



January 2023

### **Team Roto Newsletter – Term 1, 2023**

Kia ora whānau

Welcome back to Te Paritō Kōwhai Russley School. We hope that you were able to relax over the break and enjoy some downtime. 2023 is going to be another busy year and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

#### **Meet Team Roto**

Team Roto has 5 classrooms again this year. Some of us have shifted rooms, and some have changed our last names. Here is our team.

**Tim Beckingham** (Room 7) - I am excited to be back in Room 7 this year. I like to keep a positive classroom where students can feel comfortable and confident in their learning. I am passionate about sports and enjoy playing football and the odd round of golf in my spare time. My wife and I have two children. Our daughter, Harper, is eight and our son, Kieran, is 5 and they both enjoy being part of Russley School. I am looking forward to getting the year started in Room 78.

**Amanda McDuff** (Room 8) - I am looking forward to being in Room 8 again this year. My partner and I were married over the summer break and we have just returned from an amazing honeymoon in Fiji. Although sad to leave the poolside, we were happy to be reunited with our gorgeous black labrador puppy, Stella. I am passionate about the arts, and I am excited to continue running Junior Choir and Jump Jam this year. I enjoy teaching literacy, specifically writing and phonics and I'm looking forward to getting Room 78 routines underway.

**Tammy Reen** (Room 11) - Kia ora whānau, this is my second year in Team Roto and I love it! I enjoy working with such a dynamic group of teachers who all bring different strengths and knowledge to the team. Within the classroom, I hope to create a space for creativity and curiosity where students want to know more about the world around them. Students learn to make connections, cooperate, and collaborate with each other to pose and solve problems together. I enjoy spending time outdoors and exploring beautiful Ōtautahi with my husband and doted-on dachshund named Peanut.

**Rachel Simmonds** (Room 12) Happy New Year, Russley whānau and welcome! I am looking forward to working with your tamariki this year. I am passionate about incorporating te reo Māori, the Arts, Social Sciences and ICT into everyday learning. Our classroom culture is built upon the values of whanaungatanga (warm, reciprocal relationships), manaakitanga (care and respect for others) and tangata whenuatanga (place-based education). I have two sons, Liam, 20 years old and working as a building apprentice, and Luke, 14 years old and in high school. Both boys are much taller than me! We also have a cavoodle named Bear. He is super cute but uses this to his advantage. I love exercising in nature and dinners out with friends and whānau.

**Andrea Robertson** (Room 13) - I am very excited to be teaching a Year 2/3 class within Team Roto again this year. I am passionate about literacy and in particular phonics, as I believe it is critical when developing early literacy skills. My husband and I have an energetic border collie and two daughters. Evie is Year 2 this year in Team Waka. Isla is 3 and already can't wait to join her big sister at school next year! Last year we moved house out to Waimairi Beach, so we spend most of our spare time biking or running around Bottle Lake, or popping over the sand dunes for a swim, body board or kite flying session! We spent three weeks in Hanmer over Summer where we frequently visited the pools and forest tracks.

### Learning Programme

Our beginning inquiry concept is **Ko Wai Tātou? Who Are We?** We will be exploring and thinking about ourselves, our homes, our school, and our greater community.

In Team Roto, we have daily fitness, and it is helpful if learners wear appropriate footwear that they can take off and put on by themselves.



### Home Learning - Reading

All children are encouraged to take home books from the school library or their book box that they can read for enjoyment and/or share their learning with you. The books may not be levelled or at their instructional level from school but a book that they can enjoy and experience success in. Sometimes they may choose a book that they need support with or may be long. With these books, we encourage you to talk about the pictures, read it to them or take turns to ensure reading time is successful and stress free.

Some students may also bring home instructional reading books. Please ensure that these are returned daily so that they are able to be reread at school the following day, or used with other students.

We also have a free online reading resource *Sunshine Reading Online* that your child can access. *Sunshine Reading* has books that are levelled to the NZ curriculum with activities to help with understanding the text. The link can also be found on our blog and accessed with

**Username:** russleyschool **Password:** school3496. There are also instructions on the *Sunshine Online* website about downloading the app.

*Epic!* is an amazing digital library that gives kids unlimited access to over 25,000 books, audio-books, and learning videos. It's personalised for your child and their interests, from animals and comics to DIY, science, and so much more. *Epic!* is easy to access anytime, anywhere - on your smartphone, iPad or computer. Families in our classrooms get 30 days FREE and an exclusive discount of \$5.99 per month for a limited time at [www.getepic.com/teacheroffer](http://www.getepic.com/teacheroffer). Plus, every time a family signs up for *Epic!* the class earns free books and supplies.

### Spelling Shed

In Team Roto we will continue to use the programme Spelling Shed. Spelling Shed is an interactive way for students to improve their spelling knowledge. Students will use this both at school and have access to use it at home. Please ask the teacher if you have questions or are having trouble logging into Spelling Shed.



### Maths

This year Team Roto will continue using the online maths programme *Mathletics* because it is an excellent programme that targets a child's specific needs. This will be the major option for home learning in maths, it will also make up a component of in-class learning. At home, maths can be supported in multiple ways from; baking, playing cards (adding/subtracting cards), time, skip counting, reading numbers you see, etc.

## Library Days

Please encourage your child to keep their library books in a library bag and bring it to school on their class's library day (to be confirmed once school starts back).

## Sharing Our Learning

Russley School will continue to use EDUCA to report and share our learning. This will also be a portal for messaging so please check for updates. Learners EDUCA profiles will continue over from last year and new profiles will be created for students new to the school. If you are experiencing problems with this, please contact your classroom teacher.

## Team Roto Events

Listed here are some of the events Team Roto has on this term.

- Meet-the-teacher Interviews - Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st January
- Waitangi Day - Monday 6th February
- Team Roto Fun Day - Monday 6th March
- Whole School Swimming Sports - Wednesday 8th March
- Good Friday - Friday 7th April



## Hats, Drink Bottle and Uniform

Please ensure your child brings their wide-brimmed navy-blue sunhat to school every day, and that it is named. Hats are compulsory this term. If students do not have a hat, they are restricted to playing under the sunshade at morning tea and lunch.

***Please encourage your child to bring to class, daily, a named drink bottle containing only water.***

## Headphones

In Team Roto we use Chromebooks and iPads for learning, so all students require their own headphones (named). Retailers such as The Warehouse have economical options. It is important these are clearly named.

## Keeping in Touch

Don't hesitate to ask if you require information or have anything important you would like us to know to support your child and their learning. You can contact your classroom teacher by email.

Nga mihi nui

## Team Roto Teaching Team

Tim Beckingham (Team Leader) Room 7 [tim.beckingham@russley.school.nz](mailto:tim.beckingham@russley.school.nz)  
Amanda McDuff, Room 8 [amanda.mcduff@russley.school.nz](mailto:amanda.mcduff@russley.school.nz)  
Tammy Reen, Room 11 [tammy.reen@russley.school.nz](mailto:tammy.reen@russley.school.nz)  
Rachel Simmonds, Room 12 [rachel.simmonds@russley.school.nz](mailto:rachel.simmonds@russley.school.nz)  
Andrea Robertson, Room 13 [andrea.robertson@russley.school.nz](mailto:andrea.robertson@russley.school.nz)