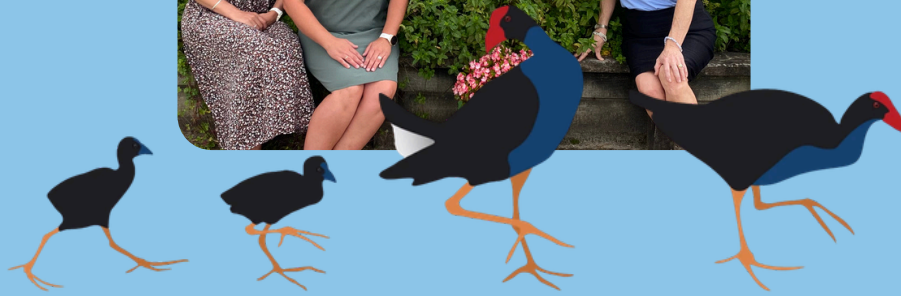




Wainui School

Small enough to nurture dreams, big enough to realise them
He iti noa hei whakapoipoi moemoeā,
He nui noa hei whakaea ai

Pukeko Team



Mrs. Allen - Team Leader & Year 0 & 1 Teacher - Puriri
Mrs. Chambers - Year 1 Teacher - Karaka
Mrs. McMurtrie - Year 1 & 2 Teacher - Rimu
Mrs. Hulme - Year 2 Teacher - Matai
Mrs. Millar - Year 3 Teacher - Pukatea
Mrs. Richards - Year 3 Teacher - Kohekohe
Tanya Glover - Learning Support Staff
Elissa Kockott - Learning Support Staff

If your child is unwell or unable to be at school

Email - office@wainui.school.nz

Call - 09 420 5127 (please leave a message)

Text - 027 525 1848

Term 2, 2026

Welcome to the Pukeko Team

Welcome back to Term 2! We extend a very special welcome to all the new tamariki and their whānau joining our Pukeko team this term, whether you are beginning your very first day of school or starting a new chapter with us in Year 1, 2, or 3. We are a collaborative hub of six classes, spanning Year 0 through Year 3, all integrated within the Phase One framework. This term, our Phase One journey continues as we grow our classroom learning through active discovery and hands-on exploration. We are focused on building momentum and supporting our students as they develop greater independence in their learning. It is going to be a busy, productive term of discovery!



Pukeko Team Dates for Term 2

Friday 24 April - Mr Whippy at school

Friday 24 April - PTA meeting at 3.15pm - if you wish to see what is all about, please come along, we would love to see you!

Monday 27 April - ANZAC day observed (No school)

Tuesday 28th April & Wednesday 13th May - Kia Kaha Programme

Friday 1st May - Takahe team (Year 7 & 8) Assembly

Thursday 7th May - School Photos

Friday 15th May - Pink Shirt Day

Friday 22nd May - Pukeko Team (Year 0-3) Assembly

Friday 29th May - Teacher Only Day

Monday 1st June - Kings Birthday observed (No school)

Tuesday 2nd June - Friday 12th June - Life Education Van is at school

Friday 12 June - Tui Team (Year 4-6) Assembly

Friday 19th June - Bikeathon

Thursday 2nd July - Matariki Breakfast at School

Friday 3rd July - E tu Tangata Assembly and last day of School.

For all school dates this term, make sure you check out our weekly newsletter, website or follow us on social media to keep updates



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Year 0 Core Curriculum Learning Information



Reading

We use the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). This is a research-based, structured literacy programme from the University of Canterbury, designed to give your child the strongest possible start.

- **Oral Narrative & Shared Books:** Writing and reading begin with the voice! We use shared books to build your child's confidence, focusing on storytelling, learning new vocabulary, and enjoying books together as a class to develop their oral language.
- **Phonics (Taumata 1):** "Taumata" refers to the levels of our phonics journey. As we begin at the very start, we are focusing on the "building blocks"—learning to recognise single letter sounds and starting to blend them together to read simple words (like mat, sit, and pin).
- **Ready to Read 'Phonics Plus':** We are focusing on the Kākāno (Seedling) stage. These books are specifically designed to help children practice the exact letter sounds they are learning in class. Our goal for this term is for students to move through the foundational Kākāno levels as they build their "reading muscles."

