WAIRAU INTERMEDIATE NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Kia ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi Atu, Taloha Ni, Ni sa bula, 你好, Namaste, 안녕하세요, Hola, اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ .

Welcome to the 2026 School Year

A very warm welcome back to all our returning families, and a special greeting to the new students and whānau joining our community this year. This new year marks the start of an exciting new chapter as our Year 7 students begin the next phase of their educational journey.

Our teachers have been busy planning an inspiring year ahead. As Term 1 unfolds, we will keep you well-informed regarding the many events and opportunities we have planned for our students.

Our Vision and Values

At the heart of our school is a commitment to "nurture an inclusive community that inspires excellence and pride." We strive to create a safe, supportive culture where every student can excel academically, socially, and emotionally. We are dedicated to empowering our students to contribute meaningfully through the collaborative efforts of our staff and the wider school community.

Whanaungatanga (Relationships) is central to this vision. By building positive, genuine connections, we share experiences and work together to ensure every student feels a deep sense of value and belonging. Our students remain at the heart of every decision we make.

Moving Forward Together

Wairau, as we know, means "abundant waters." To me, these waters represent our people. Throughout the year, your ideas and opinions will be sought and valued; your contributions are vital in shaping the direction of our school.

As Term 1 commences, we are therefore excited to embark on another year of learning, discovery, and growth together.

Getting Started: Key Dates & Times

The school office is officially open as of today, Thursday, 29 January, between 8:30am and 3:30pm for any enquiries or assistance.

Initial Schedule:

- Thursday 29 Jan, Friday 30 Jan, & Monday 2 Feb: Teacher Only Days (School closed for instruction)
- Tuesday 3 Feb: Whānau Hui / Meet the Teacher (New students only)
- Wednesday 4 Feb: First full day of school for all students
  - o School start time: 8:45am
  - o School finish time: 3:00pm
- Thursday 5 Feb: Mihi Whakatau (Welcome for all new students)
  - o Time: 9:00am – 10:00am
  - o Location: Grass area near Block 3. All parents are welcome!

Whānau Hui Bookings (Tuesday 3 Feb)

To book your whānau hui (meet the teacher opportunity) session for new students, please follow these steps as per the email sent on Friday 9 January:

1. Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code
2. Enter event code: **t3b44**

If you require assistance with the booking process, please ring the office.

Readiness for Learning

On Wednesday, 4 Feb, all students are expected to:

- Be in full school uniform.
- Have all stationery requirements with them.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a Government requirement. We will share information regarding the importance of this in our next newsletter. As a school we have been proud of our attendance rates. We are well on our way to consistently meeting the expectation that 80% of all students attend regularly every term (less than 5 days absent).

If your child is absent from school, we ask that you always report their absence via our school website, Skool Loop App, by email or phone call to our school office.

It is essential that you let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure.

When families choose to take their child/children overseas or on holiday in term time there is a significant impact on the attendance rates of our school. Please be aware that family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

If you need your child to take leave during term time, there is a process to follow. You MUST email me the Principal (yolandae@wairau.school.nz) to ask for your child's/children's leave to be approved. If approved, you will receive a letter of confirmation via our school secretary (ruis@wairau.school.nz).

Additional Teacher Only Days (Term 1)

Please ensure these days are marked in your calendar. Unfortunately, owing to facilitator availability, these aren't always tagged to weekends:

- Wednesday 4 March
- Monday 30 March

Term and Holiday Dates for 2026

- Term 1 : 4 Feb - 2 April
- Term 2 : 20 April – 3 July
- Term 3 : 20 July – 25 September
- Term 4 : 12 October – 16 December

The School Day

- 8:45am : Classes commence
- 10:55am - 11:25am : Morning recess
- 12:45pm - 1:30pm : Lunch
- 3:00pm : School finishes for the day

Important: Changes to School Access

Please be aware that school access has changed significantly over the break. For the safety and security of our students, please note the following:

- New Entrance: Entry is now via the rear of the Admin area
- Front Entrance: Access via the front of the administration building is now for emergencies only
- Gate Hours: Gates will be open between 8:15am – 9:00am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm
- Late Arrivals: Students arriving after 9:00am must ring the intercom to gain access. They will still need to sign in at the school office as is the process for all later students
- Signage: New signs will be added shortly to assist you with these changes.

