



Wadestown School

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



Pōhutukawa Team (Year 1 & 2) Newsletter Term 1, 2025

Nau mai, haere mai - Welcome to Term 1

Welcome back to school for 2025. It's been great to have such a sunny start and we hope it continues. It's exciting to welcome new students and their whānau to our Pōhutukawa Team.

Room 1 welcomes: Charlotte, Nina, Margaux, Wesley, Liam, Lexi, Zinnia and Immy, and Room 4 (previously known as Room 0) welcomes Max.



Introducing the Pōhutukawa Team:

Pōhutukawa Team Leader

Room 1 Amanda Lamble 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 the 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 love being involved with learning outside the classroom and organising school trips to support learning. I am thankful for the excellent parent support and involvement that we enjoy here at Wadestown School.

Room 3 Ali Clearwater ali@wadestown.school.nz



This is my 5th year teaching at Wadestown School. After three years teaching Years 3 and 4 in the Rātā Team at Rose Street, I moved to the Weld Street site in 2024 to join the Pōhutukawa Team. Teaching runs in my family, and I'm proud to continue the tradition! With a background in Performing Arts and Psychology, I enjoy building strong relationships with my students, empowering them as confident learners, and helping them understand and navigate their emotions. I look forward to working together to make this a fantastic year of learning and growth.

Room 4 Joy Henderson 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 2nd stint at Weld Street in the Pōhutukawa Team having taught at Rose Street in the Rātā Team for 4 years. Helping the children to understand their emotions and alleviating anxiety by being mindful each day is a particular passion of mine. Already Room 4 students are learning how to breathe mindfully!

Early Literacy Teacher

Angela Clark angela@wadestown.school.nz



I work with small groups and individuals using a Structured Literacy Approach. I like teaching five and six year olds because they are so quirky and bossy and funny all rolled into one.

Angela is based in the room beside the Deputy Principal's Office at Weld Street and works, mornings, Monday - Friday.

Deputy Principal Years 1- 4 and SENCO

Robyn Grover robyn@wadestown.school.nz



In my role as Deputy Principal (Y1-4), I feel privileged to watch your child's school journey begin and progress through the school, developing a connection with you and your child. I enjoy interacting in various ways with our students each day, having fun, and knowing they are happy to be here.

This year, I am teaching Literacy and Mathematics in Year 3/4 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and releasing the teachers for their Classroom Release Time (CRT) in the afternoons. You will see me at Weld St all day Thursday and Friday.

Classroom Release Teacher and Relieving Teacher

Ann Marshall ann@wadestown.school.nz



Ann Marshall is our dedicated part time teacher, releasing teachers for their Classroom Release Time (CRT) and relieving when teachers are absent from school.

Ann works at Rose Street as well as Weld Street and during Term 4 last year she taught in Room 2, alongside Amanda Lambie when we opened another new entrant classroom.

The following is an outline of the exciting learning opportunities planned for this term, with the theme being: **'Connections'**.

Literacy: Reading and Writing

A STRUCTURED LITERACY APPROACH follows a scope and sequence.

- oral language is developed through *listening* to rich texts and *talking* about the key ideas and the use of vocabulary
- we use Phonics Plus, *decodable* readers, and teach the sounds in words
- 'heart words' (words that you cannot sound out using phonics) e.g. "the" are taught in our **spelling programme**
- **punctuation** and grammar are taught in sentence construction
- **handwriting** is taught daily with practice leading to mastery in terms of correct letter formation and automaticity

Numeracy

A STRUCTURED NUMERACY APPROACH

In line with the new Mathematics Curriculum, the **Numicon** programme will be introduced.

There are three key aspects:

communicating mathematically, exploring relationships and generalizing.

- communicating mathematically involves being active e.g. find a specified number then putting a counter on a number line
- exploring relationships involves looking at the relationships between numbers e.g. division is the inverse of multiplication
- generalizing is about developing key mathematical knowledge e.g. 6 of anything and 2 of anything will together, always make 8 things, whatever they are.

Inquiry /The Arts

- Through our Inquiry Theme of 'Connections – Place and Names', students will talk about a story from the past and explain how other people might tell it differently e.g. arriving to Te-Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington)
- Grandparents will be invited for a school picnic later in the term as part of our 'Connections' theme - Family Connections Event: Thursday 3 April at lunchtime
- Wadestown Mural Artist (Aidan Walbækken) will talk about the big ideas he has on display at the Wadestown Shops
- RNZ Ballet 'Dazzle Hands' will run free workshops at school on Monday 7 April and students will make connections to both the book and our local ballet company.

Physical Education (P.E) and Health

- Wellbeing and belonging will be a focus for this term.
- The students will experience P.E. through running, jumping & throwing and working collaboratively, through relays, games and skipping.
- Sports Day at Benburn Park Thursday 13 March

Te Reo

- Thursdays Mātua Alwyn will teach a half hour **Te Reo** lesson which will integrate learning with our Inquiry topic of 'Connections'
- Mātua Hemi will teach a half hour **Kapa Haka** session at midday on a Thursday
- Mihi Whakatau - please join us in welcoming our newest students.

Our Wadestown School Values

Our school values are “G-R-O-W”:

- Gratitude (Whakawhetai),
- Resilience (Manawaroa),
- Others (Whānaungatanga)
- Wonder (Mīharo)

Our GROW values are integrated throughout our classroom programmes and are also celebrated and discussed in our Weld Street Assemblies.



Homework

- Newstime: It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during newstime. This helps develop their oral language skills and helps students get to know one another.
- Reading and Poems: Students benefit from a daily time when they can read to their parents or a caregiver. This builds up their self-confidence and creates ‘reading mileage’, which is so important for children learning to read. Poems on a Friday help students develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme, and fun with words. They are perfect for practicing reading with expression.
- Writing and Handwriting: Students need to have authentic writing opportunities to practice their handwriting, e.g. writing their own birthday invitations or in cards.

Reminders

- Arrival at school - no students onsite before 8:30am. Prior to this, it is teachers’ time for planning and classroom organisation.
- If you have any parental concerns then please email your child’s teacher in the first instance and/or make a time to meet them.
- Your child needs to have a named school sunhat kept at school in their chair bag.
- Please apply sunscreen at home before school. Your child can reapply sunscreen during the day with a named roll on sunscreen (kept in their school bag).

Dates to Remember	
★	Tues 18 Feb : Meet the Teacher
★	Thurs 20 Feb: Mihi Whakatau
★	Mon 24 Feb: ‘Wet N’ Wild’ event
★	Movin March is coming
★	Thurs 13 March: Sports Day Benburn Park
★	Fri 21 March: Kāhui Ako Teacher Only Day - School closed
★	Thurs 3 April: Grandparents’ Day
★	Thurs 10 April: Te Ahumairangi Walk

We look forward to a wonderful term at Weld Street. 😊

Ngā mihi nui

Amanda Lamble, Room 1 (Pōhutukawa Team Leader)

amanda@wadestown.school.nz

Ali Clearwater, Room 3 ali@wadestown.school.nz

Joy Henderson, Room 4 joy@wadestown.school.nz

Angela Clarke, Early Literacy Teacher

angela@wadestown.school.nz

Robyn Grover, (DP Y1-4, Senco)

robyn@wadestown.school.nz

Pōhutukawa Team 2025 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 1	
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement</i>	\$100.00
Term 1 Sports Day trip with return bus fare to Karori	\$14.00
Term 1 Balance remaining	\$86.00