



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Wha 2023

13 October 2023

Tena koutou katoa nga Matua me nga Kaitiaki,
Greetings to all Parents and Whānau,

It's hard to believe we are already in term four. The children can be proud of their efforts and learning last term; we certainly are. We were particularly impressed with their persuasive writing, and enjoyed exploring decision-making and perspective-taking through our social science focus. To conclude the topic of our election, this week our tamariki had an opportunity to participate in a mock election through 'Kids Voting' - an initiative run by the electoral commission. We look forward to comparing our Whanake results with those of the general election next week.

We have a number of exciting events planned for this term, please note the key dates above, as well as some additional information about our ballet workshops and performance, zoo sleepovers and rogainé below.

Hansel & Gretel (Royal NZ Ballet)

On Friday 27th October, Whanake and Whānui students have the opportunity to attend a special school performance of the RNZB production 'Hansel and Gretel'. This is taking place at the St James Theatre, and we will need parents to accompany us on this trip. **If you can help with this, please contact your child's teacher.** In the lead-up to this, our children will be taking part in workshops with dance tutors from the RNZB, where they will learn some ballet techniques, as well as some of the choreography from Hansel and Gretel. These workshops will be taking place at school on October 19th.

There is a charge of \$30, which covers the ballet workshop, entry to the performance, and transport to and from the St James Theatre. This cost will be added to your child's statement.

Zoo Sleepovers

Excitement levels are already high for our sleepovers at the zoo. Our sleepovers begin with each class meeting together at **7:00pm** outside Wellington Zoo's main entrance, and finish with us returning to school the following day by 11:30am. During the Zoo Sleepover, the children will get out and about in the zoo to see what happens behind the scenes after the visitors have gone. If your child hasn't yet spent a night away from home before, or you are unsure how they might feel about this trip, you might like to consider setting up a couple of sleep-over 'practice runs' with their friends before our zoo trip. If you have not done so already, please return your child's permission slip to their teacher.

Rogainé

Whanake's rogainé event is on Wednesday 13th December (Week 10), in the Botanic Gardens. This team-building, map reading, walking/jogging/running and clue-finding event has been an end-of-year fixture at KNS for a number of years now, and is very popular. However, to run this event we need adult helpers. Each adult helper will lead a group of children from clue to clue. If you can help, please let your child's teacher know

Key dates this term

17 October - Whole School Athletics

18, 19, & 24 October - 3-way Goal Review Conversations

27 October - Hansel & Gretel Ballet

31 October - Year 3 Sports Festival

2-3 November - Whanake Bishop Zoo Sleepover

9-10 November - Whanake Blair & Harper Zoo Sleepover

28 November - Musical Refreshment

6 December - Celebration of Learning

13 December - Rogainé and Garden Picnic

as soon as possible. Ideally, we are looking for 6 adults per class to help out. This event starts at school at 9am, and we will finish with a picnic lunch in the Dell, returning to school by 1pm.

Parent Help & PTA

We would like to thank all of the parents who have helped this year by putting our reading books away on a regular basis. This really is a huge help. If this is something you are able to help with in term four, please email (agudsell@hotmail.com). A special thanks to Andrea for coordinating this throughout the year.

The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki; this is a great way to get involved with our school community. If you would like to find out more, you can contact pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

What are we learning this term?

'A Carnival of Animals'



This term, our integrated unit of study will be focused on the living world, as we learn about different animals and how they live and survive. Alongside this, we will be learning about endangerment factors, the ecosystem, and different conservation efforts. This will link closely to our zoo sleepovers, and we will incorporate mathematics as we design our own zoos. We will finish the year reflecting on and celebrating our learning, and how we have grown and changed throughout the year.

Literacy

Linked closely to our integrated topic, we will explore report writing. Children will also be writing narrative stories, expressive recounts and poetry. Reading opportunities will be varied, with teacher-directed (reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment). This will be integrated across all areas of the curriculum. Children will be researching and reading for information, reading for meaning, and understanding a range of texts. We will continue encouraging fluency, expression, and reading punctuation to enhance comprehension. For Chapter Chat, we will be delving into the newly released 'The Wild Robot Protects', by Peter Brown. The children are highly invested in the characters from 'The Wild Robot' series, and we look forward to discovering what happens in this third instalment.

We are continuing to use the 'Wordlab' scope and sequence for our spelling and phonics programme. This links directly with our home learning activities. Children will also be practising their handwriting skills regularly, and we will continue to incorporate cursive writing within this programme in term four.

