

Rata Team



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to the new school year. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you abreast of the learning overview, to provide reminders of upcoming events and to inform you about the activity fees for the term. Separate information about classroom routines will come home from the classroom teacher.

The overarching theme for the students' learning this year is "change" which coincidentally fits perfectly with the exciting new changes to the Rata team. This year we will have three composite Year 3 and 4 classes. Children will continue to be taught from the level at which they enter the class, with grouping in core curriculum areas to ensure this. There will be the advantage of older students in class being in a position to lead, nurture and support the younger ones and the younger students having role models who are already confident with Rata routines in the Rose St surroundings. Composite classes are a win/win for everyone.

Wadestown School teachers have continued to benefit from visits by Dr Chris Bowden who has recently been talking with us about rising anxiety levels in New Zealand children. With his wise words in mind Rata teachers have been considering ways in which we can support your children to manage stress and distress that may arise in their school day. It is reassuring for students to know what the class and school routines and expectations are and to this end, it has been pleasing to see so few start of year absentees which can often lead to children feeling 'on the back foot.'

The teachers in the Rata team this year are -

Library	Mrs Pip Honore (team leader)
Room 10	Mrs Joy Henderson
Room 11	Mrs Sue Savage
Room 12	Miss Talia Davies

Curriculum Content

As mentioned, the inquiry theme for the year is "Change" and this term in Science children will be exploring by experimenting. The learning will be aimed at developing an understanding of the nature of science, while enjoying the fun and drama of experimentation.

The values theme for the year is once again resilience and to build on the very successful learning the students did last year we are extending this through to mentoring and inclusiveness. Once again this dovetails nicely with the composite structure of our classes.

Literacy

Reading will continue to be a combination of the following:

- group instructional reading based on ability
- whole class reading of texts based on current topic of inquiry
- independent reading based on student interests
- teacher reading to students.

Heads Up

- School picnic 15 February
- Meet the teacher evening 21 February
- Parent teacher conferences 4 and 6 March

Activity Fees Term 1

Mathletics	<u>20.00</u>
	\$20.00

Reminders

- Sunhats are compulsory this term.
- Please name uniform items so they can find their way back to the rightful owners.
- Bell times are:
 - 8.50** hang up bag and be ready for the day.
 - 8.55** roll call—first learning block begins.
 - 10.40** morning tea
 - 11.00** second learning block begins
 - 12.30** lunch time
 - 12.40** play time
 - 1.25** have a drink, toilet, get back to class.
 - 1.30** third learning block begins
 - 3.00** home time
- Students should not be at school before 8.30am
- If you are collecting or delivering your child to school between 9.00 and 3.00 please sign them in/out at the office.

Writing this term will initially focus on applying the basic rules of punctuation, grammar and spelling in the context of recounting events in the children's lives.

The students will also have explicit instruction in spelling patterns, grammar rules, formation of letters and how to layout a page for visual effect. Students will write in all areas of the curriculum and they will write every day.

Maths

In the first term the students will be learning about place value, addition and subtraction. Basic maths facts will be practised every day. The children will also learn a variety of ways to present and interpret statistical information they have gathered. Later in the term they will explore the attributes of 2D and 3D shapes.

Physical Education

Co-operative games and small ball skills will be the basis of PE lessons this term. Sometimes these will be taken by the classroom teachers and sometimes we will gather as the Rata Team and the children will mix across classes. There will also be daily outdoor activity for fitness and 'wriggle time.'

The Arts, Health and Te Reo Maori

All children will enjoy the benefits of a weekly kapa haka lesson with Hemi Prime who, as well as teaching songs and actions, will expose the students to te reo Maori in context, which is a great reinforcement of class reo lessons. This year we are looking closely at Hauora (Health) through the four areas of Whanau (family), Tinana (physical health), Wairua (spiritual wellbeing), and Hinengaro (mental wellbeing). Mrs Honore will cover these lessons with all the classes across the four terms.

Homework

Details of your child's homework programme will be in the 'classroom routines' information that each teacher will send home. Homework will begin next week. This year we will be making use of the Mathletics programme in class Maths times. Students are welcome to use the basic facts section of Mathletics for additional practice at home if they wish, but it will NOT be part of the set homework. It is important that you contact your child's teacher if he or she finds the set homework too onerous or has too many after school commitments to complete it. For a myriad of reasons our children need plenty of unstructured time to play and we teachers want to ensure homework is not jeopardising this opportunity.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's school life, please make contact with the classroom teacher or Pip Honore.

Regards

Pip Honore, Talia Davies, Sue Savage and Joy Henderson

Meet the Rata Team

