



# Wadestown School

*Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Akonga  
Growing and Connecting as Learners*



## Rimu Team (Year 5 & 6) Newsletter Term 1, 2024

Kia ora Whānau,

Ki ora, ni hao, bonjour, talofa, hola, hallo and welcome to the new school year for the Rimu Team. We have thoroughly enjoyed being back at school with your tamariki, finding out about their summer holidays and preparing for the academic year ahead in the Rimu Team.

We welcome to both the Rimu Team and Wadestown School; Logan into Room 4, Daninela and Amelia into Room 5. We hope you enjoy your time in Rimu.

### The Rimu Teaching Team

At the bottom of this newsletter are the Rimu Team Teacher introductions for you to read. The purpose of these is so 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 Stationery Drop-off afternoon last week.

The Rimu Team has one new teacher for 2024, Mrs Liberty Cook and we are excited to have her as part of our Rimu Team whānau. She is familiar with many of our Rimu students as Liberty has worked at our school as both a preferred reliever and also alongside Sarah Bruce in the Rata Team in 2022.

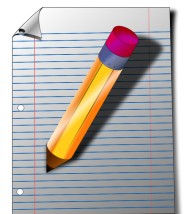
Gretchen Elliott is also joining our team, working one day a week in Rimu this year. Gretchen joins us as our dedicated classroom release teacher and has taken over from Pip Honore. Gretchen is another familiar face to the Wadestown teaching staff and students. In 2023, Gretchen was a regular reliever at our kura (school) and has built positive relationships with our Rimu students. We are all looking forward to her working with us this year.

### Curriculum Overview:

#### Literacy

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

**Handwriting:** We are continuing our journey on Structured Literacy and this year we are focusing on writing, starting with Handwriting. Research has shown that the greatest impact on student writing is handwriting; students being able to form letters correctly, and automatically. This reduces the cognitive load for a student writing and it has been shown that handwriting has a greater impact on learning and memory\*. In 2024 all Y1-8 classes will have handwriting lessons four times a week. Following the principles of Structured Literacy, handwriting lessons will be explicit, systematic, cumulative and diagnostic. We will revisit 'the basics' in handwriting to ensure that each tamariki has the correct letter formation, and joining strokes (ligatures) before moving on to cursive writing.



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.

REFERENCE: \*Handwriting Better Than Typing for Learning and Memory  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l69-wkYn\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l69-wkYn_Y)

**Reading** commences with a teacher-directed shared novel study using the book, *'The Boy at the Back of the Class'* by Onjali Rauf. This novel looks closely at forgiveness, courage, empathy 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 will be on finding key ideas and evidence to support thematic messages, and finding answers to inferential questions.

Ākonga (students) are also encouraged to read for pleasure and enjoyment both at school and at home. Each class has 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.

## **Numeracy**

**Numeracy Knowledge:** 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. To extend their mathematical thinking at Level 3 and beyond, they must have a strong knowledge base to draw on.



**Strand Maths:** Further into the term, we follow a unit on 'Statistics'. The tamariki will look at interpreting data and the language used around this topic.

**Numeracy Strategies:** The students will initially be grouped according to their 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 and Health Inquiry:**

Our school-wide inquiry for 2024 is based around the theme, *'The Power of the Mind'*. It will form the basis of cross-curricular units throughout the year. The overarching idea being explored this term is 'How do we learn?' This will include exploring how the brain works, developing a positive mindset, understanding the five senses and memory and making explicit links to how this connects to individual learning. This will support our tamariki with their Structured Literacy and other curriculum areas.



**Science:** A variety of practical hands-on STEM 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. We will be continuing with revisiting greetings, pepeha (introductions), classroom commands and everyday conversations that we can integrate into our classroom programme daily.

**Kapa Haka:** Hemi Prime, our Kapa Haka tutor will once again be teaching all Rimu tamariki (children) Kapa Haka on Thursday mornings from 9.20 am to 9.50 am. Our performance group will also resume this year and Rimu students are welcome to participate in this for 2024.

We look forward to continuing to work with both Matua Hemi and Matua Alwyn again this year.

