spelling patterns and rules.

Handwriting: Tuhi-ā-ringa

Aligned to our Structured Literacy approaches, handwriting is taught in a clear, step-by-step way. This term, Year 3 and 4 students will continue developing cursive handwriting skills, while Year 5 and 6 students will work on fluency and automaticity.

Mathematics (Pāngarau)

Number Strategies:

Students will continue to work in their year groups using a range of supporting resources, such as 'Maths No Problem '.



In Year 3/4, students will conclude working on addition and subtraction, before moving on to multiplication and division, time, and fractions.

In Year 5/6, students will conclude multiplication and division, and move on to geometry and rational numbers.

Regular practice of basic facts at home, along with completing set Mathletics tasks, will greatly support and strengthen your child's understanding and confidence in these areas in class.

Science:

This term, **Year 3 and 4 students** will explore the natural world through a science inquiry on **'Birds'.**

Year 5 and 6 students will take on the **'Ice Cream Challenge**', integrating science, technology, and mathematics through an exciting investigation.

Inquiry Topics (Social Sciences and Health)

Year 3/4 will be understanding their emotions, exploring strategies for **'Managing their Emotions',** and learning how these can influence their thoughts, behaviour, relationships, and the choices they make.

Year 5/6 will be learning about how people remember and record historical events, including World War II and Victorian England.

Te Reo: with Matua Alwyn, our Te Reo kaiako (teacher)

Students will learn new Pūrākau (stories) from mana whenua (in Wellington the mana whenua are the iwi Te Atiawa). This term we will once again be participating in a School-Wide Reo-a-thon. Further information will come out about this later in the term.

Kapa Haka: with Hemi Prime, our Kapa Haka tutor

All students will continue their weekly sessions learning waiata (songs) and tikanga Māori (traditions and protocols). Those students in Year 5 and 6 who are part of the performance group will perform at the Whakanui Ahurea Kapa Haka festival at Wellington College on Thursday 6 August. If whānau are interested in watching their child perform, they should contact Liberty Cook for further details.

Physical Education: (Hākinakina)

The Tōtara Team will continue regular fitness activities and join together to learn and practise sporting skills including bat and ball sports, catching and throwing, and dance.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear every day for these sessions.

The Arts Curriculum: (Mahi toi)

Performing Arts - This term Wadestown School will once again be staging a whole School Production at the end of the term. The students will learn dance, drama and music techniques to create a performance piece for the production.

Visual Art - All students will design an artwork to be turned into calendars and cards for purchase next term.

ICT in the Classroom: (Hangarau whakaaturanga)

Year 3 and 4 students will continue to develop essential Chromebook skills, including independently logging in, publishing their writing, and completing Mathletics tasks.

Year 5 and 6 students will continue to focus on touch typing skills, such as hand and finger placement and typing fluency when typing longer pieces.

Homework: (Mahi kainga)

Homework is set on Mondays and is due to teachers by Sunday each week. It generally includes:

- Mathletics tasks and daily reading (15–20 minutes).
- Book Bingo challenges are available, with House points up for grabs!

However, to begin this term, Totara Nui homework is centred around reading novels for the novel study. Other homework will recommence in Week 3 or 4.

Homework is intended to be flexible and able to work around busy after-school schedules.

Our Wadestown School GROW Values

Our tamariki continue to demonstrate the GROW values; these are recognised with House points for their positive behaviour and contributions.

Online School Calendar

For key dates, please check the online school calendar. Please note that these dates are subject to change. Families will be updated accordingly if changes are required. Additional information will be provided closer to the time via email and through the school newsletter.



First Aid Training with St. John's Ambulance Service



Wellington Libraries Visit



Matariki Rotation Day End of Term 2

Tōtara Iti Team Activity Donation Breakdown (Year 3 & 4) Terms 1 to 4, 2026	
Amount added to Student Statement	**$110.00**
Less: Term 1 Costs	$13.50
Term 2 Costs:	$ 19.00
Term 3 Costs:	
Production- Bus, costume	$20.00
St. Johns First Aid	$2.00
Total Term 3	**$22.00**
Tōtara Iti Term 3 Balance Remaining	**$55.50**

Tōtara Nui Team Activity Donation Breakdown (Year 5 & 6) Terms 1 to 4, 2026	
Amount added to Student Statement	**$110.00**
Less: Term 1 Costs	$13.50
Term 2 Costs:	$6.50
Term 3 Costs:	
Production- Bus and Costume	$20.00
St. Johns First Aid	$2.00
EPro 8- equipment hire	$7.00
Musical Performance Trip	$7.50
Books Alive	$7.50
Total Term 3	**$44.00**
Tōtara Nui Term 3 Balance Remaining	**$46.00**

Nāku iti noa, nā

Katy Synge	katy@wadestown.school.nz	Room 5 teacher and Co-Team Leader
Anna Wilson	anna@wadestown.school.nz	Room 6 teacher
Clare Gilligan	clare@wadestown.school.nz	Room 8 teacher and Co-Team Leader
Liberty Cook	liberty@wadestown.school.nz	Room 10 teacher
Ann Marshall	ann@wadestown.school.nz	Year 3/4 CRT teacher
Gretchen Eliott	gretchen@wadestown.school.nz	Year 5/6 CRT teacher