



# Wadestown School

Term 1 2020 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: Tim Whimpster

Room 6: Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader)

Pip Honore: Rimu Team Relief Teacher

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

### Curriculum

#### **Literacy:**

The **reading programme** begins with a teacher directed shared novel study using the book 'Ghost' by Jason Reynolds. 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 messages, 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.

**Numeracy:** We begin with the Statistics strand of the curriculum. The students will conduct investigations using the statistical enquiry cycle, gathering and recording data for analysis of their posed questions. Following this unit of study we will be revisiting and extending their 'Place Value' knowledge of whole numbers and decimals. 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 school wide inquiry for the year is 'Reaching Out.' This theme will form the basis of cross-curricular units. Key ideas being investigated this term link to theme of 'Reaching out to People.'

#### **Science**

A range of practical hands on experiments from across the science curriculum will be carried out. These are designed to engage the students and encourage scientific questioning and skills based learning.

#### **Te Reo**

The focus for study term one is 'Ko Au'. This will include phrases, sentence structures, questions and answers that can be used for simple conversations about ourselves. (e.g. tikanga, pepeha, states of being, place names, whanau, age, greetings, farewells)

### Rimu Team Reminders

- ⇒ **Mobile phones** are students' responsibility and remain in their school bag throughout the day unless specific permission has been given by a teacher.
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ Year 6 students doing **Road Patrol** duty are expected to arrive at school by 8:15 am to set up for their duty.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ **Sunhats** are compulsory in term 1 for all outdoor activities.
- ⇒ **Naming Uniforms and Equipment-** Please make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named. Without this lost items are unlikely to be returned the owner. The children are responsible for all their items of clothing and stationery, including the retrieval of lost pieces.
- ⇒ Students bringing scooters to school need to remember their **helmets** and licence. New **licences** can be obtained through the office.
- ⇒ If you have anything you wish to discuss, please make contact with the **classroom teacher in the first instance.**



Room 4



Room 5



Room 6

### **Kapa haka**

Hemi Prime will again be teaching all Rimu students Kapa Haka on Thursday mornings from 11.45 am—12.30 pm.

### **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. Rimu Team Physical Education lessons will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. We aim to have fitness lessons each day, with combined Rimu Fitness sessions on a Monday and Thursday mornings.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for these activities.

### **Health:**

This year Wadestown School will be focusing on fostering **Whanaungatanga**: a sense of belonging and caring for each other, throughout the school. In a day-long workshop at the end of last year, staff have identified the following eight attributes, we believe, as being central to developing Whanaungatanga in our students:

- Active listening
- Awareness of others feelings
- Thinking before speaking/acting
- Including others
- Acts of kindness
- Upstanding (don't be a bystander)
- Tolerance of difference
- Owning my own actions (self-awareness)

Every Monday all classes will focus on one of these attributes and the students will discuss and decide what each one means: what it looks and sounds like. At the end of that week, all students will reflect in an age-appropriate manner, on how they have included that attribute in their own behaviour over the week. These reflections will be recorded in a Wadestown Citizenship passport. In Term 1 these attributes will be introduced and from Term 2 on, the attributes will be focused on over a two week period. Each week the focused attribute will be in Homework sheets so that students can discuss what it means with parents at home.

### **Arts Curriculum**

Students will be exploring the techniques of a well-known artist and producing their own self-portraits using their varying styles. Informal drama activities and presentations aim to explore the elements of drama and develop confidence.

### **Digital Technology**

G-mail accounts: All students have their own email address that are linked to the class teacher. These accounts are only to be used for school purposes and are monitored regularly.

To develop their computational thinking the students will begin the year using the programme 'Scratch' to build their coding and problem-solving skills.



### **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 develop the confidence to think for themselves.





### **Financial Literacy**

The Rimu classes will be using Banquer, an online educational tool that supports the teaching of financial literacy. This platform transforms the classroom into a virtual economy. Students have their own mock online bank account. This is in a safe controlled environment where they learn about important financial concepts, including wages, paying for expenses, savings and calculating interest.

### **Year 5 and 6 Camp**

We are all very excited about the upcoming camp at El Rancho. 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 shortly once the last details have been finalised. This will include costs and general information. We will be asking you to fill out a number of forms, regarding your child's medical needs, swimming ability, dietary requirements, etc.

### **Homework**

Is given out on Monday and due back on Friday for testing and marking. It will consist of teacher set Mathletics tasks, 15-20 minutes daily reading, individual spelling lists, and basic facts.

Book Bingo awards are available for children to work towards and gain valuable house points for each challenge they achieved.

The homework is designed to be flexible and allows each student to manage and organise their time around after school commitments. The first official homework sheet and guidelines will come home on Monday 17th February.

### **Student Behaviour and Well-being**

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), Amy Maddock and Tim Whimster

The values the students of the Rimu Team have chosen to display as a 'Rimuite'

R - Resilience

I - Inclusiveness

M - Manners

U - Understanding

I - Independence

T - Teamwork

E - Empathy

### **Dates for your Diary**

⇒ Rimu **Information Evening**

Monday 24 February  
(5.50 pm—6.30 pm)

⇒ Rose St—**Parent Conferences**

Day 1—Tuesday 3 March  
(3.30pm—6.30pm)

Day 2—Thursday 5 March  
(3.30pm—6.30pm)

### **Activity Fees Term 1**

Mathletics subscription    \$21.00

Dragon Maths Workbook    \$16.95

TOTAL:    **\$37.95**