



Wadestown School

Growing and Connecting as Learners

Pohutukawa Team Newsletter Term 2 2023



Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Term Rua (Term 2).

We had a wonderful time with "Movin March" this year with so many of our students choosing to walk either up or down Weld Street in the morning. This newsletter outlines the exciting learning opportunities and events that we have planned for this term.

From the start of this term, a group of the five oldest students from Rūma Tahī (Room 1) have moved down the corridor into Rūma Tōru (Room 3). Rūma Tōru has also recently welcomed Alan Fu.

Rūma Tahī welcomes the following new entrant tamariki (children) and their whānau: Sofia Kennedy-Good, Fern Sutton, Emma Walker, Annabelle Johnston, Tristan Marriott along with Oscar and Charlie Morrison.

School Values

Our school values are "G-R-O-W": **G**ratitute (Whakawhetai), **R**esilience (Manawaroa), **O**thers (Whānaungatanga) and **W**onder (Mīharo). Each term there are new opportunities to express these values.

A recent example of **G**ratitute (Whakawhetai) was shown to our wonderful school caretaker Tani with a big Weld Street "Thank You" card for all the mahi/work he has done. Later this term students will have the opportunity to develop **R**esilience when they train for Cross Country. A sense of looking out for **O**thers (Whānaungatanga) needs to be encouraged as older students show kindness towards our newest students at Weld Street. **W**onder (Mīharo) - students will have the opportunity to think/wonder about what Wadestown was like in the past - in relation to Te Ahumairangi.

Curriculum Learning Areas

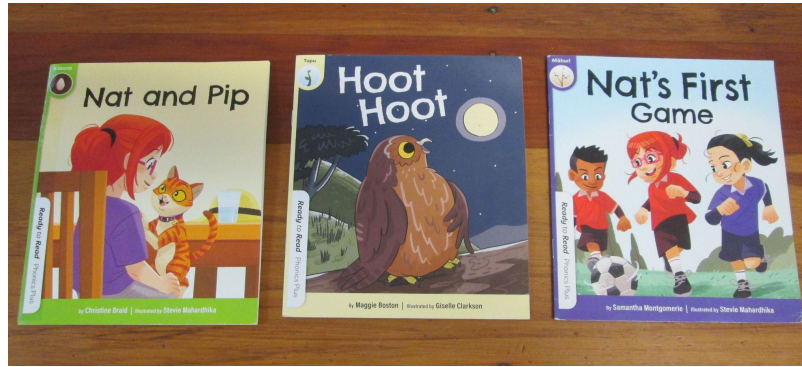
Literacy

Structured literacy instruction in our Year 0 to Year 2 classrooms supports our student's early reading and writing success. It involves:

- learning a number of foundational skills such as being able to recognise words with the same initial sounds like 'monkey' and 'mum'
- identifying words that rhyme (poems on Fridays often feature rhyming words)
- hearing and recording sounds in words (this includes handwriting)
- being able to break (segment) words apart by sounds and blend back together
- being able to clap out the syllables in a word
- showing present and past tense e.g. by using -ing & -ed word endings

Students will come home with some of the new Phonics Plus readers recently put out by the Ministry of Education. These readers are written in a distinctive New Zealand context e.g. there are wekas in the stories.

All the readers have the focus sounds and teacher notes on the inside back cover. It is important for our students to regularly read at home and to be encouraged to talk about what letters and sounds they have been learning at school.



Book Week Monday 15th - Friday 19th May is a fun week that promotes the LOVE of literacy learning across the school. Parents are invited to attend the Book Character Parade and to read to their child's class in the afternoons on Monday, Thursday or Friday afternoon at 2:45pm. Please refer to the parent notice for further information.

Author Visit - Helen Vivienne Fletcher on Thursday 18 May. Helen is the author of a range of books for children and young adults. She is also a poet, playwright and has tutored creative writing classes for both children and adults. She will also be bringing her support dog with her. Prior to her visit, Mr Piper will introduce our students to some of her books.

NZ Playhouse performance of **"Treasure Island" on Wednesday 24th May.** Our students will go over to Rose Street to see this performance in the school hall. These shows are always highly entertaining and engaging. Teachers will familiarise our students with the storyline prior to the show. **Please remember that pick up will be from Rose Street at 3pm on this day.**

Numeracy

In Mathematics, students are encouraged to think mathematically and to solve problems in a meaningful context. Their number knowledge (counting sequences, skip-counting and place value) helps them to problem-solve.

