

Waihi School Newsletter



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Friday 21 February 2025

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Weeks Ahead

Term One 2025

WEEK TWO

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Sat 1 Feb</i> | <i>Year 8 Welcome Weekend at Lindisfarne
hosted by parents of Head Boy / Head Girl</i> |
| <i>Thu 6 Feb</i> | <i>Waitangi Day – NO SCHOOL – Pyne House open, boarders
activities planned</i> |
| <i>Fri 7 Feb</i> | <i>Normal school day today</i> |

WEEK THREE

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Tue 11 Feb</i> | <i>Waihi School photographs</i> |
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WEEK FOUR

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Mon 17 Feb –
Wed 19 Feb</i> | <i>Waihi School photographs</i> |
| <i>Tue 18 Feb –
Fri 21 Feb</i> | <i>North Canterbury Community Visit, Black Estate, 6pm-8pm
Meet the Teacher (A.M.)
Picnic lunch on the Quad
Swimming Sports (P.M.)
Diagnostic Reports emailed home (P.M.)</i> |
| <i>Sun 23 Feb</i> | <i>Weet-Bix Kids Tryathlon</i> |

Waihi School helpful website links

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

- 2025 ICT Information Booklet
- 2025 Parent Information Guide
- ordering school uniform items

<https://www.waihi.school.nz/boarding/>

- 2025 Boarders Handbook
- Pyne House key contacts

<https://www.waihi.school.nz/our-calendar/>

- School Calendar and Key Dates

Wednesday 29 January 2025

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents,

The start of every school year is always an exciting time. For our students they meet up with old friends and teachers but also have new classes to explore, new friends to find and new experiences ahead of them.

I am pleased to say that the first days of the 2025 school year have started really well. There have been lots of smiling faces and laughter and the children have begun to plan their goals for the year ahead. You will see so much of what is going on around your child's class by looking at 'Class DoJo' (if you haven't logged in to your child's class yet please do; or contact the class teacher if you need assistance).

Our new boarders 'retreat' Saturday – Monday was a great success, despite the weather. Thank you to Mr Clayson's Pyne House team, matrons, tutors and teachers who made the start of 2025 such a smooth one for all boarders, returners and those new to Waihi. I particularly want to acknowledge our Year 8 leaders who returned to school early on Saturday for a leadership day with Mr Short, Mr Morland, Mr Brighthouse and Miss Haynes. They have been exemplary working alongside staff to help every new student settle into life as a Waihian.

There is much that I wish to share with you in subsequent newsletters regarding the school's goals for 2025 and the work your children are doing in the classroom, and I particularly look forward to talking with as many of you as possible at our Meet the Teacher Day on 21 February.

Kind regards

Allan Short
Headmaster

Headmaster's Thought for the Week

*"The man who does not read books has
no advantage over the one who
cannot read them."*

Mark Twain

From the Headmaster's Desk

QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

As a school we provide a huge amount of information in the school newsletter, on our website and via various different guides and handbooks. (Please see ***Waihi School helpful website links*** on the front page of this newsletter). Many parents also find the Waihi Parents and Friends Facebook page a useful vehicle for asking other parents for information.

The Waihi staff team, both teaching, administration and boarding are always more than happy to assist families with questions and queries. However, each time the telephone rings it distracts staff from whichever task they are currently engaged in, often with children. It can be extremely frustrating when many calls each day could easily have been avoided had parents simply read the newsletter, or checked online for the information! Whilst it may indeed "be easier just to ring Kat", please be conscious of the work these amazing staff do and check the information provided before picking up the phone to make that call.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

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 between 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 (half to three-quarters of an hour) bus pick up time or drop off at school time on a Wednesday morning.

The first day for this late start is in Week 1, Wednesday 29th January 2025

Friday afternoons the school day will finish at 3.00pm. For the last couple of years, this early finish (3.00pm rather than 4.00pm) has been really beneficial, particularly in the Winter terms, to help accommodate hockey games on a Friday evening.

The first day for this early finish is in Week 1, Friday 31st January 2025

PREP

There are many differing opinions on the value of homework but at present we are still in the 'for' camp. We believe Prep is important for the following reasons:

1. At Waihi we have traditionally encouraged personal reading time each day (for pleasure), we still believe this has value and hope parents will support this at home as well as at school. Prep includes time for personal reading.
2. We develop independent learning skills and habits through Prep. Anecdotally, Waihians are well-prepared, compared to their peers, for this aspect of High School when they leave.
3. The ability to reflect and revisit work from the day can help to cement ideas covered or identify areas of misunderstanding to be followed up on. – Staff will follow up on Prep to ensure it meets its purpose.

We do not believe Prep is the time to be learning new material (expect perhaps for the those older students who have highly developed independent learning skills). It can however be used for encouraging creativity and reflection.

Prep is not intended to be a negative experience for our students. Should your child at home, or indeed boarders at school, find difficulty in understanding or completing tasks in a reasonable timeframe, it is important to let the child's teacher know. Staff will always welcome feedback and will be understanding if difficulties arise.

