



# Wadestown School

## Pohutukawa Team

### Newsletter

### Term 1, 2023



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

**Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Term Tahī (Term 1).**

Rūma Tahī (Room 1) welcomes new entrant tamariki (children) and their whānau: Hamish and Elsie Stevenson and Wolf Sciascia. In early March, Room 1 will welcome: Tom Greaves, Thom Tietjens, Yichen Yu and Anthony and Alice Dean. Later in March we farewell Arlo Cunningham as his family returns to Canada. To Rūma Toru (Room 3), we welcome a new student: George Griffiths and our new kaiako (teacher), Miss Katy Synge. It is wonderful to have Katy join us here and you can read more about her in the introduction below.

#### **School Values**

Our school values “G-R-O-W” (Gratitude, Resilience, Others and Wonder) will underpin our Term 1 Health inquiry topic of “Being Friends”. Whanaungatanga is the Te Reo word for building positive relationships. In doing this we can build a sense of belonging through shared experiences and working together. Teachers encourage parents and caregivers to have conversations with their children about:

Gratitude - what things they are grateful for in terms of their friendships

Resilience - a time when they have had to overcome an obstacle in a friendship

Others - how they show respect through sharing and cooperation in groups

Wonder - thinking of ways to work together to build community

Our “Working together Wednesdays” at the start of this term will provide opportunities for students to have some fun shared experiences with the aim of building friendships. In week 7 students will visit the Life Education caravan, based at Rose Street, and learn more about what ‘being a good friend’ looks like.



Room 0 enjoying relaxation outside and listening to nature

## Introducing The Pohutukawa Team...

Pohutukawa Team Leader

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



*I make it a priority to build relationships with family, whānau and students so that there is a smooth transition to school. I liaise with our pre-school centres that feed into Wadestown School so that we have good lines of communication. It is important that everyone feels welcome and happy to be here. I continue to be involved with The University of Canterbury "Better Start Literacy Approach". I love being involved with learning outside the classroom and am thankful for the excellent parent support and involvement that we enjoy here at Wadestown School.*

Room 3 Katy Synge [katy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:katy@wadestown.school.nz)



*I have been teaching Junior students for many years both in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. Teaching Juniors is my passion, and I especially love watching the lightbulb moment children have when everything clicks into place and they realise they can do it! I have been teaching in Auckland for the past six years before returning home to Wellington to be closer to my family. I am looking forward to a fun year ahead at Wadestown and getting to know both the community and your children.*

Room 0 Joy Henderson [joy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:joy@wadestown.school.nz)



*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 Street 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!*

Deputy Principal Years 1- 4

Robyn Grover [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 parenting a daughter and twin boys. 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 12 years. In this role I feel privileged to watch your child's school journey begin and progress through the school, building a connection with each and every student.*

*Away from school, I enjoy catching up with family and friends, an occasional movie and a good book. This summer I have discovered how much easier biking is than running!*

Reading Recovery Teacher

Angela Clark [angela@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:angela@wadestown.school.nz)



*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.*

## **Curriculum**

### **Literacy**

The learning of phonics is a foundational support to literacy learning so priority is given to this when children start school. It helps students develop their reading and writing skills. Spelling patterns and the ability to make and break words that rhyme form part of their literacy learning. Students are exposed to rich vocabulary through listening to stories and their own vocabulary further develops with the opportunity to retell stories (including through drama).

Teachers regularly read to their students from a range of quality picture books, big books and poetry, taking time to elaborate on meaning or explain the purpose of punctuation. On a Tuesday afternoon Mr Piper, our school librarian takes each class for a half hour session to build their Library Skills. Students choose books they are interested in and have these issued for the week. The more often a child reads, the better as this will help their progress and love for reading.

In class students have a guided reading lesson. They only take home books they have read with their teacher, and sometimes it may be a 'favourite' book they have previously read.

A writing lesson will begin with a discussion around a topic. The teacher models some writing on this topic and before the children go to write, they are asked to verbalise what they are going to write about. Drawing a picture plan for writing is an important visual form of communication. Having a writing goal helps to focus students and provide a sense of achievement. Teachers give feedback specific to the child's goal.

