



**Wadestown School**

**Pohutukawa Team  
Newsletter  
Term 1, 2022**



Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Term Tahī, 2022. It has been special seeing so many excited faces starting in their new classrooms and hearing stories of happy summer holidays. A special welcome to our new tamariki starting in Room 1: George Ross, Sophia Baxter, Andre Oliver, Ashton Maharaj and Robbie Ramshaw. In Week 3 George Ombler-Watson will be the next student to join us in Room 1.

This newsletter will outline information we would have given at our normal Parent Information Evening: an overview of the term's programme, followed by class routines.

### **Introducing The Pohutukawa Team...**

#### **Room 1 Amanda Lamble [amanda@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:amanda@wadestown.school.nz)**



*My role is Team Leader for the Pohutukawa Team.*

*I feel privileged to be in Room 1 where I get to welcome the new students and their whānau to Wadestown School. I really enjoy building relationships with family and whānau in order for them to feel welcome and make a smooth transition to school.*

*In 2021 I was able to introduce the new Ministry of Education programme "Better Start Literacy Approach" to our New Entrants and their whānau. This year I am excited that I can continue to be involved with the implementation of this programme.*

#### **Room 3 is being shared by two teachers this year...**

#### **Robyn Grover teaching Monday, Tuesday and Friday in Room 3.**



**[Robyn Grover](mailto:robyn@wadestown.school.nz) [robyn@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:robyn@wadestown.school.nz)**

*I have been teaching for a number of years, interspersed with living and travelling overseas and raising three children. Over the years I have been fortunate to have taught all age groups, from Year 1 to Year 8 and have enjoyed different aspects of every level. I have been at Wadestown School in the role of Deputy Principal (Y1-4) and SENCO for the past 11 years. In this role I love watching your child's school journey begin and progress through the school.*

*I enjoy walks in our regional parks, occasional jogs along the coastline, reading and catching up family and friends. I am delighted to be back teaching Room 3 and sharing this role with Ann. We have had a great two weeks with your lovely children.*

### **Ann Marshall teaching Wednesday and Thursday in Room 3**



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*Kia ora, my name is Ann Marshall and I am married with one grown up son. I've been teaching for many years within New Zealand and overseas. My last full time position was at Karori Normal School for 10 years before moving to the Middle East with my family for 5 years. Since returning to NZ I have had the privilege of working part time at Wadestown School. This year I'll be in Room 3 for 2 days and 2 days working between the Pohutukawa and Rata teams as the CRT release teacher, which is something I enjoy doing. I'm really looking forward to working with the fabulous children and teachers at Wadestown school and getting to know all the new people, plus learning some new things myself.*

### **Room 0 Joy Henderson**



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*Wadestown School holds a special place in my heart as my own children began their educational journey in Room 1. I am very fortunate to have been both a parent and a teacher at Wadestown School and have taught at both Wadestown School sites.*

*Currently I am on my second stint at Weld St in the Pohutukawa Team having taught at Rose Street in the Rata Team for four years.*

*Helping the children to understand their emotions and alleviate anxiety by being mindful each day is a particular passion of mine. Already Room 0 are learning how to breathe mindfully!*

### **Reading Recovery Teacher Angela Clark**



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*I am the Reading Recovery teacher at Wadestown School for 2022.*

*I like being a specialist teacher of literacy and love working specifically with six year olds. They are so quirky and bossy and funny all rolled into one.*

*Reading Recovery allows teaching that is individual in a one to one setting or small group. That is the type of teaching I like the best.*

### **Covid and the Red Light Setting**

Following the Ministry of Education guidelines to schools on minimising the spread of Covid, parents are requested to drop-off and pick-up from the school gate only. Parents of New Entrant children in Room 1, are able to escort their child into the classroom as they help them to transition and settle into school.

Teachers have been busily preparing "**Home Isolation**" packs for students who will be required to isolate at home. In preparation for this possibility, each student will be given a pack to take home and keep at home until required. **This pack is specifically and only for your child if they are unable to attend school, due to isolation requirements.**

### **Wadestown School Focus for 2022**

This year our school wide focus is on **Growth:**

**Looking backwards to move forward**

***Ka mua, ka muri***

***Walking backwards into the future***

In Term 1, our Tamariki will learn about this in the context of

- The Treaty of Waitangi
- Our School Pepeha:  
Ko Ahumairangi te maunga  
*Ahumairangi is the mountain*  
Ko Kaiwharawhara te awa  
*Kaiwharawhara is the river*  
Ko te Whanganui-a-tara te moana  
*Te Whanganui-a-tara is the ocean harbour*  
Ko Wadestown te kura  
*Wadestown is the school*
- Developing a **Growth Mindset** by seeing challenges as opportunities to grow and learn.



Our new entrant students...

## Curriculum

### **Literacy**

In Year 1 and 2, Reading and Writing is timetabled for the morning.

A writing lesson will begin with a discussion around a topic and the teacher will then model some writing on this topic. Before the children go to write, they will be asked to verbalise what they are going to write about. Verbalising ideas before starting to write is an important stage of writing, before they start on their picture plan. Each student will have a writing goal that is particular to their current stage of development e.g. learning to put a finger space between each word or for older students, underlining a word they are not sure how to spell so that they can check it when finished.

