



*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 Rua 2025**

## **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.

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Welcome back to our kura. What an action-packed term we are going to have as we continue building on our learning journey from the last term. A special welcome to our new New Entrant kaiako, Mrs Jackie Di Somma, and all the tamariki and whānau starting this term.



The Tupu teachers would like to extend their thanks to the whānau who helped out with our Easter crafts, and a special thank you to Ming and Sarah for putting our books away last term. We appreciate the time you give.

The highlight for the tamariki and us last term was investigating the science behind the planets and our Solar System. We were impressed with how hard all the tamariki worked in term one and how engaged, involved, and curious they were. We wanted to share with you what we have planned for this term. If there is anything that you feel you can contribute to our programme, please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiako.

We wanted to let you know the ways in which, as a team, we will be sharing information with you about what is happening for your child. We will initially use the school app for our Tupu Team notices and then send a friendly reminder closer to the experience on SeeSaw. For Home Learning Team notices related to literacy and numeracy, these will be posted on SeeSaw. For personal updates related to your child, we will email you.

Our school PTA team does a fantastic job supporting our tamariki and kura through events, working bees and fundraisers. We encourage you to get involved, you can contact them at [pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz), or come along to their meeting at 7pm on Monday 5th May.

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

There will be numerous school children in our learning areas, as well as mums and dads, and preschoolers, so we ask that you leave the space before the bell goes at 8:50am. In the morning, tamariki enter the space using the link entrance if they

wish to, or use the side doors. 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, as it can get congested. This term Tupu Toru tamariki will be leaving kura through the side door and will meet their whānau in the same 'yellow spot' area as last term. Tupu Rua will be leaving from the side door by the yellow spot to meet their whānau. The remainder of Tupu will be leaving from the piwakawaka door 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 whānau to come in after school if you would like to see our 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 Topics



We will start the term by investigating Autumn through visual art, science, and English. We will be exploring the changes in the seasons and the effects they have on our environment and ourselves. We expect the children will be highly engaged and that the benefits will flow into their writing. The combination of art with English is a key practice at Kelburn Normal.

We will continue with this focus on changes during Primary Science Week. Primary Science Week is a nationwide event that puts the spotlight on the teaching and learning of science. In class, the children will conduct a range of fun and exciting experimental investigations, which we will capture on Seesaw.



An overarching theme is respectful relationships. This includes what makes a good friend, how to be a good friend, and ways to include and support others so everyone feels welcome and part of our team. An important lifelong skill.



Our major topic has a science, arts, and English focus. It focuses on the science strand The Living World and is called *Critters that Creep, Crawl, and Fly in the Garden*. The children will be exploring how living things change and interact with their environment, through investigations and discussions. We are also going to design and create our own bug catchers or even a bug hotel.

## Mathematics and Statistics

We continue with 'Maths No Problem' programme which has a mastery approach and follows a scope and sequence that will progress throughout the school. It is a level-based programme. In Year 1, the topics include matching, sorting, comparing, and ordering objects and numbers; recognising and creating simple patterns; counting forwards and backwards; understanding positional language. Introduction to basic operations: addition, subtraction, and concepts of halving and sharing, and exploring number bonds to 10. In Year 2, the topics include numbers and counting and introduce various strategies for adding and subtracting, including number bonds



and word problems. Building into multiplication and subtraction concepts, fractions, geometry, and measurement. Problem-solving is a major component of the programme, incorporating word problems and practical applications across various topics. Our maths lessons will follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration and rich discussion.

Like our previous approach, this programme involves applying maths knowledge in real-life situations, helping children understand how and why maths works, instead of only learning rote procedures. This allows children to make stronger connections, develop a long-term understanding of maths and, more importantly, enjoy learning mathematics.

## **Literacy**

Our literacy programs are back in full swing. Your child will bring a reading book home every night, Monday through Thursday. On a Friday, your child will be bringing home their poetry book to share the week's poem, the actions that may go along with it, while re-reading our favourite poems. Please remember to fill in the children's yellow home reading book, as the teachers really value your feedback and input.



