



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Wha 2026

16 October 2026

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

It's hard to believe we are already in term four. After a successful and busy term three, we hope the tamariki have had a well-deserved break. There's no slowing down this term.

Term four is always action-packed with plenty of events and activities. To keep up to date with what's coming up, remember to read the weekly 'Kelburn Comms'.

Parent help: Thank you and Opportunities to Help

We would like to thank all of the parents who have helped this year by putting our reading books away regularly. This really is a huge help. This fantastic team is always looking for more helpers. If this is something you are able to help with in term four, please email sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki. 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.

Year 3 Sports Festival

On Tuesday 22nd October, our **year 3 tamariki** will be heading to Samuel Marden, to take part in the annual Western Zone year 3 sports festival. This is a fun-filled and action-packed day out, where children have the opportunity to play a range of different sports and games with their peers from across the Western Zone. For this event, we will need three parent helpers to manage our teams. If you are able to help, please contact Sophie Bishop (sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz).

Zealandia Trips

As part of our science focus this term, we will be visiting Zealandia for a self-guided tour. This trip links directly to our 'NZ Bird and Bush' topic, as we learn about the nature of science and the science of nature. For this EOTC experience, there is an admission cost of \$7.50 per child. This will be added to your school statement.

Whanake Tahi and Whanake Rua: Thursday 19th November

Whanake Toru: Tuesday 24th November.

On their respective dates, classes will depart from school at **11.40am**. We will be walking to Zealandia, and will eat our lunch on site. While at Zealandia, we will have some activities planned that link with our learning, as well as opportunities to explore and observe the sanctuary in small groups. Classes will return to school by **2.45pm**.

Each team will need a number of parent helpers to make this trip possible. If you are able to attend, please contact your child's teacher.

Key dates this term

27 October - Year 3 Sports Festival

4 November - Celebration of Learning (3.15-5pm)

19 November - Whanake Tahi & Rua Zealandia Trip

24 November - Whanake Toru Zealandia Trip

25 November - Musical Refreshment

4 December - Whanake hosting School Hui & Junior ensemble performance

What are we learning this term?

'Perspective-taking and Decision Making'

To begin the term, we will be utilising the context of this year's general election to explore civic engagement, choice-making, democracy, and election processes. We will apply this within our own environment as we learn about voting, opinions and persuasive arguments. Closer to the election, we will be holding our own 'Kids Voting' election (complete with orange boxes and actual candidate lists), through a resource provided by the Electoral Commission. Keep an eye out on Seesaw to find out the government our Whanake tamariki would elect.



NZ Birds and Bush

Following the general election, we will be holding a 'NZ Bird of the Year: Kelburn Edition'. We will be learning all about some of our endangered native birds, and then applying our knowledge to campaign for our chosen manu around our kura. It will be up to the other areas of the school to vote and determine the winner, so we will need to put our persuasive skills to the test. This focus will also link to our writing focus, and tamariki will be working on researching and writing reports about their chosen birds.

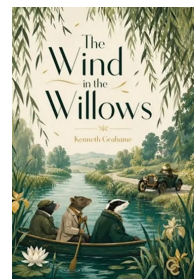
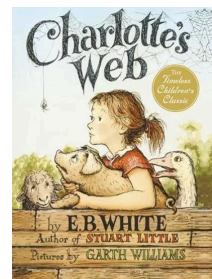
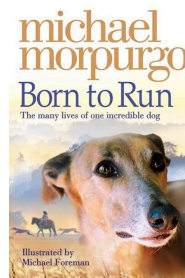
Literacy

Linked closely to our integrated topic, this term our writing programme will focus on persuasive arguments and extended report writing. This will involve learning about paragraph structure, as well as experimenting with different forms and language styles. Tamariki will also continue to have many opportunities to write across genres, including narrative stories, expressive recounts, and poetry.

Reading opportunities will be varied, with both teacher-directed (whole class and smaller reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment) playing an important role in our reading programme. This will be integrated across all areas of the curriculum. Children will research and read for information, read for meaning, and build fluency across a range of texts. We will continue encouraging fluency, expression, and rich discussions to enhance comprehension.

Our 'Chapter Chat' format will look a bit different this term, as each home learning team will be participating in their own novel studies. These novels will form the basis for our whole class and small group reading programme, and we are looking forward to delving into some classic stories with our classes. The rich and hands-on opportunities provided by Chapter Chat are highly engaging and a favourite of our tamariki, and we intend to continue to provide these within our teams, along with opportunities for the tamariki to share about their books across the ara.

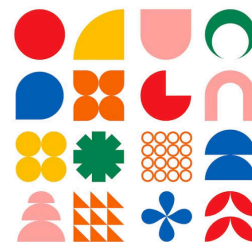
- Whanake Tahi: 'Born to Run' by Michael Morpurgo
- Whanake Rua: 'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White
- Whanake Toru: 'Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame.



The BSLA structured literacy approach continues to be an important part of our literacy programme. Students will also practise their handwriting skills regularly, with a continued focus on cursive.

