



Wadestown School

Term 1 2019 Newsletter

Rimu Team



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau.

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to the new school year at Wadestown School. We are enjoying being back at school with your children, and getting to know our classes and some new faces. We are looking forward to a great year of learning, growth and discovery ahead of us.

The Rimu Team

The Rimu team is comprised of rooms 4, 5 and 6 (three Year 5/6 classes). Our teachers are:

Room 4: Amy Maddock

Room 5: Amber Pullin

Room 6: Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader)

Mr Julian is the Deputy Principal who oversees the Rimu and Kowhai teams.

A warm welcome to the new students joining our Rimu team:

Elsie Rumball-Smith, Jude Rumball-Smith, Sienna Falloon, Atreya Pandit, Annabelle Parker, Austin Keni, Honor Morgan and Marley Thompson.

Curriculum

Values and Key Competencies

The 'Resilience' focus from 2018 continues into 2019. Activities will be embedded throughout the classroom programmes, playground and assemblies. They will be the foundation of class routines and expectations. The emphasis will be on promoting positive mental health, well-being and resilience in our students.

Literacy:

The **reading programme** begins with all classes taking part in 'Chapter Chat'. This is a Twitter Book Chat for New Zealand children. Weekly questions and activities are shared during the chat with other classes nationwide.

The novel, 'Wonder' will be read aloud in class. This book has been chosen because it looks closely at friendships, kindness and overcoming challenges. A great book for the beginning of the year! For those children familiar with the book and/or film, their prior knowledge will be valuable when we delve into character analysis and key messages within the plot.

Small group and individual instructional reading will commence later in the term with the learning focusing on finding key ideas and evidence to support these ideas, and finding answers to inferential questions.

The **writing programme** will be across all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on reflective writing, re-crafting and editing. The children will be recounting personal experiences and studying excerpts of quality writing. They will write daily and there will be lessons on grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Numeracy: We begin with the Statistics strand of the curriculum. We will be carrying out statistical investigations that involves 'Measuring Change'— our statistics from the beginning to the end of the year. Following this we will be revisiting place value and then building on new knowledge and strategies in addition and subtraction. Students will be grouped within their classes according to their individual stages and needs. These will vary from time to time depending on the topic and teaching focus. Students will also take part in mixed ability and whole class problem solving challenges.

Social Sciences/Inquiry

Our inquiry for the year is 'Change' This theme will form the basis of cross-curricular units. Key ideas being investigated are:

*What are our problems? *How can we make a difference? *Sustainability.

A range of science experiments linked to 'Change' will be carried out. These are designed to engage the students and encourage scientific questioning.

Te Reo

Rimu Team Reminders

- ⇒ **Sunhats** are compulsory in term 1 for all outdoor play and lessons.
- ⇒ **Mobile phones** are students' responsibility and remain in their school bag unless specific permission has been given by a teacher.
- ⇒ **Email-** All students have their own email address. These are only to be used for school purposes.
- ⇒ **Naming Uniforms and Equipment**
Please make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named. Without this lost items are unlikely to be returned to the owner. The children are responsible for all their items of clothing, including the retrieval of lost pieces.
- ⇒ Wadestown School is a **nut free** school.
- ⇒ Students bringing scooters to school need to remember their **helmets** and licence. New **licences** can be obtained through the office.
- ⇒ **Classrooms are open from 8:30am.** Children should not be at school before 8:30am. Arrival time between 8:30am and 8:45am, ensures they have enough time to organise their belongings and be ready for the 8:55am bell. Students who arrive later than this bell must sign in at the office.
- ⇒ To ensure an **urgent message** gets to your child please do this through the **school office**, not the class teacher's email, as there is very little opportunity to clear emails during the school day.
- ⇒ If you have anything you wish to discuss, please make contact with the **classroom teacher in the first instance.**

Activity Fees Term 1

Mathletics subscription	\$20.00
Dragon Maths Workbook	\$16.00
TOTAL:	\$36.00



Room 4



Room 5



Room 6

The focus for study this term will include phrases, sentence structures, questions and answers that can be used for simple conversations. Hemi Prime will be teaching all the students Kapa Haka on Thursdays from 11.00am to 11.45am.

Physical Education

We begin the year exploring a range of team building and cooperative activities. This installs the concepts at the heart of all learning in physical education and sets the standard for the attitudes and values expected during physical activities. Year 5 and 6 Physical Education lessons will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. We aim to have fitness lessons each day, with combined Rimu sessions on a Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for these activities.

Camp

We are all very excited about the upcoming camp at Forest Lakes. For some children, being away from home is initially a challenge, but they inevitably return with wonderful, lifetime memories. A further newsletter will be coming home next week. This will include costs and general information. We will be asking you to fill out on google forms, your child's medical, swimming and dietary requirements. If you do not receive this or have problems filling in the form, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible.

Homework is given out on Monday and due back on Friday for testing and marking. It will consist of Mathletics, 15-20 minutes daily reading, individual spelling lists, basic facts for some children or a small task that reinforces class learning. Book bingo, 'Reado' and 'Spello' challenges are also available for children to work on. The first homework sheet and homework guidelines will come home on Monday 18th February. Tasks relating to our class activities are being completed during the first two weeks.

Student Behaviour and Well-being

During the holidays Wadestown School teachers had the opportunity to meet with Dr Chris Bowden from Victoria University. He spoke about rising anxiety levels in New Zealand children and the ways we can support them to manage stress.

In the Rimu Team we aim to encourage an environment where mistakes are viewed as a natural part of learning process and students take the lead in solving and taking responsibility for problems. We will support students in this learning and they should come to teachers for advice in the first instance. Dealing with issues straight away reduces anxieties for all parties. 'A problem shared is a problem halved.'

If you have anything you wish to discuss with the classroom teacher please feel free to make contact via email and we can arrange to meet or chat on the phone.

We are all very excited about the year ahead, the Rimu team is an enthusiastic and industrious group of children. The Rimu Team teachers look forward to working in partnership with you and your child.

Kind regards

Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), Amber Pullin and Amy Maddock

Dates for your Diary

- ⇒ Year 6 **Road Patrol** training — 9.30am Thursday 14 February
- ⇒ **School Picnic** — Friday 15 February, 5.30pm
- ⇒ Rimu **Information Evening** — Monday 25 February, 7.00pm
- ⇒ Rose St—**Parent Conferences**
Day 1—Monday 4 March
(3.30pm—6.00pm)
Day 2—Wednesday 6 March
3.30pm—6.00pm)
- ⇒ **Camp Parent Helpers' Meeting**
Thursday 7 March, 6.00pm
- ⇒ **Forest Lakes Camp** — Tuesday 12 - Friday 15 March

Expectations of a Rimu Student

- ◊ Take **responsibility** for their belongings and behaviour.
- ◊ Have **confidence** in handling adverse situations.
- ◊ Show **respect** and **empathy** for others, with a willingness to work with those outside their friendship group.
- ◊ Take **risks** and not be afraid of making **mistakes**, they are a normal part of learning.
- ◊ Practise making their **own decisions** to foster **independence** and the confidence to think for themselves.