



Waihi News

26 January 2024

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to Waihi 2024!

I hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer with your families and that the children are feeling relaxed, refreshed and ready for the start of school next week. After having the school office closed for a couple of weeks, Waihi has been full of life again. Many staff are back at work preparing for the term ahead and Mr Sharp is supervising various projects around the school with builders, painters and decorators sprucing up our buildings inside and out.

The full teaching team have been meeting over the past two days and as we prepare to welcome the largest number of Waihians in our 116 year history. The calendar of activities is full, and exciting, with many new challenges and opportunities for the students to look forward to. As ever the formula for success is a simple one at Waihi:

- Work Hard** - keeping our promise that we made before joining...to give everything we do 100%
- Get Involved** - everyone has a go at everything here: academically; culturally and in the sports arena....and then there are multiple further opportunities to chose from
- Be Kind** - whilst we celebrate our individual successes, we recognise that nothing is more important than our character, and that simply starts with being kind, both to ourselves and to those around us.

I look forward to seeing each of you soon.

Best wishes

Allan Short
Headmaster

Start of Term One 2024

The arrangements for the start of the 2024 school year are as follows:

Monday 29th January

- All **New Boarders** to arrive between 3.00-4.00pm.
- Friends function for all new parents (of boarders and day students) at Mes Amis Café, Orari 4.00pm onwards

Tuesday 30th January

- All **New Day pupils** to arrive at Pyne House common room at 8.30am. Parents are asked to drop off their children today.
- Coffee and chat for parents with the headmaster in the dining room from 8.45am onwards.
- New day pupil parents to collect their children at 3.45pm.
- Existing boarders return 5.00-6.00pm

Wednesday 31st January

- **School starts for all** (normal school day, i.e. **not** a late start)
 - **Buses running as normal**
- All pupils meet in the hall at 8.30am for welcome, then to classes

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th February **In Weekend** for all boarders

Tuesday 6th February – Waitangi Day
school closed for day pupils.
Boarders' activities planned for those staying in.

Please note that for existing Waihi pupils term begins on Wed 31 Jan
(boarders returning on the evening of Tue 30th)

Monday 29 January 2024

Waihi Friends function for all new parents of boarding and day students

Mes Amis Café, Orari
from 4:00pm onwards

After dropping your child off at the boarding house for the first time, or as you are finalising plans to drop your day student to school for their first day on Tuesday 30 January, pop up to the café for a drink and a chat.

This is a great way for new families to meet other parents, as well as be introduced to the Friends Committee – these ladies are a wealth of knowledge when it comes to Waihi!

Waihi Uniform Bookings

To secure a uniform fitting please follow this link via our website:

<https://waihi.school.nz/current-parent/school/>



Uniforms

At Waihi, we take great pride in wearing our uniform. Students will need both Summer and Winter uniforms, along with our Formal Uniform (Number 1s), Boarding and Sporting uniforms.

Please feel free to contact the school should you have any queries. Orders can be made by using the form from the link below. Uniforms will be invoiced to your school account and can be collected at the office or delivered to Pyne House for boarders.

If you are unsure about requirements or sizes you are welcome to book a time for a fitting at the Uniform Shop here at Waihi School - [Click Here](#)

If you have any queries please contact the School - [Click Here](#)

[Order Uniforms](#)

Important Information

Full Year Calendar

Our full year online calendar can be located on our website – visit [www.waihi.school.nz / OUR CALENDAR](http://www.waihi.school.nz/OUR%20CALENDAR). Not all events have been confirmed for the 2024 year as yet. Our school newsletters are also a great source of event and date information.

First Exeat

It is sometimes easy to forget that for new families some commonly used terminology can create confusion. One such boarding school term is exeat. It means temporary leave and is used to describe the one or two 'long weekends' each term in which the boarding house closes for all, thus allowing those families who live far away to take their children home for the weekend (and for the boarding house staff to have a weekend to catch their breath!)

The first of these weekends is at the end of **Week 5** and as often is the case, we combine the leave weekend with a major school event. Please note the first exeat for 2024 is on Friday 1 March after our Waihi Swimming Sports.



Meet the Teacher and Swimming Sports: Fri 1 Mar

Our day will start with morning tea and a brief meeting in the School Hall for all parents followed by an opportunity for everyone to meet with their child's teacher in their classrooms. We hope that every student will have at least one parent at this event.



Lunchtime will be held as class picnics followed by **Swimming Sports**. This is always a great day, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Diagnostic Reports

At the 'Meet the Teacher' event all parents will receive a short report. There will be a brief pastoral comment from your child's class teacher indicating how they have settled into Waihi life; an *Attitudes and Habits* report and a short diagnostic listing the results of your child's initial PAT assessments.