Writing

For our new learners, writing begins with the physical skills of pencil power and the exciting discovery of how sounds become words.

- **Handwriting & Fine Motor:** We are focusing on the "basics" for a strong start—sitting comfortably, developing a functional pencil grip, and learning to form lower-case letters and numbers correctly on the line.
- **Spelling & Sounds (BSLA):** As part of our Structured literacy programme, we are learning to "break apart" the sounds in simple words. We are building our "word power" by identifying single-letter consonants and short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u).
- **Sentence Building:** Writing begins with our voices! We are practicing using "because" to give reasons for our ideas. This term, we also introduce the "Sentence Train"—a fun way to learn that every great sentence starts with a capital letter, stays on the tracks with clear words, and stops with a full stop.

Mathematics

In mathematics, we use a structured approach aligned with the NZ Curriculum, supported by PR1ME Mathematics resources. This ensures our children build a solid understanding of concepts through consistent, guided learning.

- **Number Knowledge:** We are expanding our understanding of numbers up to 10. Using our PR1ME strategies, we are learning to count, compare, and order these numbers with confidence, including using ordinal words like 1st and 2nd to describe positions.
- **Partitioning & Number Sense:** A big focus this term is "Number Power"—learning to partition objects to 5. This means practicing all the different ways we can break a group of five apart (for example, 3 and 2 make 5) to build a rock-solid understanding of how numbers are composed.
- **Geometry (Shapes):** Our young learners are becoming "Shape Detectives!" We are using our PR1ME resources to explore the features of 2D shapes, specifically identifying and describing triangles, squares, rectangles, and circles in the world around us.

Year 1 Core Curriculum Learning Information

Reading

We continue our journey with the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). This Structured Literacy programme provides a clear and consistent pathway for our learners; as their foundational sounds become more secure, we move into more complex decoding strategies to ensure every child becomes a confident, independent reader.

- **Phonics (Taumata 2):** We move into Taumata 2 of our phonics journey. We are shifting our focus from single letters to "blends" and "digraphs"—where two or three letters work together to make one unique sound (such as sh, th, ch, and st). This is a major step in unlocking more difficult words!
- **Ready to Read 'Phonics Plus':** It is wonderful to see our books changing as our phonics skills develop. For our Year 1 students, we are aiming to move from Kākāno into the Tupu stage across Terms 2 and 3, with the goal of reaching the end of the Tupu level by Term 4. It's a rewarding journey as they become more confident, independent readers! Please note that every child's reading journey is unique; some students will continue to master their Kākāno foundations before moving up. We work with every child at their own pace to ensure they feel successful and confident.
- **Small Group Guided Reading:** Your child meets regularly with the teacher in a small group to put these sounds into action. Our goal this term is to build reading stamina—helping students stay focused and fluent as they navigate longer sentences and new vocabulary at a level that is "just right" for them.

Writing

We are moving from "storytelling" to "information sharing," focusing on how we can use our words to teach others about the world around us.

- **Oral Narrative & "Small Moments":** Writing begins with our voices! This term, we are practicing how to retell narratives in a clear sequence and share "Small Moments" from our own lives. We use these spoken ideas as a bridge to our independent writing, encouraging students to get their wonderful stories and facts down on paper.
- **Handwriting & Spelling:** We are continuing to refine our physical skills by focusing on correct letter formation and building our independence. A key goal this term is learning to spell high-frequency words automatically, which helps our writing flow more smoothly.
- **The "Sentence Train" & Informative Writing:** We are introducing the "Sentence Train" to help us dive into Informative Writing. We are learning how to share facts and information with our audience using short, clear sentences. This fun visual helps us master capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops.

We celebrate every step of this journey, supporting our Year 1 writers as they move at their own pace from forming letters to building their very first independent sentences.

Mathematics

Our mathematicians are stepping up their 'Number Power' this term. We follow a structured math approach aligned with the NZ Curriculum, using PR1ME Math resources to support the children's learning. This helps them develop a deep, hands-on understanding of the 'why' behind the numbers.

