Tōtara Team Newsletter

Years 3 to 6

Term 4, 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 so many of you at our school production at the end of last term. The students represented Wadestown School so well, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts and performances.

Last term, we also welcomed Isobel to Room 8. We hope you and your whānau have settled in well and are enjoying your time at Wadestown School.

Term 4 is always a busy and exciting time, with trips, speeches and plenty of learning still ahead of us!

Term 4 Curriculum Overview:



Literacy (Reo matatini)

Reading: Pānui

In Year 3/4, students will be completing a whole class novel study and learning to:

- Share opinions, personal thoughts and feelings that may be the same or different from others.
- Relate ideas in texts to their personal experiences.
- Understand that authors make deliberate word choices to guide how audiences understand and respond to the text.

In Year 5/6, students will be studying a range of poems and will:

- Explore structure, language, and text features and understand how this creates meaning and impact
- Demonstrate accurate, expressive reading
- Learn strategies to work out the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary.

Writing: Tuhituhi

Alongside explicit daily lessons, writing will be integrated across the wider curriculum whilst working towards creating a longer piece of writing.

In Year 3/4, students will:

- Use the narrative elements of character, setting, problem, action and resolution
- Apply speech marks correctly for direct speech
- Use a range of sentence types to suit the purpose of the writing and enhance its impact.

In Year 5/6, students will choose a speech topic and will then learn to:

- Consider the purpose and audience of a text
- Organise their ideas logically and coherently
- Develop and connect their paragraphs
- Revise their texts for clarity, purpose, audience and impact.

Spelling: The Code

We will continue using 'The Code', our structured spelling programme, to support the development of students' spelling knowledge and skills. Lessons follow a consistent, step-by-step approach, with regular opportunities to revisit and consolidate previous learning alongside the introduction of new spelling patterns and rules.

Handwriting: Tuhi-ā-ringa
In-line with our Structured Literacy approach, we explicitly teach handwriting through a structured, step-by-step process. This term, Year 3 and 4 students will continue to build their cursive handwriting skills, while Year 5 and 6 students will focus on improving fluency and developing greater automaticity when writing in cursive.

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 start with fractions and then consolidate their multiplication and division skills.

In Year 5/6, students will start with algebra, move onto geometry, and finish with financial literacy.

Practising basic facts regularly at home and completing assigned Mathletics activities will help reinforce your child's learning, build confidence and strengthen their understanding of key mathematical concepts in the classroom.

Science:

In Year 3/4 will take part in a range of whole-class science experiments to understand 'cause and effect'.

In Year 5/6 students will explore the scientific process and take part in a whole-class experiment, with a focus on being systematic and methodical in their approach.

Inquiry Topics (Social Sciences and Health)

Year 3 and 4 students will continue to develop their skills in initiating and maintaining friendships. They will participate in collaborative activities requiring students to interact and work with all members of the classroom.

Year 5/6 students will be taking part in a Health unit called *Navigating the Journey*. Students will learn about pubertal changes, different types of relationships, and how these influence physical, social and emotional wellbeing, while developing skills in respectful communication, managing relationship challenges and seeking help when needed.

Further information about the programme's content will be sent home separately before lessons begin, in the middle of this term. We encourage whānau to review this information and discuss it with their child.

Te Reo: with Matua Alwyn, our Te Reo kaiako (teacher)
Students will continue to build their everyday te reo Māori vocabulary by learning words and phrases used in the classroom and practising speaking in te reo Māori for set periods of time.

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).

Physical Education: (Hākinakina)

The Tōtara Team will continue regular fitness activities and come together to learn and practice athletics, followed by small ball skills.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and their bucket hat every day for these sessions.

The Arts Curriculum: (Mahi toi)

Music: The whole Tōtara team will take part in weekly singing sessions, led by Mrs Cook.

Visual Art: Tōtara Iti will explore printmaking skills. They will use symmetry to create a pattern that students will then turn into a print.

Tōtara Nui will continue exploring visual storytelling through art, and this term both classes will work hands-on with concrete materials. In Room 10, students will create a collection of three-dimensional birds, while Room 8 will develop skills and use art-making conventions to create woven artworks.

Dance: We are lucky enough to welcome Mark from 'Dance Curriculum' back to Wadestown School to run some sessions for our Tōtara students.

Education Outside the Classroom: (EOTC)

This term, Tōtara students will be heading to Te Rauparaha Arena to enjoy some time swimming in the pool and playing games on the sports courts. We're also excited to be hosting our very first Tōtara Takeover Day in Week 9. Students will work in small teams to take part in a range of games, challenges and activities, with plenty of surprises along the way. It promises to be a fun-filled day and a fantastic way to celebrate the first year of the Tōtara Team!

ICT in the Classroom: (Hangarau whakaaturanga)

Year 3 and 4 students will continue developing essential Chromebook skills, including naming and creating a Google document to publish their writing and searching for suitable content using school-appropriate websites.

Year 5 and 6 students will apply the touch-typing skills they have developed to write longer pieces of text on a Chromebook.

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!

Homework is flexible and designed to work around busy after-school schedules.

Our Wadestown School GROW Values

Our tamariki continue to demonstrate the GROW values; we recognise these positive behaviours and contributions with House points.

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.



Tōtara Iti's Pete Cromer artwork



A Journey Through Time Production 2026



EPRO 8

Tōtara Iti Team Activity Donation Breakdown (Year 3 students) 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:	$22.00	
Term 4 Costs:	$55.50	
Term 4 Breakdown: Year 3		
EOTC trip to Te Rauparaha Arena		$21.20
Year 3 Sports Festival - Travel		$12.00
EOTC Tōtara Takeover Day		$5.30
Dance workshops		$15.00
Christmas Craft		$2.00
Term 4 TOTAL:		**$55.50**
Year 3 Term 4 Balance Remaining		**$0.00**

Tōtara Iti Team Activity Donation Breakdown (Year 4 students) 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:	$22.00	
Term 4 Costs:	$55.50	
Term 4 Breakdown: Year 4		
Athletics Sports Day - Travel		$9.50
EOTC trip to Te Rauparaha Arena		$21.20
EOTC Tōtara Takeover Day		$5.30
Dance workshops		$15.00
Christmas Craft		$4.50
Term 4 TOTAL:		**$55.50**
Year 4 Term 4 Balance Remaining		**$0.00**

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:	$44.00	
Term 4 Costs:	$46.00	
Term 4 Breakdown: Years 5 and 6		
Athletic Sports Day - Travel		$9.50
EOTC trip to Te Rauparaha Arena		$21.20
EOTC Tōtara Takeover Day		$5.30
Dance workshops		$10.00
Term 4 TOTAL:		**$46.00**
Tōtara Nui Term 4 Balance Remaining		**$0.00**

Nāku iti noa, nā

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