Whilst the majority of the first few weeks are about getting the environment in and out of the classroom right and making the students feel happy and secure in their new surroundings, there will also be a few small diagnostic tests.

Our rationale for the initial testing is threefold:

1. To give a baseline from which to report progress (students will have matching assessments later in the year)
2. To help in the initial grouping, setting and differentiating of students' learning objectives and tasks
3. Assisting in the identification of learning support and extension needs

Outdoor Education

Waihi Pupils 2024 OE Gear Kit

1 Changing robe (*This is one of the most important items for your child to have*)

These can/will also be used for school swimming. This robe gives the pupils the opportunity to change out of wet clothes "When you need some privacy to change into and out of wetsuits and swimming costumes, the Changing Robe has got you covered".

- When offsite the pupils will be getting wet and/or dirty. They will not be allowed back on the school bus unless they are changed and dry (this includes footwear)
- These can be purchased anywhere, but below is a list of websites that supply a changing robe:
 - <https://www.wiggle.co.nz/changing-ropes>
 - <https://www.mountainwarehouse.com/nz/swimwear-beachwear/changing-robe/>
 - <https://www.curvesurf.co.nz/search?q=poncho+towel>
 - <https://www.surfdome.com/en-NZ/Changing-Ponchos-and-Robes/sddsl13797.htm>

1 Backpack *All children will be involved in a number of expeditions, some of which will involve a full or part-day walk where your child will need to carry enough clothing / gear for the day. A 20-30L pack is a fantastic size.*

1 Pair walking shoes/boots

1 Pair shoes/boots that will be getting wet - must have thick solid soles.

Sandals with closed toes are acceptable but these are NOT to be the pair the students wear at school.

2 Thick outdoors socks

(NB NOT Waihi sports socks) (NB 1 pair Neoprene socks may be an option)

2 pair shorts/Skorts (1 pair WILL be getting wet and the other pair to change into)

1 T-shirt/collared T shirt

(NOT Waihi sports top)

Wetsuit if you have one

Rash Shirt short or long sleeve depending on your child's sun tolerance

1 warm jumper/fleece

1 **sun hat/cap** (bucket hats preferred)

Drink bottle

1 Towel (changing robe preferred)

1 Dry bag to put wet/dirty clothes and shoes in (this will help keeps books, iPad and school clothes dry and safe)

- You may choose to have a Dry pack (so a Backpack is not needed)
- These can be purchased anywhere, but below is a list of websites:
 - <https://www.torpedo7.co.nz/shop/bagsnpacks/dry-bags>
 - <https://www.mountainwarehouse.com/nz/steed-waterproof-25l-backpack-p36527.aspx/>
 - <https://www.burnsco.co.nz/boating/clothing-apparel/bags-backpacks/backpacks>



Waihi School Summer Sport

Sport commences the first weekend of school (Sat 3rd Feb 2024)

CRICKET are hoping to have the first Round of competition games on that day, if not we will hold internal practice games.

TENNIS Inter-Club does not commence until the end of Week 2 (Sat 10 Feb 2024) however, all tennis players are required at Waihi on the morning of Sat 3 Feb 2024 when we will be holding practice matches for all.

With little or no time to trial and select teams, particularly with 40+ new students at school, please demonstrate patience with sports staff and coaches as we organise teams and squads over the first few weeks.



Mr Morland and Mrs Cameron will be working with the local associations to try and make spaces for the required number of teams.

Following our first weekend the sports draw will be sent home to all parents each Wednesday, informing you of where and when your child is playing.

Waitangi Day

In Weekend for Boarders

School will not be open for day students on **Tuesday 6th February 2024**, Waitangi Day.

Those boarders staying in have activities planned for this day.



New Car Park and Driveway

Over the summer a new driveway and car park has been constructed on the western boundary of the site. Boarding families in particular will, I'm sure, enjoy the drop offs and pick up from the new car park behind Pyne House. There will be much more room for everyone, and all families will be able to enter the building through the patio doors into the common room and unload bags directly into the dormitories without having to negotiate the locker room and corridor first!

We also request that any parent picking up or collecting their child, including day students each day, do so from this car park too, and walk around Pyne House into school.

The new driveway, accessed from Harrison Road just beyond the third house on the right (18 Harrison Road), will help keep the main school site safer for our tamariki. The old driveway (next to the 1st XV field), will be for staff cars and school buses only. It will remove congestion and hopefully help avoid potential accidents at the busiest times of the day.

Please respect these new arrangements and help keep the main site as vehicle free as possible.



