



# Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Toru 2023

21 July 2023

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

We hope you had a lovely time with your children over the term break, after a busy and successful term two. It was wonderful to see the children taking pride in their learning as they shared their mahi with you at our celebration of learning. One of the effects we have noticed from our drama process is the camaraderie that is built within our home learning teams, and it has been great to see this continuing. This term we welcome Jo Hamid into our space. Jo will be teaching Whanake Bishop on Wednesdays. Richard Dobson continues to be a valued member of the Whanake team, teaching in Whanake Harper every second Monday.

## Our Values



The Whanake students and teachers have regular hui, where we celebrate what we are doing, and reinforce our shared Whanake values. Through these discussions, we often use social stories to model how these values may play out in different contexts or situations that may arise in the classroom or playground. Our values centre heavily on manaakitanga, and we encourage you to take any opportunity you can at home to reinforce this through 'real life' applications.

## Parent Help & PTA

Thank you very much to all those who help with putting our reading books away, it is much appreciated. If this is something you are able to help with, please email Andrea Bergstrom ([agudsell@hotmail.com](mailto:agudsell@hotmail.com)). A special thanks to Andrea for coordinating this.

The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki, and 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](mailto:pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz).

## What are we learning this term?

### Social Sciences

Our integrated unit of study this term will be focused on Social Sciences and Aotearoa NZ Histories. We will be exploring perspective taking and decision making, as we consider issues that are important to us, and how we might address these. Later in the term, we will put our learning into action as we form our own political parties, and campaign to our voting public (the children in Tupu). This will tie closely with learning about the current NZ election, as well as researching key figures in New Zealand history, and how they have influenced our country.



## Key dates this term

**24-28th July** - School Photos

- Whanake Harper: July 24th
- Whanake Bishop: July 27th
- Whanake Blair: July 28th

**26 July** - Matariki Celebration (5.30-7.30pm)

**4 August** - Book Character dress up day

**9 August** - Health and Wellbeing information evening (5.30-6.30pm)

### **Science**

Our experimentation with oobleck was a highlight last term, and we will continue to build on this learning in term three. We will be exploring mixing, melting and dissolving, as we investigate the properties of matter, and different processes that can change these.



### **Literacy**



Linked closely to our integrated topic, this term we will be exploring persuasive writing. Children will also be writing poetry, reports, and narrative stories, as well as engaging 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 delving into 'The Magic Faraway Tree', by Enid Blyton.

Our spelling and phonics programme continues in term three, 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, and we will begin to incorporate cursive writing within this programme.

### **Mathematics**

Our mathematical focus for the first seven weeks of term is number knowledge, number strategies and problem-solving, with particular reference to multiplication and division. 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 Maths Families & Whanau](#)). To finish the term, we will focus on units of measurement.

### **Physical Education**

This term, we will be focusing on athletics. Children will be taking part in sports rotations, covering quoits, vortex, high jump, long jump, and sprints. This is in preparation for our school athletics, which will be held early in term 4. We will also be taking part in a special programme linked to the Fifa Women's Football Cup, which is facilitated by the OFC.

### **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 be taking part in three art rotations, focusing on mixed media, colour blending, and sketching. Through these rotations tamariki will look at different artist models, and explore a range of techniques and mediums, such as colour, line, shape.

### ***Te Reo Māori***

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. We will start the term reflecting on Matariki, and will be continuing to practise delivering our personal mihi. 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 as part of our Matariki community evening.



### ***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 notebook 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 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.

### ***Ensemble Groups***

The children performed well at our musical assembly last term, and it was a great display of the mahi they put into their ensemble groups each week. If your child would like to join a group at this stage in the year, they can speak with their teacher about this possibility. Below is a reminder of the times each of these take place.

**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***

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.



- **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](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 arrange a meeting.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

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