### **Numeracy**

In Mathematics, students are encouraged to think mathematically, solve problems in a meaningful context and model their answers using materials. They learn to communicate their solutions using pictures, words, and simple equations. Students work at various stages, according to their learning needs.

Statistics at the start of the year 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.

From Week Four the focus will shift to number knowledge: counting forwards and backwards, identifying numbers, learning about simple place value, starting with 1s and 10s and then using this knowledge to solve word problems and equations in addition and subtraction.

### **Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum**

Last Friday students watched a video about The Treaty of Waitangi prior to our Monday observance of Waitangi Day. Students role-played the signing of the treaty with the two partners being Tangata Whenua -Maōri and the British.

### **Physical Education**

Students 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. Practising ball skills at home will help reinforce the skills of rolling, bouncing, throwing and catching, taught at school.

### **Health**

As part of this term's "Being Friends" inquiry topic, students will learn to express their own ideas, needs, wants and feelings clearly and listen to others. They will learn how to make "I" statements that are positive and affirming when responding to others.

### **Art**

This term students will develop their drawing and painting skills. Each child will have a piece of art on display at the Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society Show on Monday evening, 13 February, at St Luke's Centre. We support this event as it helps to build our local community.

## Technology

Discovery Time on a Friday has a technology focus and our students are able to work with any student at Weld Street across Years 0-2. We would like to have a variety of materials on offer and would appreciate parent contributions of loose parts or upcycled materials such as: craft supplies, buttons, straws, fabric, gems, ribbons, netting.

Our Year 1 and 2 students will have group access to i-pads to support their literacy and numeracy learning.



## Science

This term each classroom has a swan plant, on which caterpillars will hopefully emerge. The life cycle of a monarch butterfly provides opportunities to develop early scientific vocabulary as students learn 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. Thursday is a busy day for Te Reo with Kaiako Alwyn teaching, every second week, a half hour lesson in each class, introducing words for feeling and friendships. Later on Thursday we have a combined Kapa Haka session led by Hemi Prime (school-wide Kapa Haka kaiako). The Mihi Whakatau helps students learn about tikanga (customs and values) within a school context.

## Homework

- Newstime: A weekly newstime is given to each student. It is expected that students will participate and contribute during news time as this helps develop their oral language 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, and fun with words. Spelling homework will start later this term.

## 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 school uniform sunhat at school. They can now be purchased from the school office at Rose Street. 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 or positive feedback with your child's teacher.

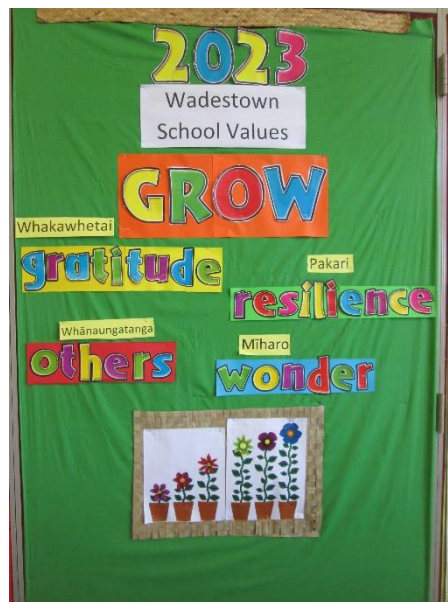
## After school arrangements

It is most important that you communicate directly with your child's teacher when there is any change to your pick-up arrangements after school. A school day can be a long time for a young child to remember if they are going down the hill or waiting at the school to be picked up. We know too, that sometimes children will decide to make their own arrangements with a friend, independently of parental knowledge. Please email your child's teacher with any change the day before or in the morning.

## Upcoming Events

- Thursday February 16 February - *Meet the Teachers* in Room 2 from 5:30pm - 6:15 pm
- Wednesday 1 March
  - School closes at 12.30pm for Teacher Paid Union Meeting
  - *Kaiako Whanau Meetings* at Weld Street, 10 minutes each, evening
- Friday 17 February - *Kaiako Teacher Only Day*, school closed
- Wednesday 22 March - *Pre-school Information Morning*

We look forward to a great term as we all "GROW" together. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please email your child's teacher as the first port of call. We appreciate and value your partnership and support.



Ngā mihi nui

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