



Te Ara Whanake Term Two Newsletter

Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Rua 2023

28 April 2023

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

What a positive start to the year term one was. The teachers, were particularly impressed with the leadership shown by our year fours, and the manaakitanga tamariki showed one another.

A few highlights from term one include learning about the human skeleton, our chapter chat novel 'The Wild Robot', and building our swimming skills and confidence at the pool.

The children have quickly settled into the new school term, with routines and team cultures now firmly established. We incorporated a number of assessment activities into the first term's programme, and the Whanake teachers have a strong understanding of where your child is at, and where they need to focus on next.

Communication

We value ongoing communication with you, as an integral part of supporting your child's learning journey.

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. Our intention is that these will provide an insight into what is happening at school, and provide some discussion points for home. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.



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. When communicating about your child's individual learning, their teacher will email you directly. We endeavour to respond to emails promptly, however, please be aware that during school hours, our focus is with the children. If you would like to meet and discuss your child, please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher to arrange a time.

Parent Help & PTA

Thank you very much to all those who help with putting our reading books away, it is much appreciated. A special thanks to Andrea for coordinating this.

This term, we have the opportunity to attend the NZSO Pick-a-Path in Concert, at 11am on Wednesday 31 May. For this trip, we will require parent helpers from each home learning team. We will be departing from school at 10.15am, and returning by 12.30pm. If you are able to help, please email sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz. The donation request for this exciting activity is \$5:50.

Key dates this term

9 May - Swimming Sports (Karori Pool)

31 May - NZSO pick-a-path concert (MFC)

Class Play Sharing:

21 June, 12pm - Whanake Bishop

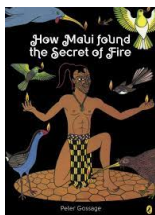
21 June, 2pm - Whanake Blair

22 June, 2pm - Whanake Harper

28 June - Celebration of Learning (3.15-5.30pm)

Our school PTA team do a fantastic job supporting our tamariki through events, working bees and fundraisers. If you are interested in getting involved, you can contact them at pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz, or come along to their first meeting at 7pm on May 15th.

What are we learning this term?



This term, our major focus is on our team drama, as we explore the question “How do people respond when tricks are played on them”, through the lens of a traditional tale; ‘How Maui brought fire to the world’. Using process drama, each home learning team will devise our own play, which we look forward to sharing with you in week nine. This focus will link closely with our literacy units, where we will explore characterisation, plot, setting and perspective. We will also use this context to explore te ao Māori.

Science

This term, our science focus takes us into the material world, as we explore things that harden, slime and ooze, and discover the different properties of matter and factors that determine this. We will be predicting, investigating and observing through a range of different experiments; keep an eye out on SeeSaw to hear more about our discoveries.

Literacy

With a particular emphasis on developing their dramatic capability, children will be learning how to communicate ideas to an audience in a variety of different ways. They will also be writing character descriptions, poetry, reports, narrative stories, and engage in informal debates about all sorts of topics. 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 to encourage fluency, expression, and reading punctuation to enhance comprehension levels. For Chapter Chat, we will be continuing to follow Roz’s journey with ‘The Wild Robot Escapes’, by Peter Brown.



Our spelling and phonics programme will continue, using the ‘Wordlab’ scope and sequence. This links directly with our home learning activities. Children will also be practising their handwriting skills on a regular basis.

Cultural Experiences

This term, in week 5, we will get to enjoy a Strike Percussion performance in our hall. This interactive, high-energy show introduces a broad range of modern percussion styles from around the world. A donation request of \$7 is asked for this performance. Also in week 5, the Playhouse Theatre will be coming into school to present their latest show, Treasure Island. A donation of \$5 is requested for this performance. In week 6, we will be heading down to the Michael Fowler Centre to see the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra perform a pick-a-path concert. **Parent help is required for this trip, if you are able to join us on the day, please email your child's HLT teacher.** A donation request of \$5.50 is asked for this performance. These donation requests will be added to your child’s statement.