- **Addition, Subtraction & Strategy:** We are working toward mastering our addition and subtraction facts to 10. This includes learning "doubles" (like $4 + 4$) and "halves" to help us calculate quickly. We are also building our skip-counting skills, practicing counting by 2s and 10s all the way to 100!
- **Place Value & Base 10:** We will be exploring "Base 10." Using our PR1ME tools, students are learning to "rename" groups—discovering that 10 individual "ones" can be bundled together to make 1 "ten." This is a huge step in understanding how larger numbers are built.
- **Geometry (Shapes):** We are moving beyond flat shapes to explore 3D objects like cubes and cylinders. Students will be identifying, describing, and sorting these shapes based on their features and how they move.

Please remember that all children develop their mathematical "number sense" at different rates. We work to ensure every student is supported and challenged at a pace that is just right for them.



Year 2 Core Curriculum Learning Information

Reading

We continue our Structured Literacy journey through the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). Our main goal now is the transition from 'decoding' (sounding out) to reading with fluency—reading smoothly, with expression, and truly understanding the heart of the story.

- **Phonics (Taumata 4–6):** Now that our foundations are secure, we are diving into more complex vowel patterns (such as oy, ea, and igh). We are also building our "word-solving" muscles by learning how to break down longer, multi-syllable words into manageable chunks.
- **Ready to Read 'Phonics Plus':** Our learners are working across a range of stages, from Tupu (Sprouting) through to Māhuri (Sapling). These books grow with the child, moving toward more detailed plots that require students to use their full toolkit of phonics and comprehension strategies.
- **Comprehension & Guided Reading:** In our small groups, we are moving beyond just "reading the words" to "reading for meaning." We focus on inference—talking about how characters feel, why they make certain choices, and what the author might be trying to tell us.

We celebrate that all children grow as readers at their own unique pace. Whether a student is mastering foundational sounds or diving into Māhuri chapter books, our programme ensures they are supported and challenged exactly where they are.

Writing

Our writing is becoming more structured and descriptive. We are moving from simple statements to building detailed paragraphs that inform and engage our readers.

- **Predicting & Evidence:** Good writers are also good thinkers! This term, we are learning to predict story events and, more importantly, use evidence from the text or pictures to explain our thinking. This helps us understand how authors build their ideas.
- **Informative Writing:** Our focus is on creating informative texts. Students are learning to organize their writing by starting with a main idea and following it up with several related details. This helps our readers learn a lot about a specific topic through our writing.
- **The "Sentence Train" & Conjunctions:** We are using the Sentence Train to help us build "longer carriages!" Beyond just short sentences, we are now practicing how to combine ideas using conjunctions like "and," "but," or "so." This allows our writing to flow more naturally and carry more information.

We celebrate the progress of all our writers as they develop their unique voices. Every child is supported to grow at their own pace, moving from foundational sentences to complex paragraphs as they are ready.

Mathematics

- Our mathematicians are busy expanding their skills and exploring real-world applications. We follow a structured math approach aligned with the NZ Curriculum, using PR1ME Math resources to support the children's learning. This ensures our students continue to develop a deep, hands-on understanding of how numbers work in the world around them.
- **Number Operations & Strategy:** We are working toward mastering our addition and subtraction facts to 20, which provides the foundation for solving larger problems up to 100. We are also excited to introduce the beginnings of multiplication by practicing skip-counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s to see how groups of numbers grow.
- **Money & Time:** This term has a strong focus on "Life Maths." Students are learning to identify the value of New Zealand coins and notes. We are also diving into the concept of time—learning to tell the time to the quarter-hour and understanding how to order the months of the year and our four seasons.
- **Problem Solving with PR1ME:** Using our PR1ME resources, students are learning to apply their number knowledge to "real-life" word problems. This helps them move from just "doing sums" to truly understanding how to use maths to solve challenges.

Mathematics is a journey that happens at different speeds for everyone. We differentiate our teaching, ensuring every child is working at a level that builds their confidence and mathematical "stamina."

Year 3 Core Curriculum Learning Information

Reading

We continue our Structured Literacy journey, shifting the focus from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Our goal is to balance reading fluency with deep comprehension.

