



# Te Ara Whanake Term One Newsletter

10 February 2023

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

A warm welcome to all the new and returning families to Te Ara Whanake. Te Ara refers to the pathway of learning, and Whanake; growing upwards and moving onwards. This year our teaching team consists of Marianne Blair (Whanake Blair), Brooke Harper (Whanake Harper), and Sophie Bishop (Whanake Bishop). Many of the tamariki will be familiar with Miss Bishop and Mrs Blair from their time in Tupu, and Ms Harper from Whanake last year.

What a positive start to the year we have had so far. It has been lovely to see the children reconnecting with their peers and building new friendships in their home learning teams. We have also enjoyed meeting and connecting with many of you through our meet-the-teacher meetings and ara information evening. We have linked some overview slides [here](#), for those who were unable to attend.

## **What are we learning this term?**

We are beginning the year with a focus on “All About Me”. Through this, we will explore 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, and the wider school and make good decisions about our learning.

Alongside this, we will have a strong focus on how we relate with one another, as we build on existing connections and develop positive relationships with our peers. As part of this process, we will discuss our shared values, and how we can work together to create a strong, supportive learning space. Keep an eye out on Seesaw for the Whanake treaty we are creating together. This links to several curriculum areas: Social Sciences, Health, Science, and Literacy.

## **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 participating in a variety of science investigations with 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 living world, as we learn about the human body, and in particular, our skeletal system.

## **Literacy**

Our first literary topic will be focussed on writing about ‘first-hand experiences’. We all do storytelling naturally, starting at a young age, but there's a difference between good and great storytelling! The children will write, plan, invent, and draw 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 by revisiting our place value and basic facts knowledge. We will be revisiting old favourite games, establishing routines for maths learning, and building positive mindsets towards mathematics through rich discussions and open-ended tasks. As the term progresses, we will focus on revising and extending each child's number knowledge and the strategies they are using, as well as developing their ability to share their thinking clearly with partners and group members. Later in the term, we will focus on probability as we consider the possible outcomes of events.

### **Physical Education**

We start the year by taking opportunities for fun games to help develop team spirit and positive relationships within our teams. On Thursday of Week 3, we begin our swimming lessons at Karori Pool, and these will continue weekly until the Thursday of Week 9, with one exception (Thursday 24th February). Alongside this, we will be running weekly sports rotations, focusing on ball skills. Later in the term, the school cross country will have us increasing our fitness levels as we practise distance running. Each home learning team will also be running a daily fitness programme.

### **Innov8**

Each Monday, we will be beginning the week with innov8. This is an opportunity for the children to work together 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 at the end of the session.

### **Art**

This term, the children will be taking part in weekly art rotations, as we explore a range of art techniques and mediums, with a focus on colour, shape and texture. This will be closely linked to our integrated topics.



### **Te Reo Māori**

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. As well as this, we will be focusing on developing and practising our pepeha. 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 consists of three main parts: home reading, spelling practise, and mathematics. These are designed to support your child's learning at school in these areas. The children will bring home their home learning notebook on a Monday, and we encourage children to return this to school 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. To protect the home learning notebooks and any reading books your child brings home, we ask that your child bring a reading folder (book bag) to school each day.



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. A full overview of home learning will be placed at the front of each child's home learning book, which will be sent home at the **start of Week 4**.

### ***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. At the start of the year, the teachers may support your child (where needed) in choosing 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 from a wider range of books. Remember the five-finger rule: your child reads the first page of the book, and 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 useful but rough guide.



### ***SeeSaw***

Students will soon begin posting snapshots of their learning to Seesaw. Their account will have moved over to Whanake with them, and you should be able to access this using your existing login. 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 posts. We also encourage parents to comment or post to their child's journal as well. This helps to build the connection between home and school, and provides a glimpse into some of the activities and learning your child is engaged in. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.



### ***Sun Smart***

In terms one and four, children need to wear **sun-smart** clothing, including wide-brimmed hats, and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking they have a 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 well.



### ***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 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.



### ***Xylofun and Little Xylofun***

Xylofun will take place each Monday morning in the Mahler room, it too starts at 8.30am. 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***

- Toys: To alleviate social dilemmas and damage to personal property, we have a no-toys-at-school rule. This includes soft toys and trading cards. Should these items accidentally end up at school, our process will be for the teacher to take care of them until the end of the day, when they can return home.
- Lost Property: It is crucial to have all clothing named so it 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.
- Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and often run around. Hair ties kept at school in the pencil case are often useful if a child has long hair.
- Break Times: As part of our new timetable this year, the children will have two 10-minute eating times, at 11am and 1pm, as well as a 'brain food' snack break at 10am. Children will be encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables for their brain food break.

### ***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](mailto: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 year ahead!

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