The language of position and orientation will be developed as part of the Geometry and Measurement strand. Students will learn their "left" from their "right" and be able to give instructions for movement.

Students will learn to tell the time - on the hour and half hour. This work is developed alongside the teaching of fractions, with halves and quarters.

Aotearoa New Zealand Histories integrated with Visual Arts

This term we are very excited about our "Creatives in School" project led by artist Kerala Heap. The project has a passionate title *"Ko Ahumairangi te maunga e rū nei taku ngākau, Ahumairangi - the mountain close to my heart!"*



The project is an integrated project where students learn about our local history and then create visual art, involving symbols that express their learning/findings. New techniques in art-making will be taught in the process. Students will visit important places and hear stories about their local environment. As part of this project, on 6 June we are booked into the City Gallery's Junior Sculpture Trail Walk in central Wellington. Students will participate in an art-making workshop and hear the Māori legend of Ngāke and Whataitai.



The School Community Newsletter will give parents and whānau regular updates on how this project is progressing.

Physical Education and Health - Cool Schools

In a few weeks students will start their Cross-Country practices on a regular basis. Students run around the field and then up around the top court on the concrete. They will earn points for their school house from the number of laps they do. Parents are invited to watch the Cross-Country race on Friday 16th June from 12 noon til 12:30 pm.

Cool Schools Peer Mediation

This is a new programme for our school that teaches essential life skills for peaceful conflict resolution. Students will learn what this looks like in their classroom learning and then when teachers see positive behaviour that reflects the learning outside in the playground they will reward students with a token. The tokens will go into a box for a draw at assembly on Friday.

Technology

In Discovery Time on a Friday our students get to work with any student at Weld Street across Years 0 - 2. This term we will have a focus on technology and computational thinking. We will start by using the painted square grid on the concrete outside Room 1. Students will have instructions for moving around it e.g. move forward 4 steps, to the left 1 step etc. They will then use the i-pads to learn basic coding.

Science

Students loved planting the swan plants from Term 1 outside in the garden and they have now seen all the chrysalises hatch.

Te Reo and Matariki

Every fortnight, on a Thursday morning, Matua Alwyn teaches te ao Māori to each class for half an hour. Students really engage with his lessons and Matua Hemi's Kapa Haka session, every Thursday. The focus for this term is on Matariki which falls at the end of the term and will be celebrated in early Term 3 as a school.

Homework

- Newstime: It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during newstime. This helps develop their oral language skills and promotes students getting to know one another.

- Reading and Writing: 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. Providing your child with authentic writing opportunities, for example, writing a note/email to a grandparent or writing on a birthday card, also builds up valuable writing mileage.

- Poems: These 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.



Reminders

Students need to have a named school uniform at school. They also need to have a rain jacket in their bag in case of wet weather.

Upcoming Events

- [Friday 19 May at 9am](#) - **BOOK CHARACTER PARADE** Students to dress as a character from their favourite book and bring their book with them for a *parade* in Room 2. Parents and whānau attend from 10am
- [Wednesday 24 May](#) - NZ Playhouse performance) *parents pick-up their child from Rose Street at 3pm*
- [Friday 2 June](#) - Kaiako Teacher Only Day, school closed
- [Monday 5 June](#)- King's Birthday
- [Tuesday 6 June](#) - Trip to Wellington City Gallery
- [Friday 16 June](#) - Cross-Country at 12 noon, parents and whānau welcome to attend
- [Friday 23 June](#) - School reports go home
- [Wednesday 28 June](#) - Whānau Teacher meetings at Weld Street

Pohutukawa Classroom Activity Donation - Term 2	
Amount charged to Student Statement for 2023	\$100.00
Term 1	
Life Education Visit	\$6.00
Term 1 total spend	\$6.00
Term 2	
Visiting author - Book Week 18th May	\$2.00
NZ Playhouse performance - 24th May	\$5.00
City Gallery Trip - 6th June, return bus fare (funded by Creatives in School project)	(TBC)
Term 2 Total	\$7.00
TOTAL	\$13.00

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.

We look forward to another great term as we all "GROW" together, with your continuing partnership and support.

Ngā mihi nui

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