BEING SUNSMART / SUNSAFE

TERM ONE / TERM FOUR

We wanted to remind you that all students are required to wear a school bucket hat or cap during outside play in the summer months. As we require all students to have their school sunhat in school each day, we would appreciate day families checking their child has their hat as they leave each morning. Pyne House staff will do the same for our boarders.

We know just how harmful and damaging the sun can be even on overcast days and protection for our pupils is a priority and in previous conversations there is overwhelming parental support for the sunhat policy.

This rule will be strictly enforced by staff – no hat, no play. We encourage the children to put on sunscreen in the morning prior to school and each classroom has a pump bottle of sunscreen that is available to pupils to top up their protection. Thank you for your support in this area.



Meet the Teacher and Swimming Sports: Fri 21 Feb

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

WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

FULL YEAR PLANNER

Our full year online calendar can be located on our website – visit www.waihi.school.nz / OUR CALENDAR.

Please note, not all events have been confirmed for the 2025 year to date. Our fortnightly 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 4 and as often is the case, we combine the leave weekend with a major school event. Please note the first exeat for 2025 is on Friday 21 February after our Waihi Swimming Sports.

WAIHI SCHOOL DAY HOURS

Our Waihi school day starts at **8.30am** on: Mondays, Tuesdays,
and at **9.00am** on: Wednesdays Thursdays, Fridays

Our school day finishes at **4.00pm** on: Mondays, Tuesdays,
and at **3.00pm** on: Fridays Wednesdays, Thursdays

Wednesday 29 January 2025

WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

WAITANGI DAY



School will not be open for day students on Thursday 6th February 2025, Waitangi Day. School as usual on Friday 7th.

It is not compulsory for boarders to stay in, they can travel home on Wednesday evening and spend Waitangi Day at home. Activities will be planned for boarders who remain in Pyne House on Waitangi Day.

YEAR SIX & YEAR SEVEN FAMILIES

SENIOR SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Many of our senior feeder schools have reached out already this year and asked us to remind all our Year Seven families (and even Year Six families) that it is never too early to start enquiring about your child's next education step post Waihi School.

Please feel free to contact your desired senior school directly to seek their enrolment process / procedure information.

They will be only too happy to assist you.

WAIHI SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Tuesday 11 February 2025

All children are to arrive at school on Tuesday 11 February 2025 wearing their number 1s.

The photographs taken at this session will be every child's individual photo and their classroom photo. School covers the cost of these two photos - there will not be a charge to the families for these.

If you would like a sibling photograph taken, please email Kat on executive@waihi.school.nz to request this by Monday 3 February 2025.

Only parent-requested sibling photos will be taken on the day to avoid 'surprises' for the photographer, and you via your child's school account.

We will also be taking the whole school, boarding and day student, and leadership photographs at this session to capture Mr Short also.

Wednesday 29 January 2025

WAIHI NOTICES

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ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS TERM ONE 2025

Final reminder to sign up for music lessons for the upcoming term.

<https://forms.gle/C7s2swzdjT6RgaDu8>

North Canterbury Community Visit

TUE 18 FEB 2024 : 6.00pm – 8.00pm : Black Estate Winery

We are joining with Christ's College and St Margaret's College at Black Estate Wines, 614 Omihi Road, Waipara on Tuesday 18 February 2025 from 6.00pm.

Everyone welcome! Whether you are a past pupil or current family of Waihi School, Christ's College or St Margaret's College we would love to see you for this informal gathering.



CHANGE OF YEAR 7 CAMP DETAILS

The new and exciting plans for the 2025 Year 7 camp will be explained in the 7JS and 7TW classroom newsletters being emailed to Year 7 families this Friday – look out for these.

Our school calendar has been amended to reflect Year 7 camp will now be held in Week 6 of Term 1, departing for Abel Tasman on **Sun 2 Mar 2025**, returning home on **Thu 6 Mar 2025**.

WAIHI EQUESTRIAN

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

EQUESTRIAN AT WAIHI

Term One 2025

It is fabulous to have ponies back in 2025, with the exciting addition of our school pony 'Holly'.

Holly will be available for lessons for two students per week, for one term only. The fee is \$50/lesson/week. Lessons will cover basic care of the animal, horsemanship skills, and basic riding skills.

Please contact Judy at equestrian@waihi.school.nz if you are interested.

We will hold Pony Club rallies on Mondays at Club time for students who have their pony onsite. Thus, Equestrian Club is only available to those who have ponies onsite, and to those currently in lessons on Holly.

If there is a rider without a pony who is a relatively skilled rider, there may be a mount available for them. Please contact Judy at equestrian@waihi.school.nz to discuss.

There will be casual rides held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school, and weekend rides will be negotiated according to sport and Pyne House activities.

Judy Brown

equestrian@waihi.school.nz



Pyne House : In-Weekend fun