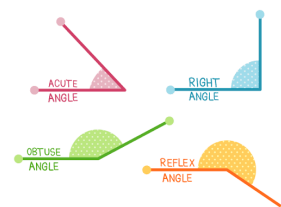
Mathematics

To begin the term, we will be focusing on geometry. Tamariki will be exploring the attributes of shape and lines, and applying these as they learn about translation, transformation and reflection. We will then pivot into more of a measurement focus, as we measure the perimeter and area of shapes. Later in the term, we will be learning about angles and turns, and applying these across different contexts.



To finish the term, we will be carrying out statistical investigations. Tamariki will be posing questions, collecting data, and then presenting and interpreting their findings.

Underpinning all mathematical teaching are connections to the core skills of number knowledge and strategy, and children have daily opportunities to consolidate and build on their skills, as well as apply them across different contexts (for example, adding or subtracting times to find the duration of an event, or multiplying lengths to find an area). Mathematics lessons are structured with a range of whole-class, rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. We continue to utilise the 'Maths, No Problem' resources as a tool to support learning.



Physical Education and Health

We were proud of the efforts our Whanake tamariki put into our whole school athletics day on Tuesday. Our PE focus for the remainder of the term will be small ball skills. We will be developing confidence, agility, coordination and sportspersonship as we explore a variety of sports, including cricket and t-ball.



In health, we are continuing to use the Mitey programme. Mitey is an evidence-based, school-wide approach to teaching mental health education, which is built around the NZ Curriculum and aligned to the Mental Health Education Guidelines. The key concepts we will be using are our feelings, emotions, whānau, friendships, and strengths.

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 is a focus on STEM-based and/or creative provocations, as well as opportunities for tamariki to reinforce their skills in mathematics, digital technology and literacy. Children are encouraged to select a variety of activities offered across the term, using their Innov8 passports.

Visual Art

This term, our visual art focus will be printmaking and collage. This topic will link closely with our mathematical learning. We will be applying our knowledge about line and shapes as we experiment with different techniques and media to create our own masterpieces.

Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, we will focus on building our knowledge of day-to-day kupu, as well as building our skills in telling the time and describing shapes in Te Reo Māori. Each home learning team will have a weekly Te Reo Māori session with Matua Jeremy, where we will be focusing on these skills. On Thursday afternoons, tamariki have the option of opting-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, or participating in Te Reo sessions designed to further reinforce and deepen the language learning we are doing with Matua Jeremy.

Science



As part of our integrated topic 'NZ Bird and Bush', we will deepen our biological science understanding. Alongside this, we will be exploring states of matter and physical changes of matter through the context of bread making.

Home Learning



Home learning consists of two main parts: home reading and mathematics. This is designed to support your child's learning at school in these areas. The children will bring home their reading log notebook on Monday, and we encourage them to bring it to school each day. To protect the reading logs and any reading books your child brings home, we ask that your child bring a reading folder (book bag) to school each day. Children will not be permitted to bring books home without this.

Children are strongly encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each day. The focus for this reading is building mileage, fluency, and enjoyment across a range of text types.

Maths Whizz is an online platform that is individualised to your child's learning needs. The programme is designed to respond to your child's ability (assessed through an algorithm that measures accuracy and time spent on each question). We have found that children find this platform engaging and motivating, but we also recognise that screen time can vary between households. If you prefer 'unplugged' learning, we recommend hands-on games and activities. Inside your child's reading log, you will find their Maths-Whizz login, along with some unplugged learning activity suggestions.



Ensemble Groups

Our ensemble groups are a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to develop their musical and performance skills. This term, these groups will be working towards our musical refreshment and junior ensemble performance as a celebratory conclusion to a successful year.

Tui Choir: 9-9.30am on Thursdays, for all children in year 2-3.

Piccolo Choir: The children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) for the Piccolo choir from 8:30-9.30am on a Thursday. This choir is for children in years 4-6.

Xylobeats: 8.30-9.30am on Wednesdays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 4-6 students.

Little Xylofun: 9-9.30am on Fridays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 2-3 students

Junior Kapa Haka: 1.45-2.15pm on Thursdays. This is for year 1-4 students.



Housekeeping

- **Sun Hats:** The New Zealand sun is fierce. In terms one and four, children are required to wear wide-brimmed hats when learning or playing outdoors. Children with forgotten hats will stay under the shade sails during break times. Please remind your child to check they have their hat each day. We also encourage tamariki to come to school with sunscreen, and to reapply it during the day.
- **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.
- **Borrowing Books:** Our library day in Whanake is Wednesdays. Students 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: The weekly 'Kelburn Comms' is a one-stop-shop for all updates and information about what is coming up at school. We strongly recommend taking the time to read this each week. Alongside this, on the last Friday of each month, our 'Voice of Ngā Tātarakihi' newsletter celebrates the exciting mahi happening across the kura.



Getting in touch

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email addresses (kyram@kelburnnormal.school.nz, ella@kelburnnormal.school.nz, sophieb@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,
Ella, Kyra and Sophie (Team Leader)