



Wadestown School
Growing and Connecting as Learners

Rata Team
Newsletter
Term 1, 2023



Tēnā Koutou Parents, Caregivers, and Whānau,

Nau mai haere mai ki te Rata tīma! Welcome to the Rata Team for 2023. It is great to be back with all our returning students and our Year 3s who have made the transition from Weld Street to Rose Street. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new students and whānau who have recently joined us at Wadestown School. In Room 9 we have William Crump, in Room 11 we have Rosalyn Ting and in Room 12 we have Maddy Hawkhead.

Welcome also to Melissa Kosmadakis who has joined us as Room 9's teacher. Many of you may already know Melissa from her previous work at Wadestown School as a much-valued Teacher Aide, before gaining her teaching qualification.

The purpose of our Rata Newsletter is to give you an outline of our team's programme for the term as well as information about our classroom routines.

It is important that our students wear bucket hats to protect them from the sun this term. The use of sunscreen is also advised. We will continue to keep up with our Covid procedures through hand washing, room ventilation and by using hand sanitiser. While mask wearing is not compulsory, our students are welcome to wear them if they choose. Please also remember that we are a nut-free school.

Movin' March: Movin' March is the Wellington Regional Council promotion encouraging active travel to school. Students will be given a 'Movin' March 10-trip passport'. If they walk to school each day for a week (x10) then they earn a reward.

Friendship Inquiry: This term we are inquiring into Ko Aku Hoa - Friendships and Relationships with others. We will be looking at how students can engage positively with peers and others during play, games, classroom activities, and online (by listening, affirming others, waiting, taking turns, recognising others' feelings and respecting them, and show manaakitanga, aroha, and responsibility). We will link this inquiry into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sessions as they learn to work collaboratively with their peers. Our STEM sessions will run on Tuesdays and allow students to learn with others across the Rata Team.

Taonga Troves: In Term 1 students share information about themselves by bringing in a treasure box (or bag) from home. This allows us to recognise and celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds in Rata. It is also an opportunity for our students to extend their oral language skills.

Waitangi Day: We have started our year by looking into Waitangi Day as part of the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum learning. Waitangi Day marks the significance of the initial signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ The Treaty of Waitangi. We learn about what happened at Waitangi at the time of the signing and who was there. This helps us understand why we have this holiday.



School Values: We will continue to explore and integrate our school values across the curriculum during 2023. GROW stands for: Gratitude (Whakawhetai); Resilience (Manawaroa); Others (Whānaungatanga/Tuakana-Teina); and Wonder (Mīharo).

Literacy

Oral Language: Students are encouraged to share information about themselves and develop their questioning skills. They learn to express themselves clearly while drawing on their personal experiences and knowledge and will have regular opportunities to contribute to the class.

Reading: Every day students will use, improve, and practice their reading skills. As readers become more fluent, the focus shifts to further developing their comprehension skills. This term students will start by learning how to use their 'Prior Knowledge' to 'Make Connections' with the text before moving into developing the strategies of 'Making Predictions' and 'Visualisation'. It is important for students to develop these strategies so that they can effectively make inferences. We will regularly take groups for guided reading lessons and provide opportunities for independent reading based on student interests. We will also read to our students every day.

Writing: We start the school year by teaching our students about the writing process. We begin by focusing on planning and getting the draft written. Next, our students learn how to improve their writing by proofreading and recrafting, as this is an essential part of the process. Students will share their writing with others, listen to feedback and learn how to give feedback to others. Students regularly publish pieces of writing. We work with the whole class and individuals, helping them achieve their writing goals.

Spelling, Handwriting, and Phonics are incorporated into our classroom literacy programmes as well.

Mathematics

Statistics: At the beginning of the year the statistics strand gives students a chance to find out more about each other. For the first four weeks of the term, they learn to gather, present, and interpret statistical information in a variety of ways. Students will use an inquiry cycle to make up questions, investigate then graph and discuss their findings.

