



Te Ara Whanake Term Two Newsletter

May 2025

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

Welcome back for term two!

It was great to see many of you at our three-way goal-setting conversations last term. The tamariki can be proud of their mahi throughout term one, and we are excited to support them as they continue working towards their goals this term.

What are we learning this term?

Have you heard of the place between? The place where things that have disappeared or been forgotten are found? Whanake will be exploring this magical space as we consider the question 'How can we keep the stories of the past alive, and why is this important?' This integrated unit (which encompasses literacy, social science and art) will see us journeying through time, joining a circus, and meeting a range of interesting characters along the way. Using a range of dramatic conventions, dialogue, and multiple literacies, we will work together in our home learning teams to devise our own plays. We are excited to share these with you in week 8 (**Tuesday 17th June**).



Literacy

Our literary learning this term will centre on the context of our integrated topic. We will be writing narratives, dialogue, character descriptions, taking different perspectives, and recording questions, observations and reflections. As we do so, we will be considering how we can use language to create effect, build our storytelling capabilities, and consider how we can entertain and inform our audience.

Children will be reading a wide variety of different texts each day, with teachers focusing on the two domains of reading- learning to read, and reading to learn. Children will take part in whole-class shared reading, as well as guided reading in smaller groups. Our shared novel this term is a familiar favourite, 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. We will be reading this book throughout the week, and building our comprehension skills through rich discussion in our home learning teams. On Fridays, we will come together for 'Chapter Chat', where we explore the themes, characters, settings and plot through a range of hands-on activities.



Our spelling programme will continue to follow the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) scope and sequence. This approach consists of whole-class lessons focused on morphological and orthographic patterns, small-group reading lessons, and an oral narrative study, which allows children to explore rich vocabulary, language, and story structure.

Key dates this term

5-9th May - School Photos

Whanake Tahī: Tuesday 6th May

Whanake Rua: Monday 5th May

Whanake Toru: Thursday 8th May

21st May - **Celebration of Learning**

12th June - Swimming Sports

18th June - Matariki Community Evening

Whanake Play Sharing: Tuesday 17th June

Whanake Tahī: 12-1pm

Whanake Rua: 10-11am

Whanake Toru: 2-3pm

Reading and writing opportunities are also integrated across all areas of the curriculum. This means children could be researching for information, and writing about their understanding of different texts in a wider range of topics and interest areas.

Mathematics

Our maths lessons follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration, rich discussion, and problem-solving. As we continue to follow the scope and sequence of the 'Maths No Problem' programme, children will be taught in their year groups. Year 2s will be focusing on addition and subtraction, before moving onto shapes and patterns. Later in the term, they will learn about measurement, including length and height. Year 3s will begin the term focusing on multiplication and division, before moving onto measurement (length, mass and temperature) and statistics (picture graphs). Similarly, Year 4s will focus on building multiplication and division skills before moving into measurement (length, mass, and volume).

Physical Education & Health

To begin the term, we will be focusing on balance and agility, through a range of floor-based gymnastics activities. Following this, we will have a focus on netball skills. We will be developing our passing, shooting, pivoting and dodging skills through a variety of games and activities, as well as working on building our sportspersonship. To conclude the term, we will spend two weeks developing our skipping skills and stamina. Our health focus this term will centre on how we relate to others and manage ourselves. Each home learning team will also be running a daily fitness programme to support our focus and well-being.

Innov8

Each Monday, we begin the week with Innov8. This is an opportunity for the children to work together and learn through an exploratory and playful context. Underpinning Innov8 activities are a focus on STEM-based and/or creative provocations, as well as opportunities for children to reinforce their skills in mathematics, science, digital technology, and literacy. Each week, we will have a key goal relating to one of the Key Competencies (managing self, relating to others, using text, symbols and language, thinking, and participation), which the children will reflect on together at the end of the session. In term two, we will continue to encourage children to try a variety of different activities across the term, through our 'Innov8 passport'.

Art

In Art this term, we will be focusing on mixed media. Through this unit, we will be exploring a range of art mediums, and how we can combine these to create different effects. This will include collage, paint, watercolour, pastel, charcoal, crayon and dye. We look forward to sharing some of our masterpieces with you. Alongside this, we will create soundscapes and consider how to make and use music to accompany our plays.