Communication

Communicating with our parent community will be by email, our school website, in person phone calls (if required) or via the Skool Loop App. This is a free App that we ask you to download onto your phone. This App will keep you up to date with school notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

Contact Details / Student Medical Needs

If have moved, your contact details or your child's medical needs have changed over the summer, please notify our school secretary of these changes (ruis@wairau.school.nz).

It is important to us that we can contact you when required and support your child's medical needs appropriately. If your child has medication that is required at school, you will need to complete a "Medicine Consent Form".

Public Transport services for 2026 - Reminder by Auckland Transport

With the school year about to begin public transport services will be busier than usual. There will be more people on the roads and taking public transport overall.

Auckland Transport will be monitoring the performance of the public transport network during this period closely and in real time to add more seats when and where possible.

Parents can help ease the impact on school journeys during this busy time by:

- Encouraging your children to tag on and off each school bus trip. Tagging data is used by their team to know how many students are onboard each bus so we can adjust bus timetables and bus sizes.
- If school buses are not an option for your children, they can use urban bus services. AT Journey Planner can help students find the services that will work best for them.
- Ensure your child's HOP cards are topped up. Children ages 5 to 15 years are eligible for a child concession giving them 40% off travel by bus, train or ferry when using their registered AT HOP card.

Your assistance with this will be greatly appreciated.

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Stationery

Pre-prepared stationery packs are available for purchase for $42.00 without earphones or $54.00 with earphones from Paper Plus – Sunnynook. Paper Plus is located at Sunnynook Shopping Centre, 2/106 Sunnynook Road, Sunnynook.

Uniform

Our school uniform is available for purchase through NZ Uniforms, either through online orders or in person at their Albany Store at 19a Douglas Alexander Parade, Rosedale. Their contact details are 094776300, albany@nzuniforms.com or www.nzuniforms.com

Please note: Jewellery (unless cultural), makeup (including false eyelashes), and fingernail polish are not part of our school uniform and not to be worn. Children who have had their ears pierced must only wear studs at school.

Please name your child's uniform clearly. Name It labels provide a range of affordable iron-on options, even labels for shoes! It's cheaper than having to replace lost uniform items. Their website is: www.nameit.co.nz

If you are interested in a useful saving tool to help you manage the uniform expense, NZ Uniforms now have the Uniform Club. Please visit: www.nzuniforms.com/pages/uniform-club

Mobile Phones

If students bring a phone to school our policy is they are "turned off and put away for the day" safely in their school bag as soon as they arrive at school. This means before entering school grounds.

Phones are not allowed to be switched on until students leave the school at the end of the day. If a student is caught using their phone during the day "without permission", their phone will be taken off them and, depending on the situation, it will then be handed back to the student at home time, or their parent / caregiver will be asked to come and collect it.

Exceptions to phone use during the day are for educational purposes or in an emergency with teacher permission.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information being sent to you at the start of the school year. We hope you find this informative, as it will ensure a smooth transition for your child.

We are always here to help. If you have any questions or if we can assist in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, our office personnel, or myself. Further information will be sent out fortnightly in our school newsletter.

Intermediate experiences are two memorable years, and with all that Wairau has to offer, we look forward to sharing this educational journey with you and your child.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

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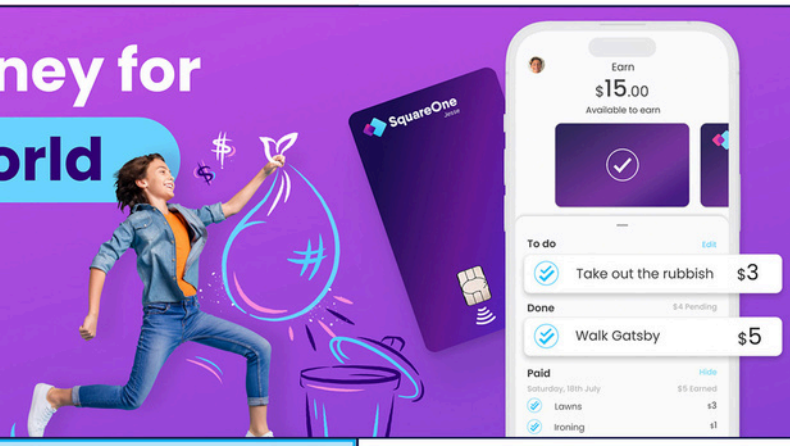

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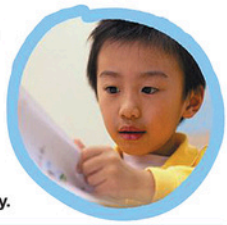

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