Basic Facts: Each day students will develop their basic fact knowledge. They will be able to use this knowledge to solve problems in a range of contexts.

Place Value: From Week 4 we introduce and work to increase our students' understanding of place value. This knowledge will help them to manipulate numbers when solving problems involving larger numbers.

Addition and Subtraction: From Week 5 we will focus on addition and subtraction strategies. Students will use these strategies in combination with their number knowledge to solve a range of realistic problems.

Mathletics will be incorporated into our classroom sessions. Students are welcome to use the basic facts section of Mathletics at home for additional practice if they wish.

Physical Education: We have daily fitness sessions as these provide valuable brain breaks and help to increase the children's fitness levels. This term we are beginning with co-operative games to help students develop their collaborative skills. Later in the term we will focus on small ball skills. On Wednesday afternoons we all get together for Rata Sports.

The Arts

Visual Arts: Over the year our students will use a range of tools and medium to express their creativity. They will be introduced to a variety of different artists and respond to their artworks. Our focus in Term 1 is on self-portraits.

Performing Arts: Drama is our key focus in Term 1 as we use role-playing to explore solutions to different situations that may arise both in class and in the playground.

Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga

Whaowhia te kete mātauranga: Fill the basket of knowledge.

At school, our tamariki are continuing to extend their learning this year with the wonderful support of Matua Hemi at Thursday's Kapa Haka and Matua Alwyn, who is visiting classes to teach Te Reo Māori every second Thursday. In Term 1 we will focus on Ko Au (I, me, myself). Students will build on their existing knowledge as they introduce themselves and others. Te reo Māori me nga tikanga will also be integrated into the class programme with students learning different karakia, waiata and Māori phrases for example: Karawhuria! (Give it a go!)

Homework mainly consists of basic facts and spelling. It should not be onerous and needs to fit around your child's extracurricular activities as children still need time to play. Homework provides the perfect opportunity for your child to start developing their self-management skills at home, including the completion of tasks and remembering to bring their homework books back to school.

Homework will start from Monday 20 February.



It was great meeting so many of you during the stationery drop off. If you have any questions or anything you want to let us know, please contact us by email. We are looking forward to great year of learning!

Melissa Kosmadakis, Room 9, melissa@wadestown.school.nz

Elizabeth Chater, Room 11, (Rata Team Leader): elizabeth@wadestown.school.nz

Ali Clearwater, Room 12, Ali Clearwater: ali@wadestown.school.nz

Robyn Grover, (Deputy Principal) robyn@wadestown.school.nz

The 2023 Rata Team

Elizabeth Chater

I am the Team Leader of Rata and this is my fourth year teaching at Wadestown School. Before that I taught in Whitby for 8 years and Newlands for 5 years. I have two grown up children. Lucy is still living at home while she's at Massey University, Ellie is flatting and has just completed a degree at Victoria University. It was great meeting my new students in Room 11 and am excited about the year ahead. I am looking forward to working with all the wonderful students and teachers in Rata!



Alexandra 'Ali' Clearwater

After enjoying my first two years of Teaching with Year 3-4 here in the Rata Team, I am excited to continue my journey as a member of Wadestown School. I come from a long line of teachers and the gene was definitely passed down to me! My undergraduate degrees in the Performing Arts and Behavioural Psychology have influenced my perspective on learning and teaching. I am particularly passionate about teaching the Performing Arts so you will surely see me involved in extracurricular activities throughout the year! I enjoy building strong relationships with my students, empowering them to become confident learners and having fun in the classroom. I value the importance of one's social and emotional wellbeing and aim to build resilience and self esteem in my ākonga. I look forward to meeting you all and creating memorable learning experiences with the students.



Melissa Kosmadakis

I'm really excited to be back at Wadestown School this year as a teacher in the Rata team. Wadestown School is the place that inspired me to become a teacher during my time here as a teacher aide. My whānau is a blended one, both with family and with our cultures. I think it is important to build strong relationships with our students and to understand the diversity of knowledge and skills within our classrooms. Giving our learners the opportunity to bring aspects of their lives outside of school directly into their learning builds happy students and creates a sense of belonging.