Mathematics

Our mathematical focus for the first seven weeks of term is number knowledge, number strategies and problem-solving, with particular reference to addition and subtraction. Maths lessons are structured with a range of whole-class rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. The NZ Maths website is a useful resource if you would like ideas around how to support your child's learning at home ([NZ](https://www.nzmaths.com/)

[Maths Families & Whanau](#)). To finish the term, we will focus on geometry and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Physical Education

This term, we will be focusing on ball skills through playing team games with an emphasis on developing passing skills, as well as those important skills essential to working together as a team. We will also be exploring balance and flexibility through gymnastics. To support this learning, we will be having two sports days at the Akau tangi Sports centre, where children will participate in 45min rotations focusing on gymnastics, futsal and ball skills. The dates for these are **Thursday 8th June** and **Thursday 15th June**. Children will be travelling by bus (departing at 10.40pm and returning by 3pm). There is a donation request of \$20 for these sessions, which will be added to your child's statement.

We also have our school swimming sports at Karori Pool in week 3 (Tuesday May 9th). All year 3/4 tamariki will participate in fun races in the teaching pool, and children will also have the opportunity to sign up for competitive races in the 25m pool. At the start of week 2, your child will bring home with them a list of the events that they have self-selected to enter into swimming sports. Please take a moment to discuss this list with your child. If you feel your child may have selected an event beyond their current swimming ability, please let your child's teacher know via email as soon as you can.

Innov8

We will be continuing to run innov8 on Monday mornings, with a slight time change to (9.30-10.45am). Innov8 is an opportunity for the children to work together across our ara, and learn through an exploratory and playful context. 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. Each week, we will have a key goal relating to one of the Key Competencies (managing self, relating to others, using text, symbols and language, thinking, and participation), which the children will reflect on together in their home learning teams at the end of the session.

Art

Our visual art focus this term is mixed media. We will be exploring how we can use a range of mediums and materials to create effect, and look forward to sharing our masterpieces with you.



Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, each home learning team will have weekly Te Reo Māori sessions with Jeremy, our Te Reo Kaiako. Later in the term, we will be exploring the celebration of Matariki. Children are also encouraged to opt-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, which takes place weekly on Tuesdays from 1.45-2.15pm. We look forward to the first junior kapa haka performance later this term.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to come home in the same format as last term. This consists of three main parts: home reading, spelling practise, and mathematics. The children will bring home their home learning notebook on a Monday, and we encourage children to return this to school in their book bag every day. This allows children to practise phonetic activities or spelling words during classroom time. Teachers will mark the home learning book on a Friday and check for any messages from home. Alongside this, children are encouraged to utilise their 'Maths Whizz' log in to support and consolidate your child's mathematical learning.

Our children lead very 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.

Borrowing Books

We keep a wide selection of chapter and picture books in the Whanake space for children to read anytime.



Each Friday, children will have a set time to borrow two books they wish to take home. This is an opportunity for children to select their reading material for daily independent reading and home reading too. 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 from a wider range of books.

Ensemble Groups

Tui Choir: Tui Choir takes place each Wednesday morning, where we start the day by singing with all of our year 2 and 3 children. All children in year 3 will join for fun by flying along at 9.00am!

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 the year 4 - 6 if they want to join.

Xylobeats and Little Xylofun: Xylofun will take place each Monday morning in the Mahler room, it too starts at 8.30am. Xylobeats 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.



Junior Kapa Haka: This takes place on Tuesdays from 1.15-1.45pm, and is for years 1-4.

Our Whanake students play an important role as the leaders in this roopu. The children practise a range of waiata and haka, building to 2-3 performances across the year.

Housekeeping

- Toys: Thank you for your support in keeping toys and trading cards at home.
- Lost Property: It is crucial to have all clothing, lunchboxes and drink bottles named so they 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.
- Beginning of the school day: When the bell rings at 8.30am, 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. 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 8.30am.
- Footwear: Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and often run around. During the winter terms, children may like to have slippers at school to wear while indoors.
- Break Times: the children have two 10-minute eating times, at 11am and 1pm, as well as a 'brain food' snack break at 10am. Children are encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables for their brain food break. It may be helpful to discuss with your child how they might distribute their lunch across the day.

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 talk with you. We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

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