Term One Exeat Weekends

(Boarding House closed and all boarders go home)

There will be a full exeat weekend, as mentioned earlier in this newsletter, following Swimming Sports on **Friday 1st March 2024**, with the boarders required to be back in Pyne House 5.00pm on Monday 4th March 2024.

School recommences for all on Tuesday 5th March 2024.

We will also run a second exeat to coincide with Easter, with school recommencing on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 (Boarders back into Pyne House by 5:00pm on the evening of Tuesday 2nd April). There will be no sport either exeat weekend.



First few days of Term One 2024

The arrangements for the start of the 2024 school year are as follows:

Mon 29 Jan All **New Boarders** to arrive **3.00pm – 4.00pm** **Boarders to wear No.1s please**
Friends function for all New Parents at **4.00pm onwards at Mes Amis Café**

Tue 30 Jan All **New Day Students** to arrive at Pyne House (in the common room) at **8.30am**
Parents are asked to drop their children to school – no buses running

New Day Students to wear their school tracksuit, sport short/skort/house shirt

****Sports kit, togs ,towel, rash shirt and hat/cap all required today****

Coffee and a chat for parents with the Headmaster from 8.45am onwards

New Day student Parents to **collect their child at 3.45pm**

Existing boarders return between **5.00pm – 6.00pm**

Please do not arrive earlier as staff will be out with our new students until 4:00pm.

Wed 31 Jan **School starts for all – Buses running as normal (no late start this Wed)**
All students meet in the hall at 8.30am for welcome and then to classrooms

Sat 3 Feb–

Sun 4 Feb **In Weekend** for all boarders

Please note that for existing Waihi students term begins on Wednesday 31st January 2024
(boarders returning on the evening of Tue 30 Jan 2024)

Wednesday morning late starts, Friday afternoon early finish

A reminder that Wednesday mornings we have a late start to allow for our Weekly Staff Professional Learning time. One of the challenges of running a busy boarding school is that there are always staff on duty and consequently trying to organise meetings among staff can prove difficult. Groups of staff do meet early in the morning, late at night and many times in between, but we value a regular weekly 'professional learning time' where we can gather all of our teaching staff team to discuss important educational issues and engage in professional development opportunities, without 'missing' anyone because they are on duty with the students somewhere. There are huge benefits for us to enable teaching staff to work together this way each week.

The solution we arrived at is for staff to meet from 8.00-9.00am each Wednesday morning, meaning a late start this day for the students – **classes start at 9.00am**. For boarders it means an extra half an hour 'sleep in' and a slightly later breakfast this day – the extra rest once a week being no bad thing with many having busy weekday evenings of sport at various points throughout the year. For day students it will mean having a later bus pick up time or drop off at school time on a Wednesday morning.

The first day for these LATE starts is in Week 2, Wednesday 7 February 2024

Friday afternoons the school day will **finish at 3.00pm**. For the last couple of years, we have had this early finish (3.00pm rather than 4.00pm) in the Winter terms to help accommodate hockey games on a Friday evening. This early finish occurs all year round.

The first day for these early finish is in Week 1, Friday 2 February 2024

Waihi Camps 2024

As you will see from the 2024 Year Planner located on our school website, the three school camps are all organised and locked in as follows:

TERM ONE

Week 4: Mon 19 Feb - Wed 21 Feb Juniors at Living Springs

TERM TWO

Week 2: Mon 6 May - Fri 10 May Year 7 at Stewart Island

TERM THREE

Week 8: Sun 15 Sep - Wed 18 Sep Otago Rail Trail

The staff will send out further details for each camp closer to the time, however we do invite parents to let us know if they would wish to assist on camp.

We only require a small number of parents to accompany each camp, and do get oversubscribed each year, but if you would like to be considered please can you send an email to Assistant Headmaster Nathan Morland on nm@waihi.school.nz expressing your interest, and for which camp. Nathan will pass on requests to the relevant staff member leading each trip.

Waihi Day Student Bus Service

Waihi offer a Day Student bus service each morning to school and home again each afternoon.

For the first time ever, Waihi have SIX bus routes in place for 2024, being:

- Ashburton
- Geraldine
- Mid Canterbury
- Rangitata
- Pleasant Point / Washdyke
- Timaru

Where possible, we try to accommodate individual requests however there may be instances where the bus will pick up a student from a different stop than requested. This is due to the increased number of students requiring bus services. We need to ensure we get all **73 day students** to school by 8:20am ready for school starting at 8:30am.

All six bus runs are almost at capacity this year, making it extremely important that if your child is registered to travel on one of the bus services and for some reason won't be getting the bus to school on a particular morning or will not require the bus home on any afternoon, that you email Kat to let her know executive@waihi.school.nz.