Dates to Remember

- 13 Feb: Rata Information Evening - 5.30 pm -6:15pm
- 16 Feb: Mihi Whakatau at Rose Street
- 28 Feb: Kaiako/ Whānau meetings
- 1 March: ASB Get Wise Financial Literacy Programme
- 1 March Primary Teachers Paid Union Meeting – school closed at 12.30pm
- 6 April: last day of Term 1

Reminders

- In Term 1, students are required to wear bucket hats when outside. Please ensure that your child's hat is clearly labelled.
- Please name all uniform items so they can find their way back to the rightful owners.
- **From 8.30am students are welcome in classrooms. Before then it is valuable organisation time for teachers and they are not available for supervision.**
- If you are collecting or delivering your child to school between 9.00am and 3.00pm please remember to sign them in/ out at the office.



Wadestown School Rata Class Routines 2023

Arrival at School

Children are expected to arrive from 8.30am onwards. This gives them time to prepare themselves for the start of the day by unpacking what they need from their school bag and ensuring they are ready for school to begin. The first bell will ring at 8.50am indicating time to go to the bathroom and class. The second bell rings at 8.55am to indicate the beginning of the school day.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ring the school office: 472 4779 and leave a message on the answer phone before 9am. If we do not hear from you, the office will phone to follow up an unexplained absence. If you need to take your child to an appointment send an email to your teacher AND the office in advance or if urgent, ring the office. **Children are to be collected from the office where they need to be signed out.** Please do not come directly to the classroom.

Communication

Please get in touch with us if you have any queries, concerns or feedback to share. We are always happy to talk with our parents. If you have a specific concern, we can make an appointment for a discussion. If your communication relates to a change in pick-up arrangements for the day, please phone the office.

Uniform

During Terms 1 and 4 all children are required to wear the school sunhat for protection during morning tea and lunch times. Please ensure all clothing is clearly named with **their own name** so that anything found can be returned. Children are encouraged to bring and apply their own sunscreen.

Healthy Classroom

Head lice are sometimes prevalent in classrooms so please check your child's hair regularly (i.e. weekly). It is recommended that long hair is tied back so it is not so vulnerable. If your child does have head lice please let us know ASAP so that a letter can go home to all parents.

Library Days

Room 9: Thursday at 2.15 pm, Room 11: Friday at 11.45 am, Room 12: Thursday at 1.30 pm

Four books can be issued for two weeks. In addition to this, children will be encouraged to participate in the school's **Book Bingo** programme. This programme encourages the children to read widely. Book Bingo is also an excellent way for children to build up their reading mileage, demonstrate independence, and perseverance.

Timetables

Each class has their own timetable. Reading, Writing and Mathematics are timetabled in the mornings. Rata assembly (Hui) is a Monday, alternating with the whole school assemblies. Rata Sports is on Wednesdays after lunch. STEM is on Tuesday afternoons and the students will work collaboratively across the team. Regular breaks are worked into our daily programmes.

Homework

Homework books are sent home on Monday and returned on Friday. Homework consists of daily reading, basic facts and spelling. Discussing books and asking your child questions about what they are reading is a great way to extend their comprehension. Reading plays and poems will also increase their fluency and expression. Reading to your child continues to be a wonderful way to extend their imagination, increase their knowledge and to spend quality time together. The focus for Mathematics homework is fluency, accuracy and consistency of basic facts. These and weekly spelling words are tested on a Friday. The idea of homework is to reinforce and support your child's learning at school. Some days are extremely busy for families so we encourage you to keep tasks simple and achievable.

Digital Citizenship

When it comes to online platforms, it is important that our students act responsibly. We teach what it means to be a Digital Citizen and refer to this throughout the year. Discussing what this means at home would be a great support for what your child is learning at school.