Pōhutukawa Team Newsletter
Year 1 & 2
Term 4, 2026

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

Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to Term 4

Term 3 ended on a HIGH NOTE – seeing our Performing Arts curriculum on display with all our students on stage for Wadestown School's **Production** was rawe (awesome)! Pōhutukawa students took the challenge in their stride, evidenced by plenty of RESILIENCE and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the wider school performance.

New Students: Room 1 welcomes: Maisie, Sienna, Elliot and Rosalie. We also look forward to having Hazel join us later in the term.

We are looking forward to the final term of the year. **The following is an outline of the key learning opportunities planned for Term 4.**

LITERACY Focus for Term 4:

Oral language

Daily opportunities are provided for students to share their thoughts, ideas and **opinions,** with daily 'news' sessions being a particular highlight. Teachers help students to broaden their **vocabulary**, develop good listening and **questioning skills**, and organise their ideas for writing.

Reading and Writing

- **Phonics skills** – students will learn short vowels, long vowels and word endings following a scope and sequence.
- **20 and 40 Week Phonics Testing** continues this term. **Results are reported to parents in the end-of-term reports.**
- '**Heart words**' (words that you cannot sound out using phonics, e.g. "the") are taught in our **spelling programme**. Learning these forms the basis of their written vocabulary.
- **Handwriting –** the aim is for our students to have automaticity and control when forming letters and for their letters to be placed correctly in relation to the line and be consistent in appearance.
- **Reading comprehension** – students need to be able to find facts and use clues to make predictions and draw inferences.
- **Writing** – students will learn to write simple sentences and develop longer sentences by connecting two complete ideas using joining words. They will record personal experiences and write short explanations, including explanations about space linked to their Science learning.
- **Language features** – students will learn what these are and how to use them: rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia and simile

BOOK Bingo for Year 2 students continues into this term



Numeracy

The Year 2 Numeracy Check is being administered this term. This assessment is a new MoE requirement for all students in Year 2 and measures early number progress. The results will be included in students' end-of-year reports. Information for parents can be found on the following link:
Year 2 Numeracy Check

This term, students will continue to cover the following mathematical concepts:

- Number:
    - ➢ Number Knowledge: forwards and backwards counting, skip-counting, Family of Facts
    - ➢ Number Structures: counting in groups, order of operations, and place value and rational numbers: naming and identifying fractions
- Measurement: Measuring – length and time
- Algebra: Patterns
- Money: Groupings of notes and coins to find the total value
- Statistics: Collecting data, data visualisations and interpreting data

Inquiry: The Arts

Our 2026 theme of JOURNEYS continues this term as students explore **SPACE** through a **scientific journey.**

- On sunny days, students will develop their observational skills when learning about ***shadows*** and their changes at different times of the day.

- We have booked a visit to **Space Place at Carter Observatory on Wednesday 11 November**. The visit will include a planetarium show and an education workshop. Room 1 will visit in the morning, and then Rooms 3 and 4 will visit later at midday.
    - Room 1 will need two **Parent Helpers** from 9:30 am – 12 noon.
    - Rooms 3 and 4 will need two **Parent Helpers** per class from 11:30 – 2:40 pm.
    - If you're available to help, please **email classroom teachers** to express your interest**.**

Physical Education (P.E) and Health

- **Swimming** (5 sessions)has now begun and will continue for 3 weeks. Students are coached by Swimwell at Johnsonville Pool. Swimming is taught biannually in Term 4. **Thank you to all the parents who have offered to transport** students to and from Johnsonville Pool each time we go. **PLEASE ensure all clothing is named.**

- **Athletics** (1 session) in Week 5 with Phil – owner of Kelly Sports; he will coach a free half-hour session per class.

- **Hockey** (2 sessions) in Weeks 6 and 7; delivered through the Wellington Hockey in schools coaching programme. Students have already had one session at the end of last term.

Te Reo

- Mātua Alwyn teaches a half-hour Te Reo lesson weekly on a Thursday, where the Pōhutukawa Team will be hearing the legend of Māui and the Sun.
- Mātua Hemi also teaches a half-hour Kapa Haka and waiata (singing) session at midday on a Thursday.

Farewell Jaxon

We want to acknowledge Jaxon, and his mother, Leigh who were both valued members of the Pōhutkawa Team. Sadly, Leigh passed away during the holidays, following an illness. Leigh was a great supporter of Weld Street, helping on trips and always brightening up their turn at Kiss and Drop in the morning with lots of music and bling. She channelled her creativity to make any celebration such as Book Character Day or cross country into an opportunity for Jaxon to look resplendent in an outfit.

Jaxon has moved to Nelson to live with his grandparents and began Term 4 at his new school. Room 4 misses his bright and bubbly personality and his infectious laughter. The playground just isn't the same without Jaxon running to tell and then help the duty teacher when someone has been hurt.

We wish Jaxon and his family all the best as he settles into life in Nelson.





This photo was taken at school on the last day of the school holidays. Leigh had made this gift for Joy just last Christmas.

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 regulation Wadestown School **named bucket hat** in their schoolbag and please administer suncream at home.

House and Garden 2026 Promotion - Pōhutukawa Student Colouring-in Competition



Dates to Remember

For key dates, please check the online school calendar:

- **Wednesday 28 October** Swimming at Johnsonville Pool
- **Monday 2 November** Swimming at Johnsonville Pool
- **Wednesday 4 November** Swimming at Johnsonville Pool
- **Wednesday 11 November** Space Place Trip to Carter Observatory
- Sunday 15 November House & Garden School Fundraiser
- **Friday 11 December** **Christmas Family Picnic @ 12noon on field at Weld Street**
- **Tuesday 15 December** School Reports published
- **Wednesday 16 December** School closes at 12:30 noon

We look forward to a wonderful term together.

Ngā mihi nui, The Pōhutukawa Team

Amanda Lamble, Room 1 (Pōhutukawa Team Leader) amanda@wadestown.school.nz
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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" **Botanical Gardens Trip** • Return bus fare $13.50 • Workshop $6.50	$6.50 $20.00
Term 3: **Wadestown School Production Bus and Costumes** • Return bus fare $11.50 • Costume $8.50 **Ākau Tangi Sports Sessions**	$20.00 $8.50
Term 4: **Space Place Trip** • Return bus fare $12.00 • Workshop & Planetarium visit $7.50 **Christmas craft** ***** Please note swimming costs are in addition to this cost***	$19.50 $10.50
Balance remaining	**nil**

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