- **Phonics & Morphology:** This term, we are moving beyond basic patterns into Morphology. Students are learning how words are built by exploring prefixes and suffixes (like re-, dis-, and -ed). Understanding these "building blocks" allows our students to unlock the meaning of thousands of new words independently.
- **Ready to Read 'Phonics Plus':** Our learners continue to work through stages tailored to their specific needs, ranging from Māhuri (Sapling) to Rākau (Tree). As the stories become more complex, students are challenged to navigate sophisticated vocabulary and technical language found in non-fiction texts.
- **Reciprocal Reading & Critical Thinking:** In our small groups, the "magic" happens through discussion. We are moving toward critical thinking, where students learn to question the text, summarize main points, and clarify tricky words. We are not just looking at what happened, but why the author chose to share that information.

Year 3 is a year of great transition. We recognise that children move through these reading stages at different paces. Whether they are consolidating their phonics patterns or diving into chapter books, we provide targeted support to ensure every child feels like a successful reader.

Writing

Our writers are becoming "Persuasive Communicators." We are moving beyond simple storytelling to express opinions and explain complex ideas with clarity and structure.

- **Opinions & Explanations:** We are focusing on how to support our opinions with strong reasons. Students are also learning how to explain a process clearly, ensuring their writing helps a reader understand exactly how something works or why something happens.
- **The "Sentence Train" & Complexity:** We are taking our Sentence Train to the next level! While we still ensure every "carriage" starts and stops correctly, we are now practicing complex sentences and using commas in lists. This helps our writing sound more professional and keeps our readers engaged.
- **Paragraph Structure (Writer's Toolbox):** Using our Writer's Toolbox strategies, we are moving toward formal paragraph structure. Students are learning to wrap their ideas in a clear "package" by using a strong topic sentence to start and a concluding sentence to finish. We are also building the habit of re-reading our work to ensure it makes perfect sense.

Writing is a craft that develops over time. We support our Year 3 students as they move at their own pace from building strong sentences to constructing detailed, multi-paragraph reports and stories.

Mathematics

In Year 3, our mathematicians are busy tackling new concepts in multiplication and measurement. We use a structured approach following the NZ Curriculum and utilise PR1ME Math resources to support our students. This ensures they develop a strong conceptual foundation while applying their learning to practical, real-world tasks.

- **Multiplication & Division:** Students are tackling their multiplication and division facts for 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 8s, and 10s. We focus on the relationship between these numbers, helping students see that if they know their multiplication, they can solve division problems too.
- **Practical Measurement:** Students are developing practical skills by using metric units to measure the world around them. We will be exploring:
 - Length: Centimetres (cm) and Metres (m).
 - Mass: Grams (g) and Kilograms (kg).
 - Capacity: Millilitres (mL) and Litres (L).
- **Geometry & Polygons:** We are exploring polygons with up to 10 sides and identifying their unique features. We are also getting creative by exploring and creating our own symmetrical patterns.

Mathematics is a journey that happens at different speeds for everyone. We ensure that every student is supported and challenged at a level that builds their confidence and mathematical "stamina."

Pukeko Team Other Learning Information

PE & Health

Our physical learning centres on **Gymnastics** and **Core Stability**, helping students build the strength and control they need for all types of movement. In addition to our classroom sessions, we are excited to be participating in the **Kia Kaha** programme and welcoming Harold and the **Life Education** team to our school this term.

Year 0 & 1

- **PE:** Students are mastering foundational gymnastics shapes and safe landings while building core strength through structured movement.
- **Health:** Students are practicing how to identify "body clues" (like a fast heartbeat or butterflies in the tummy) to help them recognise their feelings.

Year 2:

- **PE:** Students are moving into choreographed sequences, learning how to link different shapes and balances together smoothly.
- **Health:** We are focusing on emotional regulation, learning how to manage our big feelings so we can stay ready for learning and play.

Year 3:

- **PE:** Students are refining complex balances and sequences, with a focus on body tension and control.
- **Health:** We are using the "Zones of Regulation" to manage our emotions and stay ready for learning.

The Arts

The focus shifts to storytelling and character. We are exploring how we can use different art forms to share pūrākau (stories) and express our feelings.

Year 0 & 1:

- **Visual** - Experimenting with "texture rubbings" using natural materials to see how surfaces translate to paper.
- **Music** - Developing our ears to recognize "high and low" pitch through animal-themed movement.
- **Drama** - Using facial expressions and non-verbal gestures to transform into animal characters.

