



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Tahi 2026

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

5 February 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

It's been a cheerful welcome back to the children returning to school. Mr Miller and I have enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces from last year and have also been getting to know some new ones. Our year 6s are supporting the year 5s, and new students to KNS settle in and become familiar with the space, routines, and one another. With manaaki all around, the classrooms are slowly filling with chatter and curiosity for the learning and experiences ahead. It's shaping up to be a term where we can enjoy learning together and build a sense of belonging for all tamariki.

We would like to welcome our new students, Marni, Minseo, Chloe, and Caleb, and their Whanau to KNS. We also welcome Isla, who will be joining McKenzie, our learning assistants, who will be working alongside teachers to support students with learning throughout the day.

Jenny Cossey will be the release teacher in Whānui Rua, covering Rebekah, and Rachel Smith will be the release teacher in Whānui Tahi, covering Hugo.

Whānau/Parent-Teacher Conversation and

Mr Miller and I enjoyed meeting whānau and tamariki during our three-way conversations. This helps us to understand the children better, their interests and attributes, where they come from, and what can help them in their development. Positive relationships and communication between whānau, kaiako, and ākonga are cornerstones of learning. Working with you all ensures the best start to the year's learning journey. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to share any concerns or successes.

Whānau Information Evening

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, the 11th of February at 5:30 pm for our **Whānau Ara Information Evening**. Please come to the Whānui Space.

Camp

Camp is fast approaching. Camp is a great opportunity for tamariki to learn in a new environment, build confidence, and strengthen relationships with their peers and teachers. By working together on activities and challenges, children develop skills like collaboration, problem-solving, and resilience. These experiences contribute greatly to establishing a positive, supportive learning culture that carries back into the classroom. If you haven't already completed and submitted the [permission form](#), then please do so. For more information about camp, please attend the Whanau Information Evening (see above).

Literacy

This term, we're diving into the exciting world of newspapers, where students become reporters, editors, and

storytellers! They'll hunt for headlines, read and write their own articles, and even give live in-house reports.

It's a collaborative adventure! Working together, children will plan, perform, write, and reflect, using multiple literacy approaches to tell stories that matter. Our junior journalists will conduct interviews, ask questions, collect quotes, investigate, connect with their community and share. Through reading, writing, speaking, and visual literacy, they'll create and capture their world, discovering how their voices can make an impact—on paper, in the classroom, and beyond. This approach not only strengthens writing skills but also encourages creative thinking, observation and inquiry, listening, empathy, perspective-taking, helping students tailor their work for different audiences and purposes. We can't wait to hear the newsworthy ideas they come up with and look forward to sharing their mahi with you!

Maths

This term, our students are applying their maths learning beyond the classroom and into real life with a Camp Planning Project. Through this investigation, children will work in groups to plan various aspects of a school camp. From organising sleeping arrangements and activity rotations to budgeting for meals and calculating safety ratios, they will practise key Number and Algebra skills. These include place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Children will be required to develop problem-solving, reasoning, and collaborative thinking, learning to communicate, organise, and think critically while exploring "what if" scenarios, and reflect on how changes affect their mathematical reasoning. This links their maths to real-world applications.

This project aligns with the carefully sequenced topics and storyline of the Maths No Problem resource. The Maths No Problem workbooks are for in-class use, to practise strategies or consolidate prior learning during independent working periods. As these books serve as a supplemental resource, children are not expected to complete all pages.

Lessons will generally be taught in year-level groups, but we will also use flexible grouping to ensure children have opportunities to learn from one another or to focus on more targeted areas.

Art & Science

We have an exciting landmark event to kick off our science and art focus this term. Those keen astronomers among us will be aware of the Artemis II mission (the first crewed visit around the moon since 1972). This will be a jumping off point for our investigation of the stars and planets that we see in the night sky. We will be looking at how technology has enabled us to peer deeper into the cosmos and deepen our understanding of the universe. Put on your space helmets and get ready to explore the Milky Way.

Social Science & Te Reo

At the start of the year, children will be exploring 'Ko wai au?' (who am I?) and 'Nō hea au?' (where do we come from), through a *Pepeha and Identity* project. Children will create a visual pepeha to share the people, places, cultures, and stories that are important to them, helping to build connections and a strong sense of belonging within our new class. Children will explore the use of te Reo, engage with tikanga and kaupapa Māori. Alongside this, students will research and write a short biography about a significant Aotearoa New Zealand figure, learning how their life, values, and actions have influenced the shape of Aotearoa. This project

supports identity, cultural understanding, and early research skills while celebrating the diversity of our classroom community.

Physical Education

An important part of being in a new class is learning to work together with your new classmates. In P.E this term our tamariki will have the opportunity to explore both cooperative and competitive games. Working both together and against other students can prove to be a challenge for problem-solving, playing fair, and resolving disputes. The differences between these game styles offer an opportunity to examine why we play games and how we can derive enjoyment from working together toward a common goal.

Health and Well-being

As the new term begins, we are focusing on building strong relationships and a supportive class community, where everyone feels valued and connected. Through camp experiences and collaborative learning, students develop friendships, cooperation, and social confidence, forming the foundation of manaakitanga. Our Mitey programme guides students in exploring identity, wellbeing, and personal strengths while introducing the concepts of mana, which directly link to our Pepeha/mihimhi and Identity project. By sharing who they are in different contexts, children can build connections, strengthen social bonds, and reflect on 'Ko wai mātou?' (Who 'we' are?), and nurture kotahitanga.

Home Learning

In Whānui, we recognise that our students engage in numerous extracurricular activities. However, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that everyone commits to the following two activities every evening:

- Reading before bed - at least 30 minutes most days. This could involve reading a chapter book from school, reading a chapter to someone in their whānau or listening to audiobooks.
- MathsWhizz - 10-15 minutes three times a week. MathsWhizz serves as an educational resource that reinforces the significant learning occurring in the classroom. If your child does not have their login information or has forgotten it, please remind them to ask their teacher for the details.

If you have any questions regarding the journey ahead, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Ngā mihi nui,

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