

January 2023

Team Waka Newsletter – Term 1, 2023

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome to 2023. We hope you had a relaxing break with family and friends. We can't wait to hear what the children have been up to. Welcome to new students and families. We look forward to you joining Team Waka and the Russley community.



Team Waka

- **Room 18 - Pene Cooley (Year 0/1)**
- **Room 19 – Annette Ward (Year 0/1)**
- **Room 15 - Sophie Lennon (Year 1/2)**
- **Room 16 - Fiona De Wit (Year 1/2)**
- **Room 17 - Derryn McFetridge (Year 1/2)**

Supporting our team, we also have teachers:

- **Kathryn Clare (Tuesdays in Room 16)**
- **Nikki Nicholls (Fridays in Room 17)**



Reminders

- **Hats**

Please remember that wide-brimmed hats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Children who do not have a hat will have their play area restricted to keep them in the shade. Please make sure hats are the wide-brimmed variety and are named.



- **Uniform**

Please ensure clothing items are clearly named. Students need to wear shoes that are suitable for running and outdoor games, and which they can take off and put on, independently.

- **Food and drink**

Children are encouraged to bring a named drink-bottle to school (containing water only) that they may have in the classroom with them. They need to bring a full lunch box with enough food for a carb. break in the morning (for example a sandwich, crackers or vegetables), plus morning tea and lunch. We encourage healthy food options with minimal packaging, where possible.



- **No Toys**

A reminder to please leave toys at home unless invited by your class teacher. If a child has something special to share, an option is to email a photo.

Important Term 1 dates

- **Waitangi holiday** Monday 6 February
- **School photos** Wednesday 22 February
- **Years 1-4 Swimming Sports** Wednesday 8 March
- **Good Friday** 7 April

Learning Programmes

- **Literacy**

Reading and writing is at the core of our teaching and learning. Children will take part in a wide variety of experiences such as shared reading, small groups, poetry, singing, writing in a variety of genres and oral language.



Children will take home a book that they can read for enjoyment and/or share their learning with you. The books will be at a level that they can read on their own, enjoy and experience success in. Please note they also may not always have a new book every day; they may reread a previous book, choose something from their browsing box, or bring home a high interest book that they will read together with you. Please ensure these are brought back to school for the following day to ensure we have enough resources to teach from.

- **Numeracy**

Our maths program continues to be based around number knowledge and strategy work, taught in both small groups and whole class settings. Learning is based around lots of hands-on activities and use of materials to instil confidence and curiosity.

- **Inquiry**

Our beginning inquiry concept is **ko wai ra - who we are**. We will be exploring ideas about ourselves, our homes, our school and wider community. We are also looking at Te Tiriti o Waitangi as part of our NZ histories curriculum.

- **Strand Maths: Statistics**

Students will learn about collecting and analysing data and making simple graphs.

- **Physical Education - Team Games**

We will focus on learning a variety of team games the children can play together in class or on the playground. We also have our swimming sports coming up in week 6 of term 1.

- **Arts**

We hope to run an arts interchange later this term, covering drama, music and dance.



Developmental

Developmental will continue to be run on Friday afternoons. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to participate in a wide variety of activities that support curriculum learning and assist to develop their understanding of the Russley dispositions. The sessions are student-directed and cater to a huge variety of needs and interests. Teachers may also take small groups for extra opportunities at this time.

We look forward to welcoming your children to school and greeting new friends. Do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

Ngā mihi nui

Team Waka Teachers

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