Year 2

- **Visual** - Learning to use mixed media and brush strokes to create the illusion of fur, scales, and feathers.
- **Music** - Exploring "melodic direction" to see how notes stepping up or down can change a story's mood.
- **Drama** - Stepping into the shoes of characters from local legends to explore different perspectives and voices.

Year 3

- **Visual** - Exploring 3D form by using clay or wire to create sculptures with physical texture.
- **Music** - Learning how to layer instruments and voices to change the "thickness" and volume of a sound.
- **Drama** - Working in groups to "devise" short performances using repeated movement motifs to tell a story.

Inquiry

Our schoolwide theme Ngā Hononga continues. We are exploring how we connect to ourselves, our history, and the physical world around us.

Year 0 & 1:

- **Focus:** Discovering the local landscape and the needs of living things.
- **Activity:** Exploring the school bush to identify plants and creating nature dioramas of our local landmarks.

Year 2:

- **Focus:** Investigating Polynesian navigation and the science of the sea.
- **Activity:** Testing the buoyancy of waka shapes and building a "fleet" to navigate using the stars.

Year 3:

- **Focus:** Exploring how our bodies move and why we commemorate important events.
- **Activity:** Examining the human skeleton and creating action figures to celebrate the strength of those we remember on ANZAC Day and Matariki.



Te Ao Maori

Our focus is Te Kura (School Life)—building our confidence to use Te Reo Māori as a natural part of our daily classroom routine.

- **Classroom Instructions:** Students are learning to understand and respond to common directives such as "E tū" (stand up), "E noho" (sit down), and "Whakarongo" (listen).
- **Inquiry & Objects:** We are practicing how to identify items around us by asking "He aha tēnei?" (What is this?) and expressing our simple needs using Māori phrases.
- **Waiata with Whaea Lee-Anne:** We are continuing our wonderful sessions with Whaea Lee-Anne, moving from simply learning the words to performing our waiata with actions (ringa ringa) to deepen our storytelling.

Digital Citizenship

Across the Pukeko team, students are developing essential digital citizenship skills.

Year 0:

- Students are learning to manage their screen time and understand boundaries through the "People First" rule, practicing how to transition away from devices smoothly.

Year 1:

- Our focus is on the power of words and the permanence of our digital footprints, exploring how online communication affects feelings and the importance of privacy.

Year 2:

- Learners are using technology as a tool for inquiry, developing skills to search for answers to "big questions" using effective keywords and helpful search results.

Year 3:

- We are navigating the social side of the web by focusing on emotional intelligence, multiplayer gaming safety, and strategies for resolving digital conflicts.

Learning through play

In Phase 1, purposeful play bridges early childhood to school. Teachers facilitate "teachable moments" in designed environments to build vocabulary and self-regulation.

Year 0/1

- focuses on immersive exploration

Years 2 and 3

- transition into guided, hands-on provocations.

This ensures play-based inquiry skills successfully support more structured learning as students progress.

Classroom Routines

As the weather cools, students focus on managing their winter layers and wet weather gear independently. We continue to prioritise **managing self** through efficient transitions and maintaining tidy workspaces. These daily habits build the personal organisation skills necessary for a productive learning environment as we move into the middle of the year.

Home Learning: Learning Together

Home learning books are sent home every Monday, containing weekly focus areas, reading logs, and spelling notebooks. Please return these on Fridays. We also encourage practical home learning like gardening or board games. Check the parent portal online for further ideas on how to support your child's development at home

Final Word:

We are looking forward to a fantastic Term 2 together. In our classrooms, we continue to build our "House of Wainui" by embedding our 5 R's and the E Tū Tāngata values. This term, we are focusing on the idea that "Others Matter," encouraging our tamariki to show kindness and support for their peers during our winter activities and play.

Using our PB4L framework and our 5-Step Behaviour Plan, we guide the children to make positive social choices. Reinforcing these simple concepts of consistency and kindness at home makes a world of difference for our little learners.

Our partnership with you is so important. Whether it's getting your child to school on time, checking the book bags, or reinforcing positive values at home—we truly appreciate the support we receive from our Pukeko families.

Thank you for the privilege of being part of your child's early school years. We look forward to every day, and we hope your child does too!

Ngā mihi nui,

The Pukeko Team Teachers

(Kylie Allen, Leana Chambers, Helen McMurtrie, Jorika Hulme, Pam Millar, Avril Richards)