The learning of phonics is a foundational support to literacy learning so priority is given to this when children start school. It will help students with their reading and writing. Spelling patterns and the ability to make and break words that rhyme will form part of their literacy learning.

Students will be exposed to rich vocabulary through listening to stories and their own vocabulary will develop as they have lots of opportunity to retell stories (including through drama).

Reading will begin with a 'big book', which is an invaluable way to teach children about the reciprocal nature of reading and writing and writing conventions such as punctuation. Students are grouped according to their need and each group has a guided reading lesson with their teacher. Students only take home books they have read with their teacher, and these may be a 'favourite' book they have previously read. Reading **mileage** is one of the most important factors in a child progressing in their reading. The more often a child reads, the better!

## **Mathematics**

In Mathematics, students are encouraged to think mathematically, solve problems in a meaningful context and model their answers using materials. They are learning to communicate their solutions using pictures, words, and simple equations.

We begin the year with Statistics which is a fun way for the children to learn about each other. We will conduct various 'surveys' to gather data, which the children learn to record as pictographs, tally charts and graphs. Learning to make statements about what a graph tells us can be a challenging step for our young children.

In Week Four we will begin working on Number. This will focus on developing number knowledge: counting forwards and backwards, identifying numbers, learning about simple place value, starting with 10s and 1's and then using this knowledge to develop number strategies to add and subtract. Students work at various stages, according to their learning needs.

## **Physical Education**

In Term 1 the focus will be on developing large ball skills such as catching, throwing, bouncing and rolling balls. Students will have opportunities to play games involving movement skills that will help to build their enjoyment and confidence. Playing games gives them the opportunity to co-operate and work with others to build success.

## **Art**

Students will develop their painting skills learning how to, for example, use a paintbrush to create different effects. They will learn about primary colours and how to mix these to create secondary colours. Later in the term they will complete a visual School Pepeha that depicts our maunga (mountain) and awa (river).

## **Technology**

As part of a school wide professional development, teachers and students will be introduced to *Minecraft* (the educational edition) and be given the opportunity to develop their creativity building new worlds. Our Year 1 and 2 students will be introduced to Minecraft using i-pads.

## **Science**

This term each classroom has sun plants and caterpillars. The life cycle of a monarch butterfly provides opportunities to develop early scientific vocabulary. They are learning to communicate what is happening: using words such as "I wonder", "I think", "I predict". Students love watching the caterpillars grow very fat as they strip all the leaves off the plant. They love to wonder when they will change from a caterpillar into a chrysalis and then into a butterfly.

## **Te Reo**

Each term we have a different topic for Te reo and this term's topic is Ko Au (introducing me and my whānau). The children learn basic words and phrases which are integrated into the class programme. Kapa Haka is every Thursday with Hemi Prime who is our school-wide Kapa Haka kaiako.

## **Homework**

- **Newstime:** A weekly newstime is given to each student. It is expected that students will participate and contribute during news time, this helps develop their communication skills and allows other students to get to know them.
- **Reading:** Students benefit from a daily time when they can read to their parents or a caregiver. This builds up their self-confidence and creates a 'reading mileage', which is so important for children learning to read. Some learning of sight words is important in Year 1. Poems are sent home on a Friday to be shared with an adult. Poems help students develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme, as they read.



New students in Room 1 – Self Portraits

Can you recognise us by our portraits?



**Movin March** is coming soon; it is a Wellington Regional Council themed promotion to encourage active travel to school. The students have a 10 sticker passport held by the teachers at school and if they walk to school each day (x10) then they earn a “*Movin March*” reward.

#### **Reminder - Sun Hats and Sunscreen**

Students need to have a named sunhat at school. Students should come to school having already applied their sunscreen at home.

#### **Communication**

Teachers value a home-school partnership. A good way to communicate on a daily basis is by putting a note in your child’s notebook (Room 1) or by emailing your child’s teacher.

If you have an urgent message that needs to get to your child before the end of the school day, please phone the school office who will relay the message to your child’s teacher. Teachers do not look at emails during class time which is why we recommend a phone call.

Please do share any concern you may have or your child with your child’s teacher.

## Upcoming Events

**Marvellous Mondays** with outside learning in the middle-block on **February 14, 21 and 28 February**.

N.B. **Monday 14 February** has a “**Water**” theme so students are asked to bring named togs and a towel to school.

- **Monday 28 February**, each student will make their own **glitter jar** so each student will need to bring a small clean glass jar with a fitting lid (they need to be able to comfortably hold it in their hand, e.g. 60cms in height) prior to this date please.
- **Wednesday 23 February Meet the Teacher** 3.30 - 6.30pm for parents in Week 4
- **Wednesday 16 March** Preschool Information Morning
- **Friday 25 March Teacher Only Day** Kahui Ako
- **Thursday 14 April** Last day of Term 1

2022 Pohutukawa Classroom Activity Donation	
<b>Amount charged to student statement for 2022</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>
<i>Marvellous Mondays:</i> 14, 21st & 28th February	5.00
<b>Term 1 TOTAL</b>	<b>5.00</b>

We are all looking forward to a great term of learning with your children and our partnership together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Amanda Lamble, Robyn Grover, Ann Marshall, Joy Henderson, Angela Clark  
**Pohutukawa Team Teachers**