Mathematics

We are beginning the term with four weeks exploring fractions, before moving into measurement. This will link closely to our zoo inquiry, as we explore units of measurement and area. Maths lessons are structured with a range of whole-class rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. Our topics this term provide plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning experiences, too. The NZ Maths website is a useful resource if you would like ideas about how to support your child's learning at home ([NZ Maths Families & Whanau](#)). To finish the term, we will focus on algebra (patterns and relationships).

Physical Education

Our school-wide athletics day is in week two, and we will begin the term by revisiting the skills we learnt last term across each of the athletics areas (high jump, quoits, vortex, long jump and sprints). Following this, we will be focusing on cooperative games and sportspersonship. Alongside this, each home learning team runs a daily fitness programme.

Innov8

Innov8 is a weekly highlight for our tamariki, where they have the opportunity to work together across our ara, and learn through an exploratory and playful context. We use these sessions to focus on our Key Competencies, and each week, the children have a goal to focus on that relates to this. Underpinning innov8 activities are a focus on STEM-based and/or creative provocations, as well as opportunities for children to reinforce their skills in mathematics, digital technology and literacy.



Art

This term, the children will explore printmaking through various media and mediums. As part of this, we are looking for textured materials that we could use (e.g. textured wallpaper samples, bottle caps or corks). We look forward to sharing our creations with you.

Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, we will be focusing on building our knowledge of day-to-day kupu, as well as building our language knowledge using the sentence structure 'He aha tenei?' ('What is this?'). Each home learning team will have a weekly Te Reo Māori session with Matua Jeremy, where we will be focusing on these skills. Children are also encouraged to opt-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, which takes place weekly on Tuesdays from 1.45-2.15pm.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to come home in the same format. This consists of three main parts: home reading, spelling practice, and mathematics. The children will bring home their home learning notebooks on Mondays, and these are collected for marking on Fridays. Alongside this, children are encouraged to utilise their 'Maths Whizz' log in to support and consolidate your child's mathematical learning.

We strongly encourage children to read at home everyday. Children bring home reading books from school, which may be a book they have read in class, or a 'browsing box book' they have chosen. We know often children have books they are reading at home, which they may prefer to read instead. We encourage you to access the local community libraries with your child to choose extra personal reading material.

We know our children lead busy out-of-school lives. For this reason, out-of-school activities are perfectly acceptable to count as home learning during the week. Please rest assured there are no consequences for children not completing home learning.

Ensemble Groups

Our ensemble groups are a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to develop their musical and performance skills. This term, these groups will be working towards our musical refreshment as a celebratory conclusion to a successful year.

Tui Choir: 9-9.30am on Wednesdays, for all children in year 3.

Piccolo Choir: The children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) for the Piccolo choir at 8:30am on a Wednesday. This choir is for children in years 4-6.

Xylobeats: 8.30-9.30am on Mondays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 4-6 students.


Little Xylofun: 8.30-9.00am on Fridays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 2-3 students

Junior Kapa Haka: 1.45-2.15pm on Tuesdays.



Housekeeping

- Sun Hats: The New Zealand sun is fierce. In terms one and four, children are required to wear wide-brimmed hats when learning or playing outdoors. Please remind your child to check they have their hat each day. We also encourage tamariki to come to school with sunscreen, and to reapply this during the day.

- **Lost Property:** It is crucial to have all clothing, lunchboxes and drink bottles named so lost items may be reunited quickly with its owner. Encourage your children to look for their missing clothing as soon as it is lost. If clothing cannot be reunited with its owner, it may end up in the school lost property located in the link.
- **Borrowing Books:** Our library day in Whanake is Thursdays. Children are encouraged to browse and issue two books each week. This is an opportunity for children to self-select their reading material, and explore a range of different text types and authors (as well as enjoying familiar favourites).
- **Seesaw:** Throughout the term, your child and their teacher will be sharing aspects of their learning using the SeeSaw platform. Often these posts are initiated and created by your child, and reflect their interests and what has excited them in their learning. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.  by
- **Communication:** Alongside this newsletter, you will receive twice-termly Whanake-wide updates, sharing our current teaching and learning focuses. All newsletters are shared via the school app, and this is also where we will communicate about upcoming events or activities.

Getting in touch

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address (brookeh, marianneb, sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz). If you wish to talk about your child's learning at any stage of the term, your child's teacher will be happy to arrange a meeting.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,
Marianne, Brooke, and Sophie (Team Leader)