Kat liaises with each of the drivers providing them with a daily update of who to expect on their bus (to ensure no one is left behind, and also helping the drivers to know who to chase up if a child has not yet reported to the afternoon bus or is not at a morning bus collection point).

2024 Term Dates

Term 1 Monday 29th January – Friday 12th April (11 Weeks)

Mon 29 Jan: New Boarders arrive 3.00pm -4.00pm
Tue 30 Jan New Day Students start 8.30am, returning boarders back 4.00pm -5.00pm
Wed 31 Jan School starts for all

Waitangi Day: Tue 6 Feb (*no school, boarders activities for those staying in*)
Eheat Weekend 1: Fri 1 Mar (Swimming Sports) – Mon 4 Mar
Easter weekend: Thu 28 Mar (Parent Teacher meetings) – Tue 2 Apr

2 weeks break (includes ANZAC Day)

* Staff Professional Learning Thu 25th and Fri 26th January

Term 2 Tuesday 30th April - Friday 5th July (9 Weeks 5/4 + Half-Term)

Half-Term Week: Sat 1 Jun – Sun 9 Jun (includes King's Birthday)
King's Birthday: Mon 3 Jun
Matariki: Fri 28 Jun (*no school, boarders activities for those staying in*)

2 weeks break

* Staff Professional Learning Mon 29th April

Term 3 Tuesday 23rd July – Friday 27th September (9 Weeks 5/4 + Half Term)

Half-Term Week: Sat 24 Aug – Sun 1 Sep
SC Anniversary Day: Mon 23 Sep (*no school, boarders activities for those staying in*)

2 weeks break

* Staff Professional Learning Mon 22nd July

Term 4 Monday 14th October – Saturday 7th December (8 Weeks)

Labour Day: Mon 28 Oct (*no school, boarders activities for those staying in*)
Eheat Weekend: Fri 15 Nov (Canterbury Show Day) – Mon 18 Nov

* Staff Professional Learning Mon 18th November

NOTE:

Waitangi Day, Matariki, and Labour Day are all public holidays within term time.

School is closed for day students these days. Boarders have activities planned on 6th February (Waitangi Day) and Pyne House will be open for any boarders who request it on Matariki and Labour Day holidays.

Weeks Ahead...

Term One 2024 (weeks 1 - 5)

WEEK ONE

Monday 29 January

Y8 Leadership Group: team building day
New boarders and Pyne House leaders arrive at 3pm
New boarding and day students function at Mes Amis Café

Tuesday 30 January

New students' day at school

Wednesday 31 January

All current and new students at school

Saturday 3 February –
Sunday 4 February

Cricket starts
In-weekend for all boarders

WEEK TWO

Tuesday 6 February

Waitangi Day – planned activities for boarders

Saturday 10 February

Tennis starts

WEEK THREE

Tuesday 13 February

Waihi School Trust Board meeting

Wednesday 14 February

School Photos: individual, classrooms, siblings

Saturday 17 February

AgriKids Kurow

WEEK FOUR

Monday 19 February –
Wednesday 21 February

Junior Camp at Living Springs

WEEK FIVE

Thursday 29 February

Fixture vs Cathedral Grammar (home)

Friday 1 March

Meet the Teacher AM
Waihi Swimming Sports PM
Diagnostic Reports emailed home
Exeat Weekend starts

Saturday 2 March –
Monday 4 March

Exeat Weekend
No school on Monday
Boarders return at 5.00pm

Start of Term One 2024

The timetable for the start of the 2024 school year is as follows:

Monday 29 January

- **3.00pm:** all **New Boarders** to arrive
- **4.00pm:** all **New Boarding and Day Families** are invited to join our **2024 Waihi Friends Committee members** at a function at: **Mes Amis Café, Orari Station Road, Orari**

Tuesday 30 January

- **8.30am:** All **New Day pupils** and **2024 School Leaders** to arrive at Pyne House common room
- ***Parents are asked to drop off their children to school today. No buses running***
- **8.45am:** Coffee / morning tea for parents in the dining room
- **3.45pm:** New day pupil parents to collect their children
- **5.00pm:** Existing boarders return to Pyne House

Wednesday 31 January

- **8.30am:** School starts for all Waihi students
- Buses running as normal for day students today (i.e. not a usual Wed start time)
(NOTE: Wed AM later start applies from Week Two this term)
- **8.30am:** All **returning** and **new** pupils meet in the hall for welcome, and announcement of classes.

Friday 2 February – Sunday 4 February

- **In Weekend** for all boarders

Tuesday 6 February

- Waitangi Day **school closed for day students**
- Boarders' activities are planned