



*Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence preparing for lifelong learning  
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa*

## **Te Ara Tupu Newsletter Term Tahī 2023**

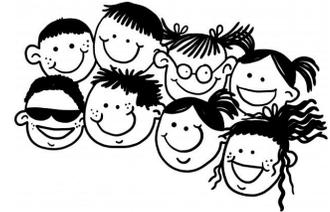
*Te Ara = pathway and Tupu = beginning and developing*

**Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi**

**Everybody has something to offer, a piece of the puzzle, and by working together we can all flourish.**

10 February 2023

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,  
Welcome to Term One.



Welcome back to an exciting new school year. It is lovely to meet the tamariki and to see the children reconnecting with their friends and making new connections after the long holiday.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families that have joined Te Ara Tupu or the Tupu Team for short, or are about to join us. What an action-packed term we have. We wanted to share with you what is ahead.

A special welcome to Emily Wilby to our Tupu team. She has jumped in with her adult feet and a 'can do' attitude to this new adventure. Andrea, Ali, and I are pleased to have her as part of our team.

### **Pick Up and Drop Off**

When you arrive in our school building and step into Te Ara Tupu, you will see that there are four main areas. Our learning space is open at 8:30am, and the bell to start learning goes at 8:50am. There will be numerous school children in these areas, as well as mums and dads, and preschoolers. We do ask that you leave before the bell goes at 8:50am. At the end of the day, there are several spaces where you can wait for your children. Please do not come inside the building to wait. All Tupu tamariki this term will be leaving from the side doors in our space. We would also appreciate it if you didn't stand against the glass, as this makes it tricky for us to see everyone. We welcome all parents and families to come in after school if you want to see work, or talk to us; however, please wait until we have let all the children go. This is normally a few minutes after the bell has gone.



### **Curriculum Topic**

We start the term with SUPER HERO ME, a topic spanning several curriculum areas. This is to give meaningful connections to the children's learning. We will be focussing on what makes us strong in different ways. This unit incorporates learning in PE and health, social science, English and the arts. We have been discussing our

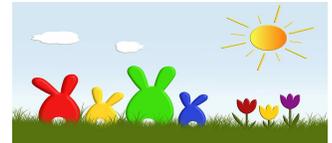


responsibilities in the team and shared area, at home, and how to work together and share. Throughout this investigation, we will establish our routines and positive behaviour expectations for the year.

Our major topic for the term has a science focus. This is based around the physical world, where tamariki will explore and investigate physical phenomena in everyday situations while understanding why and how different materials float and sink. We will be using our developing knowledge, technology skills and problem-solving to develop our own waka. We look forward to the upcoming launch, which we will capture on Seesaw.



We will finish the term celebrating Easter. We will be asking for parent help in the class to support these fun activities closer to the time.



### **Mathematics and Statistics**

We have started with a three-week introduction to statistics, focusing on data collection and graphs.



Next, we will be working on numeracy with a focus on number knowledge and developing addition and subtraction strategies. A major focus in this area is being able to orally explain how to work out and solve a problem and share mathematical knowledge. Encouraging these discussions at home would greatly support our classroom programme. When children are able to articulate their mathematical thinking, they become more confident in being problem solvers.

To complete this term, a measurement unit will focus on weight and capacity. Don't forget to check out the webpage [www.nzmaths.co.nz](http://www.nzmaths.co.nz); click on the 'Families' heading. You will find excellent support materials and activities to play with your family at home.

### **Literacy**

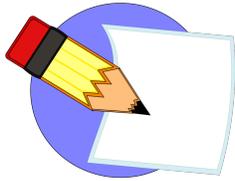
Your child will bring a reading book home every night, Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, your child will bring home their poetry book to share the week's poem, and actions that may go along with it. They can also re-read their favourite poems. A library book that your child has chosen will come home on Friday too. Sometimes your child may choose a reading book to bring home. This could be a book that they have brought home before. The purpose of this is to develop student choice, fluency, and expression when reading.



We know every effort is made in your busy lives to make time to fit in this important reading; the more children read, the better they get. Please remember

to fill in the children's yellow home reading book, as the teachers do value your feedback and input.

Structured Literacy through the *Better Start Literacy Approach* will continue this year for both Year 1 and 2 tamariki. We will hold whānau meetings throughout the year and, where appropriate, weekly ways to support literacy learning information on Seesaw.



For writing this term, we are working on personal and expressive recounts, and descriptive writing too. This ties in with our integrated units of work. Children will also have regular handwriting sessions focusing on correct pencil grip, forming lower-case, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly.