Tikanga me Te Reo Māori

Te Reo Māori is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. Our structured Māori language focus this term will be talking about the weather, seasons, and time. Later in the term, we will also be learning about these in the context of Mātariki. Children are also encouraged to opt-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, which takes place weekly on Tuesdays from 1.45-2.15pm. Those not participating in Junior Kapa Haka will spend this time building their Te Reo Māori skills.

Home Learning & Maths Whizz

Home learning consists of three main parts: home reading, spelling practice, and mathematics. This is designed to support your child's learning at school in these areas. The children will bring home their home

learning notebook on a Monday, and we encourage children to return this to school by Friday so that it can be marked. To protect the home learning notebooks 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 encouraged to bring home a reading book each day, which will either be a book they have read in class, or one from their browsing box. These books are not intended to be a challenging read, and will likely be familiar to them. The focus for this reading is building mileage, fluency and enjoyment, across a range of text types.

We recognise that some children may have other texts at home they would prefer to read. If this is the case, we encourage the children to record these titles in their notebook. This could also be a great opportunity for you to support your child's comprehension by discussing the plot, characters, setting and themes from the text. If you have any questions about this, please contact your child's teacher.



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 (please see your child's home learning notebook for some suggestions).

Our children lead very busy out-of-school lives. For this reason, out-of-school activities are perfectly acceptable during the week and can count as home learning. Please rest assured that there are no consequences for children who do not complete home learning.

Borrowing Books

We keep a wide selection of chapter and picture books in the Whanake space for children to read anytime. Each Wednesday, children will have a set time to borrow two books they wish to take home. This is an opportunity for children to select their reading material for daily independent reading, and home reading too. At the start of the year, the teachers may support your child (where needed) in choosing their library books.



You can help your child make good book choices by talking to them about what books *you* read and why *you* choose them, as well as taking them to the public library to select from a wider range of books. Remember the five-finger rule: your child reads the book's first page, and every time they get a word wrong, they put up a finger. When they get to the bottom of the page, if they have four or fewer fingers up, they should be able to read the book; if they have five, it may be too difficult. This is just a useful but rough guide.

Seesaw



Students and teachers will soon begin posting snapshots of their learning to Seesaw. Your child's account will have moved over to their new home learning team with them, and you should be able to access this using your existing login. Seesaw allows children to share their learning with a wider audience, and they especially love being able to share with you! This year, teachers will also be utilising Seesaw to keep you updated about the learning taking place in our spaces, with a different curriculum focus each week.

We encourage parents to comment or post to their child's journal. This helps to build the connection between home and school, and provides a glimpse into some of the activities and learning your child is engaged in. If you have trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.

Tui Choir

Tui Choir takes place each **Thursday afternoon**, where all year 2 and 3 children come together to sing and develop their voices. Ms Emily Wilby and Ms Rachel Smith lead this choir, be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming performances!

Piccolo Choir

The children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) for the Piccolo choir at **8:30am** on a **Wednesday**. This choir is for years 4 - 6, and is optional.

Xylofun and Xylobeats



Xylobeats will take place each Tuesday morning in the Mahler room, starting at **8.30am**. This is for year 4 students who would like to join.

Little Xylofun will take place each Friday from 8.30 am until 9.00 am in the Mahler room. This is for our year 3 students if they would like to join.

Housekeeping

- **Toys:** To alleviate social dilemmas and damage to personal property, we have a no-toys-at-school rule. Should these items accidentally end up at school, our process will be for the teacher to take care of them until the end of the day, when they can return safely home.
- **Lost Property:** It is crucial to have all clothing named so it 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's lost property located in the link.
- **Beginning of the school day:** When the bell rings at 8.30am, children are invited into Whanake to prepare for the school day. Before this time, teachers are in meetings, preparing resources for the day, or engaging in professional development opportunities. Children are expected to wait outside or in the Link on wet or cold days. Please, as much as possible, delay your child's arrival at school until 8.30am.
- **Please provide suitable footwear at school;** the children participate in fitness and often run around. Hair ties kept in school bags are often helpful if a child has long hair.
- **Break Times:** At Kelburn, the children have two 10-minute eating times, at 11am and 1pm, as well as a 'brain food' snack break at 10am. Children will be encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables for their brain food break, and we appreciate your support with this.

Parent Help & PTA

We are appreciative of parent helpers who support us to provide a range of learning opportunities for our tamariki. If you are able to help with putting reading books away this term, please email (sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz), or speak with your child's teacher.

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.

Getting in touch

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address (kyram, marianneb, 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 talk with you.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Ngā mihi nui,
Marianne, Kyra, Jo and Sophie (Team Leader)