



Kelburn Normal School

Te Ara Whanake Term One Newsletter

Te Ara = pathway and Whanake = grow upwards, move onwards

12 February 2021

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

A warm welcome to all the new and returning families to Te Ara Whanake. This year our teaching team consists of Kayleigh Peach (Whanake Peach), Greta de Vries (Whanake de Vries), and we welcome Joelle Clark (Whanake Clark) to our team. Tamariki will be familiar with Mrs Clark as she is already a well-known and friendly face around our school in her previous role as our school's ELL and International Students' Coordinator. We feel lucky to have such a strong team of capable, collaborative teachers for the year ahead.

What a positive start to the year we have had so far, with tamariki enthusiastically sharing their creative ideas with each other and catching up on holiday news. All teams are hard at work making decisions about how they are going to work together to build a strong, supportive team. Keep an eye out on Seesaw for our Whanake treaty created and shaped by our tamariki.



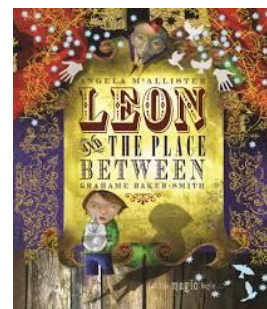
Ready for a wonderful year ahead!

What are we learning this term?

We are beginning the year with a focus on "All about me", exploring who we are, where we come from, what makes us good learners, and where we would like our learning to take us this year. This is a good time to focus on the Key Competency of how we manage ourselves, our belongings

in the Whanake learning area, as well as the wider school, and making good decisions about our learning.

As the term continues, we will delve into our integrated unit for the term, 'World of Wonder.' This unit will be based around the book *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister. Through the creative process of drama, tamariki will be taken on a journey into the mysterious world of the Place Between.



Science

To start the year, tamariki will be encouraged to explore the nature of science as they ask themselves, *what is science and how do scientists work?* They will be taking part in a variety of science investigations that have an element of wonder to spark questions (*I wonder why...*) and the sharing of ideas about the science taking place. As the term continues, we will delve into the science behind melting and dissolving.

Literacy

Our first literary topic will be focussed around writing about 'first-hand experiences'. Storytelling is something we all do naturally, starting at a young age, but there's a difference between good storytelling and great storytelling! The children will be writing, planning, inventing, and drawing out their interesting ideas to become great storytellers.



Children will also be reading each day a wide variety of different texts, with teachers focusing on the two domains of reading- learning to read, and reading to learn. Our shared novel to start the year is *'The Wild Robot'*, a favourite by Peter Brown. Reading and writing opportunities are also integrated across all areas of the curriculum, which means children could be researching for information, and writing about their understanding of a range of texts in a wider range of topics and interest areas.

Mathematics

We begin the year with revisiting our place value and basic facts knowledge. We will be revisiting old favourite games, and establishing routines for maths learning. As the weeks progress, we will focus on revising and extending each child's number knowledge and the strategies they are using, as well as them sharing their thinking clearly with partners and group members. Later in the term, we will be focusing on probability as we consider the possible outcomes of events.

Physical Education

We start the year taking opportunities for fun games to help develop team spirit and a positive vibe within our teams. On Thursday of Week 2, we begin our swimming lessons at Karori Pool these will continue weekly until the Thursday of Week 8. Later in



and the

term, the school cross country will have us outside (as the weather allows) increasing our fitness levels as we practice distance running.

Home Learning

Home learning consists of three main parts:- home reading, spelling practise, and mathematics. The children will take home their folders home on a Monday and we encourage children to return their folder to school every morning. This allows children to practise their phonic activities or spelling words during classroom time. If the home learning book is left at home, then your child misses this opportunity. Teachers may also wish to check the home learning book on a Friday for messages from home. Quick notes in the home learning folder save the need to email!

Our children lead very busy out-of-school lives. For this reason, it is perfectly acceptable for out-of-school activities to count as home learning during the week. All that is required is that the activity is recorded in the spaces where the ticks would normally go or in the comment section. You decide how much home learning your child does or does not complete during the week. Please rest assured there are no consequences for children not completing home learning. A full overview of home learning will be placed at the front of each child's home learning folder which will be sent home at the **start of Week 4.**



Borrowing Books

Children will have access to library books each day! We keep a wide selection of chapter and picture books in the Whanake space for children to read at any time. Each Friday, children will have a set time to borrow any books they wish to take home. This is an opportunity for children to select their own reading material for daily own choice reading and for home reading too. At the start of the year, the teachers may support your child (where needed) to make their choice of books.

You can help your child make good book choices by talking to them about what books *you* read and why *you* choose them, as well as taking them to the public library to select a wider range of books. Remember the five finger rule: your child reads the first page of the book, every time they get a word wrong they put up a finger. When they get to the bottom of the page, if they have four or fewer fingers up they should be able to read the book, if they have five it may be too difficult. This is just a rough guide.

SeeSaw

Students will soon begin posting snapshots of their learning to Seesaw. Seesaw allows children to share their learning with a wider audience and they especially love being able to share with you! Seesaw is private; you'll only see posts created by your child. This term we will focus on showing and encouraging children on how to make meaningful comments to each other's post. We also encourage parents to post to their child's journal as well.

Sun Smart And "Summer" Weather

Children need to wear **sun smart** clothing including hats and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking if they have a brimmed hat in their bag, or provide one they can leave at school. Please check that your child has a full water bottle each day as we are encouraging the children to drink water to keep their minds focused.

Tui Choir

Tui Choir takes place each Wednesday morning where we start the day by singing with ALL our year 2 and 3 children. All children in year 3 will be joining for fun times by flying along at 9.00am!

Piccolo Choir

For the Piccolo choir, the children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) at 8:30am on a Wednesday. This choir is for the year 4 - 6 if they would like to join.



Xylofun and Little Xylofun

Xylofun will take place each Monday morning in the Mahler room, it too starts at 8.30 am. Xylofun is for the year 4 students if they would like to join. Little Xylofun will take place each Friday from 8.30 am until 9.00 am in the Mahler room. This is for our year 3 students if they would like to join.

Housekeeping

- We remind and encourage children to wash their hands before eating at morning tea and lunchtime, using the large sink area at the back of the big Whanake space. We hope that you may also encourage your child to remember this- wherever they might be.
- Lost Property: It is crucial to have all clothing named so that it may be reunited with its owner quickly. 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.
- Beginning of the school day: When the bell rings at 8.30, children are invited into Whanake to prepare for the school day. Before this time, teachers are in meetings, preparing resources for the day, or engaging in professional development opportunities and children are expected to wait outside or, on wet or cold days, in the Link. Please, as much as possible, delay your child's arrival at school until after 8.30am.
- Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and run around a lot. Hair ties kept at school in the pencil case are often useful if a child has long hair.

Getting in touch

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address (kayleighp, joellec, gretad@[kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:kayleighp,joellec,gretad@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 talk with you - however, please be aware that Monday, Tuesday after school, and Thursdays before school, are usually staff meeting times. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Nga mihi nui,
Joelle, Kayleigh, and Greta (Team Leader)