



Wadestown School

Rimu Team

Newsletter

Term 1 2023



**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,**

Ngā manaakitanga and welcome to the new school year for the Rimu Team. We have thoroughly enjoyed being back at school with your tamariki, and finding out about their the summer holidays.

This year we welcome to both Rimu and Wadestown School, Joakun Thanchai who started late last term. We hope you enjoy your time in Rimu.

### The Rimu Teaching Team

At the bottom of this newsletter, there are the Rimu Team Teacher introductions for you to read so that you can put a face to your child's teacher. Some of you may have taken the opportunity to get to meet the teachers at our recent Stationery Drop Off afternoon a few weeks ago.

The Rimu Team has one new teacher for 2023, Miss Clare Gilligan and we are excited to have her as part of our Rimu Team whānau.

Pip Honore is working one day a week in Rimu this year as the Rimu CRT and TLR teacher. She who has a long connection with Wadestown School, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Team.

### Curriculum

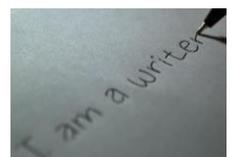
#### **Literacy:**

**Reading** commences with a teacher directed shared novel study using the book, *'The Night Bus Hero'* by Onjali Rauf. This novel looks closely at friendship, empathy, forgiveness, courage and overcoming challenges. The children will be analysing the use of vocabulary, characters and key messages within the story.

Later on in the term, we will start small group and individual instructional reading. The focus being on finding key ideas and evidence to support thematic messages, and finding answers to inferential questions.

Tamariki are also encouraged to read for pleasure and enjoyment both at school and at home. Each class will have weekly scheduled Library visits where they can issue books. Students can also listen to audiobooks as another way of enjoying books, independently. Please speak to your teacher or our Librarian, Derek Piper, if you are looking for new titles to read.

**Writing** will be across all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on reflective writing, re-crafting and editing. Tamariki will draw on their personal experiences when they write; beginning this term with descriptive writing from their summer holidays and then from their experiences while at camp.



The work over the last few years around student self assessment in writing will continue in 2023.

Tamariki will continue to recraft their writing in response to written and verbal feedback. Using success criteria, the students will provide feedback on both their own writing and the writing of their peers. This approach encourages students to think critically about their writing and to craft their texts in response to a given audience and purpose.

Strong links between reading and writing will be taught and students will continue to look at texts from the perspective of both the author and the audience.

## **Numeracy**

We begin with revisiting and extending students' 'Place Value' knowledge of whole numbers and decimals, and continuing to ensure their basic facts knowledge can be accurately recalled. In order to extend their mathematical thinking at Level 3 and beyond, it is important they have a strong knowledge base to draw on. Further into the term, we follow a unit on 'Statistics'. The tamariki will look at interpreting data and the language used around this topic.



The students will initially be grouped according to their individual stages and needs. They will also take part in mixed ability and whole class problem-solving challenges where they will have an opportunity to apply their mathematical knowledge and understanding; often using real life situations.

## **Social Sciences/Health/Inquiry:**

Our school wide inquiry for 2023 is based around the theme, 'This is Us'. It will form the basis of cross-curricular units throughout the year. The overarching idea being explored this term is 'Friendships - what makes a good friend?' This will include, exploring positive friendship qualities, peer pressure, passive, aggressive and assertive behaviours and strategies to use when faced with conflicts within friendship groups. This learning will support our tamariki both inside and outside of the classroom.

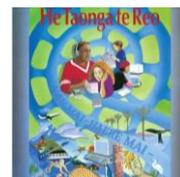


## **Science:**

A variety 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:**

Matua Alwyn will continue with Te Reo lessons in the Rimu team every fortnight this term. We will be continuing with classroom commands and revisit greetings, pepeha, and every day conversations that we can integrate into our classroom programme on a daily basis.



## **Kapa Haka:**

Hemi Prime, our Kapa Haka tutor will once again be teaching all Rimu tamariki Kapa Haka on Thursday mornings from 9.10 am—9.55 am. We are all looking forward to having Matua Hemi working with us again in 2023.

## **School Values:**

This term the students will be revisiting our Wadestown School Values included in the 'GROW' acronym. Our students will look at each value and related examples, and then unpack these as to what they 'look, sound and feel like' from a Rimu student perspective.

<b><u>G</u>RATITUDE</b>	<b><u>R</u>ESILIENCE</b>	<b><u>O</u>THERS</b>	<b><u>W</u>ONDER</b>
(Whakawhetai)	(Pakari)	(Whānaungatanga)	(Mīharo)

## **Physical Education:**

The Rimu Team will begin the year exploring a range of team building and cooperative activities. This instils the concepts at the heart of all learning in Physical Education and sets the standard for the attitudes and values that is expected at Years 5 and 6. Rimu Team Physical Education lessons will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. We aim to have fitness sessions each day, with a combined Rimu Fitness session on a Thursday morning.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for these activities.