### **Home Learning**

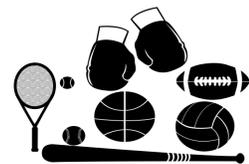
Evidence-based research supports our reflection and investigation into home learning. This year home learning will be reading, poetry, and ways to support your child through the BSLA parent activity sheets that are sent home weekly on Seesaw, starting in week 3. Starting in week 2 will be a mathematics activity sheet - Maths Alive - related to the topics covered in class. This will be sent home when we start a new learning area. Both these information sheets are designed for you to pick and choose as many or as few learning experiences as will work for your family.

### **Te Reo**

This term, Tupu is joining Jeremy, our kapa haka teacher, for half an hour of waiata. We also endeavour to make our day interwoven with te reo through instructions, names, and numbers and developing our pepeha. Under the confident guidance of kaiako Emily and Jeremy, we come together for our weekly Kapa Haka.

### **Physical Education**

We value sports, games, and skill development. A big focus this term is to develop and improve our running, jumping, and throwing abilities. Not only does every class have a fitness programme and P.E. skills sessions weekly, but we are also coming together as a syndicate for various physical activities. Daily fitness activities take different forms, focusing on moving using a selection of activities. This depends on space availability, so at times, fitness is in the hall, outside, or using music and movement with the screen to add variety to the activities.



### **The Arts**

In visual art, we will explore the use of colour, detail, form, and composition in the children's artworks related to our topic studies.

Through music, the children will listen, and learn to respond to changes in tempo, tone, and dynamics. We will also be encouraging all children to join in with singing.

## **Discovery Time and putting books away**

If you are interested in helping out by putting books away, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact Andrea if you are free to help us. We also look forward to having whānau working with us at Discovery Time on Fridays. Please contact your child's teacher so we can book you into the roster.

## **Mahi Nga Tahī**

Every Monday, we have an investigation and inquiry learning time from 9 am to 10:30 am. This session is called Mahi Nga Tahī, which means collaboration work. In these sessions, the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, and dive deeper into their wonderings. This is a great opportunity to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is that children can learn from each other as they investigate their questions and interests. This is also a vehicle for the children to develop their digital technology skills, knowledge, and language.

**Tui Choir-** He waka eke noa- "A canoe that we are all on together." Ali Laing is looking forward to welcoming all the children in Year 2 and 3 from the Whanake team and Tupu Molloy and Wilby team back to Tui Choir for another term of joyful singing in a weekly session.

## **SeeSaw**

SeeSaw is now live for our families and whanau. The children love posting their work for you to see what is happening during the day with their learning. We have lots of interesting ideas about what to post and share this term, and no doubt the children will have too. We are also all enjoying reading your feedback so please continue to share this on your child's SeeSaw, as this creates a strong connection between home and school. You should have already received a QR code to access this year's Seesaw. If your QR code doesn't work, or you have trouble logging on, come and see us, and we will make it happen.

## **Helpful reminders**

Summer is certainly here; the children need to wear sun-smart clothing, including hats and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking if they have a hat in their bag or one they can leave at school. The school policy is that all children wear a brimmed hat. No caps, please. Children are responsible for putting their own sunblock on – the roll-on kind seems to be the most manageable.

All the teachers encourage the children to work towards independence, and we would appreciate your help too. However, please don't let this stop you from coming in and touching base with us, as we enjoy seeing you and sharing with you what your child has been achieving. So you may wish to choose a day with your child when you can come into our learning spaces in the



morning, or after school. Spend this time with your child so they can share and explain what learning they have been doing, including reading their storywriting book to you.

The children are encouraged to take responsibility for carrying their own school bag to and from school and for putting their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings. The older children are encouraged to say goodbye to their parents at the gate, and walk into school by themselves. And our younger children are working towards saying goodbye to our parents outside the school foyer or the sliding door into our space.

As you know, we are a 'no shoes inside' school, so slippers and socks or bare feet are welcome. It is important that your children wear shoes to school so that they can get off and on by themselves. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, including lunch boxes and drink bottles.

We use many different materials in arts/crafts and Discovery Time, so if you have things such as boxes, ice cream containers etc we would like them. Ask your class teacher what they might need if you are unsure.

Come and see your child's class teacher if you have any questions or things you would like to celebrate. We look forward to working alongside you in your child's best interests.

Ngā mihi nui- from the Tupu teaching team

Andrea, Emily, Ali, and Susie

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