



Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 1 - 2026



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2026 and to the Middle Syndicate! We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer break with friends and family. We are looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know you and your tamariki.

This year the Middle Syndicate is made up of 4 classes. Tara Uiese is in Kūkupa with a Year 2 and 3 class. Kara-Jane Beckham is in Kārearea with a Year 3 and 4 class. Amy Eagar is in Tūturiwhatu with a Year 3 and 4 class and Kellie Stevenson-Border is in Tara iti with a Year 3 and 4 class. We all work very closely as a syndicate. We try to give our students plenty of opportunities to work with students from other classes so that together we can all SOAR towards Excellence.

SOAR Towards Excellence



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

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'.



What is happening in the Middle Syndicate this term?

Building relationships, consistent routines, high expectations and SOARIng towards excellence are our Term 1 goals.

Reading - Across all middle classes there is a strong structured approach to learning how to read. We implement a combination of whole class reading (which is often topic based) and we also take small group reading for those who are reading Little Learners Love Literacy books. Our focus will be on decoding words with accuracy, reading with fluency and making sense of the text.

Writing - We start the term by looking carefully and critically at sentence structure, and with that comes punctuation. We also look at developing our ideas by using planners and organisers. The students will be writing recounts, dabbling in poetry as well as writing explanations. Handwriting will also be a big focus for the Middle Syndicate. Automaticity with handwriting helps us become fluent and confident writer's.

Spelling - We provide our students with 4 structured and explicit lessons each week on a spelling concept. These lessons come from a platform called iDeaL. The following week the children will reinforce their spelling learning by revisiting the concept in their homework activities.

Maths - We will start the year looking at Number - this covers place value, ordering numbers, rounding numbers, problem solving and addition and subtraction. The students will also continue to learn their times tables - multiplication and division. Our Year 3's need to know, understand and confidently apply their 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables by the end of the year. Our Year 4's need to know, understand and apply their 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 times tables by the end of the year.

Topic - Our School wide topic this year is 'Our Stories - Pūrākau'. This term we will start the year by looking at **Kō Wai Au - Who am I?** We will start the term looking at ourselves within our classroom context, getting to know our space, our bird, our peers. Then we will move onto investigating our family tree, whanau stories and places, cultural traditions and family traditions.

P.E - We are lucky to have instructors coming in to teach us about Water Safety this term. Each class will participate in 5 water safe lessons. We will also swim as a class, working on swimming fitness and confidence in the water. Later in the term each class will be preparing for the annual WPS Try-athlon, where they try their hand at a swim, bike and then a run. We may not swim everyday, but **please pack togs and towel everyday!!**

Health - Our health topic this term is Relationships - this fits perfectly into getting to know our peers and feeling comfortable, confident and happy in our class environment.



App
Store



Google
Play

We are excited to launch 'HERO' our new one-stop-shop for everything 'school'.

Once the term starts, you will no longer receive communication via e-TAP. Please make sure you have downloaded the HERO app onto your device or use it on your computer. **All of our communication will be via Hero!**

Moirs Point Camp - Mangawhai

Thank you for filling in your child's permission form. Camp is very early in the term. Please keep an eye out for more information coming out soon.

Extra Stationery Item:

We use chromebooks in the Middle Syndicate. They play an important role in supporting the learning that our tamariki are doing. To help with focus we ask that you **purchase a pair of headphones for your child to use in class.** They will be stored in the classroom for the duration of the year.

Important dates for your calendar

Please use the whole school calendar to keep up to date with what is happening this term.

[Whole School Calendar Link](#)

Please also read the School Newsletter. It is published weekly and is emailed out every Friday. There are always important reminders, dates as well as highlights from the week.

If you need to catch up with your child's teacher, the time to do this is before school or by arrangement.

If there are changes in your family/home life or a significant event happens, please let your child's teacher know.

We do not need all of the details but just an idea that something has happened/changed in your child's life, the reason being that these changes may affect your child's learning, behaviour and wellbeing in class and at school and it helps us to respond and care for your child with understanding and support.

Please do keep in touch, we really appreciate your communication.

Ngā mihi
Kellie Stevenson-Border,
Tara Uiese,
Kara-Jane Beckham
and Amy Eagar

Extra Information:

Earrings and Hair - Just a reminder that earrings worn at school should be studs or sleepers. If your child's hair is longer than their shoulders, it needs to be tied up.

Homework - Homework should be completed Monday - Thursday night. Students will have reading homework, as well as other activities that reinforce class learning. There will also be maths activities to do that reinforce your child's learning. **Please make the time to do homework with your child.**

Library Day - please make sure that your child brings their library books back on the following days:

- Tara iti - Monday
- Tūturiwhatu - Tuesday
- Kārearea - Wednesday
- Kūkupa - Monday

Uniform - It is important for our students to be wearing their uniform with pride. This means they are wearing correct uniform all the time. Please also make sure that all of your child's uniform is named. It makes it so much easier to return clothing when it is named, especially during swimming season.

Garden to Table - Please keep an eye out for the Garden to Table timetable. Each class has one sessions at Garden to Table this term. **Garden to Table is now on Thursdays.**

Book bags - Your child needs to be using a book bag to transport books between home and school. It looks after our books and helps protect from accidental damage.

Attendance - School instruction starts at 8.30 am. Children can arrive from 8.00 am. If they arrive earlier they need to stay under the shelter until 8.00am. Between 8.00 - 8.30am is a really important time for the children to make connections with their buddies before the school day starts, get their homework put away and be organised for the school day. If you have an anxious child, it is a really good idea for them to get to school earlier so they can prepare for their day.

Lunches - your children have been busy growing. They are also very active and busy at school. They may need extra food in their lunchboxes this term.

Week 1 reminders:

- Monday** - Please send your child's stationery to school with them on the first day of school.
- Monday** - Whanau picnic on the front field - 5.30pm onwards
- Wednesday** - Camp Meeting in Tūturiwhatu (Room 5)- 2.45pm
- Thursday** - Mihi Whakatau to welcome new families - 10am in the hall.
- Friday** - Mufti Day (Carnival Ingredients - more information to come)

Homework will start in Week 2