## **Arts Curriculum:**

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

## Digital Technology:

Gmail accounts: All students have their own email address that is linked to their 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 Google Classroom. The Year 6 students are familiar with this platform. They will be working alongside the Year 5 students to help familiarise them with Google Classroom features, firstly for in class use and then for homework.

## Financial Literacy:



The Rimu classes will once again be using Banqer, 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. At the end of each term, students have a 'Banqer Day' where they spend their hard earned money to buy fun items that the Banqer organising team have created.

## Homework:

This will be given out on Monday and the students work their way through the tasks and complete these by Friday. It will consist of teacher set Mathletics tasks, 15-20 minutes of 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 achieve. The homework is designed to be flexible and allows each student to manage and organise their time around after school commitments. Homework guidelines will come home on Tuesday 14 February in your child's homework book.

**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 (x 10), then they earn a 'Movin' March' reward.



## Student Behaviour and Well-being

In the Rimu Team, we aim to encourage an environment where mistakes are viewed as a natural part of the learning process and tamariki 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 ensures a resolution for all parties can be reached.

## Communication with Teachers



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

Amy Maddock (Room 4, Team Leader)

Clare Gilligan (Room 5)

Ashleigh Kulwant (Room 6)

[amy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:amy@wadestown.school.nz)

[clare@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:clare@wadestown.school.nz)

[ashleigh@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:ashleigh@wadestown.school.nz)

## Useful Reminders

- **Classrooms are open from 8:30 am.** Tamariki should not be at school before 8:30 am. Arrival time between 8:30 am and 8:45 am, ensures they have enough time to organise their belongings and be ready for the 8:55 am bell. Students who arrive later than this bell must sign in at the office.
- Students are to bring a **water bottle** to school **every day**. This is so they can keep hydrated in class during the day.
- **Mobile phones** are the tamariki's responsibility and remain in their school bag throughout the day unless specific permission has been given by a teacher.
- 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 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.

- Year 6 tamariki doing **Road Patrol** are expected to arrive at school at 8:15 am to set up for their duty. If your child is unable to be there for their duty, please ensure that the school is informed ahead of time so we can arrange a replacement.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead with the wonderful tamariki from the Rimu Team. The teachers look forward to alongside you throughout the year.

Noho ora mai

Amy Maddock (Team Leader), Clare Gilligan and Ashleigh Kulwant  
(Rimu Team Teachers)



## Rimu Team Introductions

### Amy Maddock - Room 4



Kia ora, te whanau,

My name is Amy Maddock and I am the team leader of the Rimu Team for 2023. This is my eighth year at Wadestown school and six of those years have been in the Year 5 and 6 area. I am married and I have a son, Max who is in Year 5. Over the summer holidays I travelled to Thailand with my husband Glyn and Max. We had a great time going on boat trips and enjoying the great weather and beaches. One highlight was going to an elephant sanctuary where we got to feed and wash them. It was an experience we will never forget!

I am really looking forward to working with the lovely Rimu Team tamariki, teachers, staff and whānau this year. Fingers crossed 2023 is a year of normality!

### Clare Gilligan - Room 5



Kia ora, te whānau,

My name is Clare Gilligan and I am teaching Room 5 this year. This is my first year teaching permanently at Wadestown School, but I worked as a reliever in term 4 for the Rimu team last year so I am a familiar face.

I grew up in London but spent a lot of time in Ireland as this is where my whānau is from. I moved to Wellington three years ago and love living here. I really enjoy travelling this beautiful country and spent some of my summer holiday down south catching up with friends and exploring.

I am excited to work alongside you and your tamariki this year. I look forward to celebrating all their successes, big and small, throughout the year.

### Ashleigh Kulwant - Room 6



Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

My name is Ashleigh Kulwant and I am the teacher in Room 6 for Term 1. This is my second year at Wadestown school and both of these have been in the Rimu team with Year 5/6. I thoroughly enjoy teaching this year group, they are a lot of fun! I am married, and have been living in Wellington for 6 years with my husband, Roshen. Before that, I spent my life in Auckland which is where my whānau all still live.

Over the summer holidays, I spent all of my time home here in Wellington. My husband and I are expecting our first child in April so most of my time was spent getting ready and preparing for their arrival! I am really looking forward to working with the lovely Rimu team students, teachers, staff and whānau over this term.