



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Toru 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

24 July 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Thanks again to all the families who came to watch the children's plays last term. The performance evening is a celebration and reflects a snapshot of the children's learning, effort, and teamwork that goes into devising a play. We are proud of what they accomplished and happy they were able to share these with you all! But the show must go on! This term, the children get the honour of being the audience for Māia's upcoming plays at the Gryphon Theatre.

Literacy

Children will embark on a journey into a world of poetry. Poetry is a diverse and exploratory means of expressing feelings, sharing stories, and discovering new perspectives. It's an enriching way to play with language, words, and structure, all while allowing imagination, creativity and personal voice to flourish.

Children will look at different poets and various forms of poetry, from haiku, sonnets, and odes, to free verse, ballads and more. Our multiple literacies approach offers children opportunities to explore and learn about poetic devices such as similes, metaphors, personification, and alliteration. Through drama, drawing, word games, and rich models, children gain inspiration to create original pieces and opportunities to experiment with language in fun, creative ways.

Maths

What is the worst vegetable? How many chickens would it take to defeat an elephant? This term, we will introduce children to the key concepts of statistics. Children will pick or generate a question to explore and then become detectives. Children will learn how to collect, organise, interpret, and analyse data; identify patterns; draw conclusions based on their findings; and represent their findings. To heighten the stakes, children will also engage in some simple games and gambles to develop

Key dates for Term 3:	
Week 1	24/07 Wheels Day 24/07 Mihi Whakatau
Week 2	Book Week 27/07 Swimming Karori Pool 31/07 School hui
Week 3	06/08 Whakanui Ahurea (Parent help needed) 03/08 Swimming Karori Pool
Week 4	10/08 Swimming Karori Pool 14/08 3-way learning conversations (Kura is closed for instruction)
Week 5	17/08 Swimming Karori Pool 21/08 School Hui
Week 6	24/08 Maths PD curriculum day (Kura is closed for instruction) 28/08 School Hui
Week 7	31/08 Swimming Karori Pool 01/09 WZ swimming 02/09 Maia Play Dress Rehearsal week at Gryphon Theatre (Parent help needed to walk there and back) 04/09 Whānui School Hui
Week 8	07/09 Swimming Karori Pool EPRO8
Week 9	14/09 Swimming Karori Pool 18/09 Music Assembly
Week 10	21/09 Swimming Karori Pool

their understanding of how data and probability can be used to make important decisions. Learning about probability will help them think ahead and weigh risks when making decisions involving luck or uncertain outcomes.

We will also be using some problem-solving challenges to support understanding, critical thinking, build confidence, and make learning an engaging experience.

Social Science and Te Reo

What happens when two cultures meet? The children will delve into Aotearoa History. Specifically, the Early settlement of its shores, the development of Māori communities, and the changes that influenced these. We will cover the arrival of whalers, propaganda of the New Zealand Company, and the Musket Wars. As a bicultural nation, Te Reo kupu, values, and customs (tikanga) will be integrated, and perspectives from both Māori and Pākehā ways of life during early settlement, and the influences that shaped Aotearoa's cultural heritage.

Arts and Digital Technologies

Abstraction in art encourages artists to explore form, colour, and texture beyond realistic representation. Through experimental processes, children develop mark-making techniques, composition, and explore new, sometimes unexpected ways of expression. Within this art-making, we will also have a go at using digital tools to create works.

Science

What makes a swing go higher and higher? Our science focus is on the invisible forces that shape the world around us. Children will participate in hands-on investigations exploring friction, magnetism, motion, and more. Understanding these invisible forces helps us explain everyday phenomena that we often encounter without even realising it.

Physical Education, Health and Well-being

This term will be an active one! It's all about balance, literally! We have three in-school touch sessions to kick us off. The weekly gymnastics sessions are on Tuesday in the school hall. But let's not forget our Monday swimming lessons at Karori pool! Please ensure your child comes prepared with appropriate clothing, gear and a good lunch. Health and well-being will be integrated within our PE sessions, and we will be talking about healthy habits for our bodies and minds. These will include topics such as warming up and cooling down, nutrition, staying hydrated, listening to our bodies, and using equipment properly and safely.

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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