



*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 2026

## 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 and to all the new tamariki joining us in the upcoming 11 weeks. What an action-packed term we are going to have as we continue building on our learning journey from the last term.



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

The highlight for the tamariki last term was investigating Super Heroes of the sea. 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 how, as a team, we will share 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 meetings.

**Pick Up and Drop Off** - There will be numerous school children in our learning areas, as well as mums, dads, grandparents, 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 congest our fire exits. This term Tupu Toru

and Whā tamariki will be leaving kura through the side door and will meet their whānau in the same 'yellow spot' area as last term. Tupu Tahi and Rua 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 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 explore the changes in the seasons and their effects 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.



During Primary Science Week, which 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. The wide topic is around Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All.



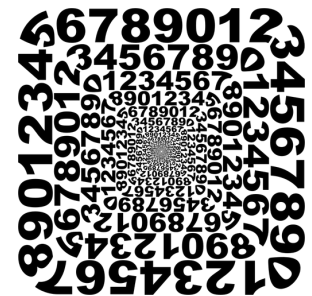
An overarching theme is respectful relationships. This includes how to be a good friend, being brave and ways to include and support others so everyone feels welcome and part of our team. These are important lifelong skills.



Our major focus for the term is a science unit titled 'Extinct Animals in New Zealand and Beyond.' As you can imagine, this will be a hot topic as we look at dinosaurs and moas, to name a few, and what happened to them and why. We will relate the changes in the environment and in plants as well. If you have any resources at home to support this study that you would be happy to share, please send them along to kura. We will take great care

of things that do come in.

**Mathematics and Statistics** - We continue with the '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; and 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.

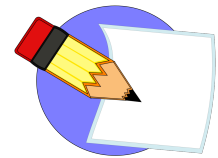
Like our previous approach, this programme involves applying mathematical knowledge in real-life situations, helping children understand how and why maths works, rather than just learning rote procedures. This allows children to make stronger connections, develop a long-term understanding of maths and, 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** - Do book out Friday 12 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 the 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 and Whā continue back with Tui Choir for another term of joyful singing.

**Physical Education** - This term, we are focusing on Gymnastic skills for the first five weeks, skipping, and a variety of ball skills. Daily fitness activities take different forms, focusing on movement through a variety 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.



**Book Shelving** - We continue to look for whanau to support the small group on the roster who put books away. More hands make this mahi light work. For more information, do get in contact with Katrina on [katrina.young8@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.young8@gmail.com)

**Nut-Free** - To provide a safe environment for all the tamariki in Tupu, we ask that, while in years 1 and 2, you support us in being nut-free. A number of tamariki are allergic to nuts. In Tupu, we don't share food, but accidents do happen, and being nut-free makes these odd occurrences safer for all.

**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, with each team having a 20-minute session 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 Marianne and Jeremy, we come together for our weekly Kapa Haka. We are also learning about Matariki as this is celebrated in the first week of term 3.



**Seesaw** - We are continuing to add to your child's SeeSaw this term to share with families and whānau. 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.



**Independence is encouraged** - 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.

Nga mihi nui- from the Tupu teaching team Marianne, Wendy, Jodie, Jo, and Susie

marianneb@kelburnnormal.school.nz  
jodiec@kelburnnormal.school.nz  
joh@kelburnnormal.school.nz

susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz  
wendyb@kelburnnormal.school.nz