### Our Wadestown School GROW Values:

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

GRATITUDE	RESILIENCE	OTHERS	WONDER
(Whakawhetai)	(Pakari)	(Whānaungatanga)	(Mīharo)

### Physical Education:

The Rimu Team will begin the year exploring a range of cooperative and team-building activities. This instils the concepts at the heart of all learning in Physical Education and sets the standard for the attitudes and values that are expected in 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 Monday morning. Active participation in these sessions is encouraged and will assist with preparing our students for our upcoming Camp in Week 8 of this term.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for these activities.

### Arts Curriculum:

In the Visual Arts, students will examine the techniques of a well-known artist and produce their 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 an email address that is linked to their class teacher. These accounts are only to be used for school purposes and are monitored regularly. We discourage students from using these accounts outside of school hours, and most especially, without parental supervision.

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 Banquer, 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 'Banquer Day' where they spend their hard-earned money to buy fun items that the Banquer organising team have created.

### Homework:

This will be given out on Monday and the students work their way through the tasks and complete them by Friday. It will consist of teacher-set Mathletics tasks and 15-20 minutes of daily reading. Structured Literacy and Basic Facts will be done in class. 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 be sent out on Tuesday 13 February via email to all Year 5 and 6 parents.

**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. Please encourage your child to walk to school during March, if they can do so.



## Student Behaviour and Wellbeing

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 in person or chat on the phone.

To ensure an urgent message gets to your child please do this through the school office, not the classroom teacher's email, as there is very little opportunity to clear emails during the school day.

### Rimu Teacher Contact Details:

Amy Maddock (Room 4, Team Leader)

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

Clare Gilligan (Room 5)

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

Liberty Coom (Room 6)

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

### Useful Reminders

- **Classrooms are open from 8:30 am.** Tamariki should not be at school before 8:30 am unless they are on Road Patrol. 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.
- **Cell phones** are the tamariki's responsibility and remain in their school bag throughout the day unless specific permission has been given by a teacher. The school is unable to take responsibility for lost or broken cell phones.
- Please make sure all items of **school uniforms are 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 their Wadestown School Scooter 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 working alongside you throughout the year.

Noho ora mai

Amy Maddock (Team Leader), Clare Gilligan and Liberty Cook  
(Rimu Team Teachers)

## Rimu Team Introductions

### Amy Maddock - Room 4 classroom teacher and Team Leader



Kia ora, te whanau,

My name is Amy Maddock and I am the team leader of the Rimu Team for 2024. This is my fourth year as Team Leader and my ninth year at Wadestown School. Seven of those years have been in the Year 5 and 6 team

I am married and I have a son, Max who is in Year 6. Over the summer holidays, I travelled to England to spend Christmas with my husband Glyn's family and connect with friends. Then, we spent a week in Thailand to thaw out! We had a very relaxing time chilling by the pool or the beach. One highlight of our holiday was going to the Harry Potter Studios and seeing the sets from the movies. It was very cool!

I am really looking forward to working with the fantastic Rimu Team tamariki, teachers, staff and whānau this year.

### Clare Giilligan - Room 5 classroom teacher



Kia Ora,

My name is Clare Gilligan and I am teaching Room 5 this year. This is my second year teaching at Wadestown School and in the Rimu Team.

I grew up in London but spent a lot of time in Ireland as this is where my whānau is from. I spent the summer holidays back home catching up with all my friends and family. It was great to see everyone and we even got a little bit of snow! I moved to Wellington 4 years ago and love living here. I really enjoy travelling around this beautiful country and learning more about the culture.

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.

### Liberty Cook - Room 6 classroom teacher



Kia ora koutou,

My name is Liberty Cook and I teach Room 6 in the Rimu team. I am thrilled to be returning to Wadestown School as a permanent staff member, having gotten to know the school and many of the students when I was a regular reliever in 2022-3. I live in Karori with my husband Will and two boys aged nine and eleven. The boys keep me very busy, however, when I get the chance, I love to potter around in my garden. Growing plants, flowers and creating a beautiful green space is important to me. I am also passionate about visual art; both teaching the subject and creating my own artworks. A fun fact about me is that I have just recently returned from France where I lived with my family for six months. My children went to a bilingual school and are now considerably better at speaking French than I am! I look forward to meeting you and I hope you will stop for a quick korero (chat) if you see me around at school.



Rimu Activity Fees for 2024	
Amount charged to Student Statement	<b>\$80.00</b>
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
No activity donations this term	
Activity Donation Total Spent (Term 1)	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>

