



# Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Toru 2023

*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*

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to term 3! This term we welcome back Carmen Chambers to our teaching team who will be with us until the end of the year. Thank you to Gene Haggie and Jenny Cossey for their mahi in term 2.



We finished off last term with our class plays. We were really proud that the tamariki worked hard throughout the term to devise the plays and then get them ready for the stage. Thank you for coming along and supporting them, it was great to have such a big turn out. This process requires ākonga to work together to co-create something they can call theirs. It's collaborative, inclusive and draws on the individual strengths that each ākonga has to offer. Presenting their plays to an audience is a meaningful way for them to celebrate and be proud of their achievements.

We are excited about the term ahead. Below is an outline of what you can expect your child to be learning this term.

## Integrated Study

This term our integrated study will be focused around Aotearoa NZ Histories and Navigation. To kick start the topic we will be taking a school trip to Te Papa in week 4, to learn about Pacific navigation, voyageing, and migration. Ākonga will have a guided tour where they will be looking at waka hauora and tracing the epic journeys they went on. Throughout the rest of the term we will investigate migration further and looking at the technology and science aspects of waka building. A donation request to cover the bus will be added to your statement for this trip.

**Parent help is required for this trip. Te Papa have very strict adult/child ratios that we need to meet. We require 4 adults per HLT for this trip to go ahead. If you are able to join us on the day, please email your child's HLT teacher.**

Towards the end of the term we will be learning about the Election process. We will run a mock election, find out about real candidates, parties and election issues, and give tamariki a first-hand voting experience.



## **Literacy**

Reading and writing opportunities are integrated across all areas of the curriculum. This term our focus will be on information report writing. With Matariki as an initial prompt, we will focus the children on how to research, identify and present factual information. Later in the term we will be moving onto biographies.

Reading opportunities will be varied and be both teacher-directed (reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment). Ākonga will be reading for information, reading for meaning, researching and understanding a range of topics. We will also be running a shared novel study across the Ara, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.



Regular reading for enjoyment at home supports children's language development, especially vocabulary acquisition at this stage. It is particularly important to develop into a lifelong reader. At this age tamariki should be reading quietly at home for at least 30 minutes per day.

For part of the writers festival, we will be visiting the National Library and attending a workshop with a New Zealand Author. A donation request to cover the bus will be added to your statement for this trip.

**Parent help is also required for this trip, if you are able to join us on the day, please email your child's HLT teacher.**

## **Numeracy**

We will begin the term by carrying on with Geometry, before moving on to multiplication and division. We will finish the term with a focus on fractions, proportions and ratios, which links well with our focus on the Election. We encourage you to continue to support your child to keep learning the times tables and the inverse division facts so that they can recall them quickly to support them with mastery of tasks across the mathematics curriculum. Maths Whizz can help at home as well.

## **Te ao Māori**

Matua Jason will begin the term with a series of lessons on Matariki as we lead into our community celebration on Wednesday 26 July. He will then move on to teaching ākonga the different pronouns to support them with accurate sentence structure.

## **Physical education & Health**

With the FIFA Women's World Cup happening here in Aotearoa, we have signed up to New Zealand Football's Kōtuitui programme which provides Football and Futsal in Schools. Starting in week 3, a qualified coach from a local football club will come in and deliver a series of lessons for each HLT.

For healthy minds, ākonga and kaiako meet regularly in HLTs and as an Ara to celebrate what we are doing and to talk through any 'niggles' that might be weighing on their minds. Kaiako use this time to reinforce how we use our school values, pūkengatanga (excellence), manaakitanga (care, nurture and compassion) and whanaungatanga (relationships and connection) to problem-solve any issues that may have arisen in the learning spaces or the playground. We encourage you to take any opportunity to you can at home to reinforce these values by pointing out 'real life' applications.

This term we will also be putting a strong emphasis on interacting positively with others. For the tamariki this is important. Ākonga will continue to develop an awareness and explore how their thoughts and feelings impact their actions and how their feelings can be affected by the actions of others. Through this process they will reflect on strategies they find helpful to support them when they are feeling frustrated, upset or mad. We will also be spending time talking about the things we can and cannot control and how they can use knowledge to support positive interactions with others.

### **Home Learning**

We do not have a formal structured home learning programme in Whānui, our tamariki work very hard during the day and many are very busy after school. Regular reading for enjoyment at home supports children's language development, especially vocabulary acquisition at this stage. At this age tamariki should be reading quietly at home for at least 30 minutes per day. Please visit the community library frequently (take a box and fill it up with books and other reading material) and support your child to read at home and engage with them about what they are reading.

Maths Whizz - We have had positive feedback about this new online platform. Maths Whizz is a personalised maths programme that provides automated learning opportunities to your child. Our recommendation is for ākonga to complete three progressions per week. You can read the parent information handout [here](#).

### **Reminders**

- Brain break snack - with our new break times this year, each morning we have a short brain break at 10am where children are encouraged to have a fruit or vegetable snack. Please ensure your child has something in their lunchbox that they can have at this time.
- Please support your child to arrive for their ensembles promptly at 8:30 am.

### **Communication**

There are some differences in how communication is done in each Ara. In Whānui, you will receive a newsletter like this one at the beginning of each term. You may also receive some additional updates during the term to remind you of upcoming events or to share ākonga progress. In addition we will share snippets of what we are doing in the school newsletter.

It is helpful for your child's teacher to know if your child has an appointment or needs to leave school for any reason before 3:00 pm. If this is necessary, we kindly ask that you email their HLT teacher to let them know. If students are leaving school before 3:00 pm, they need to go to the office to sign out.

If you have any questions or wish to talk about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact us. Teachers can be contacted by our email addresses (rebekahr, carmenc, emmam [@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:@kelburnnormal.school.nz)).

### **Parent help**

Remember to please email your child's home learning team teacher if you are able to come along and help us with either or both of our trips to Te Papa (Tuesday 8 August) and Books Alive (Thursday 10 August).



We are looking forward to another great term.

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whānui team - Rebekah, Carmen and Emma

**Key these dates for your diary**

Week 2	Wednesday 26 July - Matariki Evening @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Week 3	Thursday 3 August - Whakanui Ahurea - Kāhui Ako Cultural Festival @ Wellington College (Senior Kapa Haka students only) Friday 4 August - Book character parade
Week 4	Tuesday 8 August - Te Papa - Te Paewai   The Horizon: Pacific Navigation and Voyaging Wednesday 9 August - @ 5:30 - 6:30 pm - Whānau Health Curriculum Hui & Navigating the Journey Thursday 10 August - Books Alive - National Library
Week 10	Friday 22 September - School closed - staff only day