Structured Literacy, through the *Better Start Literacy Approach*, will continue this term for both Year 1 and Year 2 tamariki. There are weekly ways to support literacy learning information on Seesaw.

Sometimes your child will bring home books they have already read; in this case, they are expected to re-read the book. This is because the focus could be on your child improving their fluency and/or expression. The process of re-reading known texts is an important one. The children are engaged in re-reading known texts in the classroom programme for many reasons. Re-reading increases your child's understanding of the text and allows them to gain deeper meaning; it also provides an opportunity to practise fluency, expression, and keep up their reading mileage.



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

## **Assembly**

Book out Friday 6th June at 1:50pm to 2:45pm as Tupu Tahi are leading the school assembly where all the tamariki in Tupu will be sharing an item.

## Arts



In visual arts, we will be using collage, composition, and colour mixing to create artworks based on our topics and children's interests. The artworks will complement drama and role play, and will enhance and expand the children's understanding of the themes that run through them. This will stimulate the children's imaginative responses and creativity. Through music, the children will listen, respond to, and imitate the elements of beat, rhythm, and pitch.

## Tui Choir

Year 2 children in Tupu Toru continue back with Tui Choir for another term of joyful singing.

## Physical Education



This term, we are focusing on skipping, balls, and hoops and folk dancing. 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.

## Discovery Time and book shelving

We are looking forward to having parent support for our ever-popular Discovery Time and also for book putting away. This doesn't take long (no more than half an hour), and you can pick a time and day after lunch to do this. Please contact Andrea if you can help us out.



We are also looking for family helpers for Discovery Time. This session is on a Friday from 9 to 10:00am. Sorry, we are unable to accommodate preschool children. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher.

## Mahi Ngātahi

Every Monday, we have an investigation time from 9 am to 10:00am. This session is called Mahi Ngātahi, which means collaboration. In these sessions, the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, and dive deeper into the wonderings that they have. This is a great opportunity for them to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is that children are able to learn from each other as they investigate their own questions and interests.

## Kapa Haka and Matariki

This term Tupu is continuing to build on last term with Matua Jeremy, our kapa haka teacher, for half an hour of waiata and reo this term. We also endeavour to make our day interwoven with te reo through



instructions, names and numbers. Under the confident guidance of kaiako Andrea and Jeremy, we come together for our weekly Kapa Haka. We are also celebrating Matariki later in the term.

## **SeeSaw**

We are continuing to add to your child's SeeSaw this term to share with 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.

## **Helpful Reminders**

As there are many birthdays happening, please can the tamariki not hand out their party invitations? Instead, can all birthday invitations be given to the kaiako and we will make sure that these go to the correct tamariki without any hurt feelings or lost invites.



All the teachers encourage independence and we would appreciate your help. The children are encouraged to take responsibility for carrying their own school bag to and from school, and to put their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings. We like to see the older children being encouraged to say goodbye to their parents at the gate and walking into school by themselves. We don't want this to stop you from coming in and sharing what has been happening in the class or touching base with the teachers. Instead, we would like to see a balance between children being independent and sharing with their families. You might like to choose a day with your child when you can visit the learning spaces after school. Spend this time with your child so they can share and explain what learning they have been doing, including reading their story-writing book to you.

Please ensure that your child has a warm jacket and/or a raincoat available each day.



As you know, we are a 'no shoes inside' school so slippers are welcome, as well as just socks or bare feet. It is important that children wear shoes to school that they can get off and on by themselves. Please can you make sure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, especially lunch and drink containers?

If you have any questions, or there is something you would like to talk to the teachers about, please feel free to email or pop in and see us.

Me te mihi from the Tupu teaching team, Andrea, Jodie, Jackie and Susie.

andream@kelburnnormal.school.nz  
jodiec@kelburnnormal.school.nz

susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz  
jackied@kelburnnormal.school.nz