

# Junior Syndicate

## Newsletter, Term 1 2026, Whānga Tuatahi

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to Term 1, 2026. We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed quality time with family and friends.

This newsletter will give you an overview of events, reminders and key information that is pertinent to the Junior Syndicate. Please also ensure you are reading the school newsletter for school-wide updates.

If you are reading this newsletter, that means you have downloaded the HERO app and have access. A reminder that all school communication will now take place through HERO. Your child's teacher will also regularly share learning stories/photos/updates on what the class has been up to.

In Term 1, the most notable event for the Juniors is our Junior Camp (Week 4, 5<sup>th</sup>– 6<sup>th</sup> March). This year, Koukou & Pīwaiwaka will participate in the day activities, after-school activities, and stay for a BBQ dinner, after which they head home and return the next morning. Tūī and Pīpīwharauroa will be staying overnight at school in tents on the back field. This one-night camp is good preparation for the Middle Syndicate camp, which is 2 nights. Further communication regarding camp will be sent home in the coming days. We invite you to attend a camp meeting on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2.45pm in Pīwaiwaka (Room 7).

Other events happening for the Juniors in Term 1 include an in-school 'Magic Show' about healthy eating and the WPS Try-athlon. The Try-athlon is scheduled for Tues, 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Please ensure you have purchased all stationery items for your child's class listed on the Office Max Myschool website. Bring all items to school on the first day of school.

School uniform Items can be purchased either in store or online from Bethells Uniforms in Whangārei –  
[https://www.bethellsuniforms.co.nz/?s=waiuku&post\\_type=product](https://www.bethellsuniforms.co.nz/?s=waiuku&post_type=product)

All students in the Junior Syndicate will have home learning, which will start in the first few weeks of school. To discuss specifics about your child's home learning, we encourage you to attend the after-school BBQ on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

### Link to the school calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/>  
cid=d3BzLnNjaG9vbC5uel9uZjFrdWI0MjUzbXFiNmo2ZDg0NmdjOHJwY0Bncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhcisnb29nbGUuY29t



### JUNIOR TEAM EMAILS

Maddy Egan (Team Leader)– New Entrant/ Year 1 Teacher Pīwaiwaka  
[maddy@wps.school.nz](mailto:maddy@wps.school.nz)

Kelly Blainey– New Entrant/Year 1 Teacher Koukou  
[kelly@wps.school.nz](mailto:kelly@wps.school.nz)

Hannah Taylor-Rose– Year 1/2 Teacher Tūī  
[hannah@wps.school.nz](mailto:hannah@wps.school.nz)

Mel Crocker– Year 2 Teacher Pīpīwharauroa  
[melaine@wps.school.nz](mailto:melaine@wps.school.nz)

### LIBRARY TIMES

Koukou– Tuesday

Pīwaiwaka– Thursday

Tūī– Wednesday

Pīpīwharauroa– Friday

### SWIMMING DAYS

Koukou– Mon, Tue, Thur

Pīwaiwaka– Mon, Tue, Thur

Tūī– Tue, Wed, Fri

Pīpīwharauroa– Mon, Tue, Fri

### REMINDERS

- School hats are required every day in Term 1 and 4
- Please have spare clothes in your child's bag
- Please label ALL your child's clothing & property
- Children need a drink bottle at school every day
- Absences are reported directly to the office
- Please be diligent in returning decodable texts and readers to school
- Regularly check the school's Google calendar for upcoming events. Link is on the left of this page

**Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu**

## OUR VALUES



**Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar**

## ENGLISH

All Junior classes will be implementing the new NZ English curriculum. Teachers will adopt a 'Structured and Explicit' approach to teaching Reading, Writing, and Spelling. We are fortunate to have access to a variety of high-quality resources, including Little Learners Love Literacy, iDeal, and Ready to Read Phonics. Each class will assign homework twice a week, which will be pasted into their 'homework book,' and every child will take home at least one reader weekly. For more information about your child's English program, please reach out to the teacher. Additionally, you can find extensive details about the curriculum at the following link: [New Zealand Curriculum Guide] (<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools/year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8>).

## MATHEMATICS

In the Junior Syndicate, our approach to teaching Mathematics is to utilise a wide range of materials to support every child's understanding of Mathematical concepts. Materials help kids learn math by making abstract concepts concrete and visual through hands-on play, allowing them to physically manipulate, sort, and build. In 2025, each Junior class received a class set of Numicon to support teaching and learning.

## INTEGRATED LEARNING AREAS

Throughout this year, we will be engaging in integrated units which include elements of Social Sciences, History, The Arts and Te Aō Maori. This will tie in with the creation of Waipu Primary Schools 'Our Stories- Pūrākau'. In Term 1 our integrated unit is 'Kō wai au? Who am I?' and will be looking at family trees, whānau stories & places, cultural and family traditions.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Term 1 we will be doing Swimming. The focus of the swimming sessions as a class is on water confidence, exposure and safety. The teachers do not have the capacity to teach swimming with a class of 20+ children and a short time frame. We also have Northland Sport joining us for a few sessions of 'Water Safety' at the beginning of this term.

Following Swimming, we will be preparing for Try-athlon with running, biking (or scootering) and swimming.

## PB4L/SCHOOL VALUES

This year Waipu Primary School is bringing to life our 'SOAR' capabilities – Sense of Mana; Opportunities; Aspirations & Relationships. We will be unpacking these and teaching students the skills needed to develop the capabilities. SOAR is underpinned by our school values – Atawhai/Kindness; Whakaute/Respect; Manawaroa/Resilience. Our vision statement is 'SOAR Towards Excellence'.



*Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu  
Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar*

This year we will be having fortnightly whole-school assemblies which provide more opportunities to come together as a kura and to also focus on a SOAR capability.

Other weeks we will have a Junior Syndicate assembly, where a different class gets the chance to present an item to the rest of the Junior Syndicate.

## BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

All the Junior teachers will be starting the year by teaching their class the routines and expectations of their new class and the wider school. We have high expectations that our Juniors are displaying positive behaviours. We have a token system at school, which students are rewarded with tokens for displaying positive behaviours. Within each class teachers have their own system for redeeming points. Some examples include: wearing mufti, extra minutes play in the sandpit or a 5-minute dance party for the class. Your child's teacher will elaborate on this further if you'd like to have more information.

**Ngā mihi Junior Syndicate Teachers**