



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Toru 2025

July 2025

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

We hope you had a lovely time with your children over the term break, after a busy and successful term two. One of the many positive outcomes we have noticed from our drama process is the camaraderie and collaboration that is built within our home learning teams, and it has been great to see this continuing as we launch into term three.

Whanake Values

The Whanake students and teachers have regular hui, where we celebrate what we are doing, reinforce our shared school values, and what these look like in Whanake. Through these discussions, we often use social stories to model how these values may play out in different contexts or situations that may arise in the classroom or playground. Our values centre heavily on our three school pillars; manaakitanga, pūkengatanga, and whānaungatanga. We encourage you to take any opportunity you can at home to reinforce these through 'real-life' applications.

Communication

In a busy school environment, there is a lot of information to be shared. To make this more streamlined, all communications (including Whanake-specific items) will now be shared through our weekly 'Kelburn Comms' newsletter, which comes out every Wednesday. Please make sure you read this, as it is your 'one-stop-shop' for all upcoming events, activities and updates.

Parent Help & PTA

Thank you very much to all those who help with putting our reading books away, it is much appreciated. If this is something you are able to help with, please email Sophie Bishop (sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz).

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

What are we learning this term?

That's So Cool!

Our integrated unit of study this term will be focused on Science and Social Sciences, as we learn all about the extreme environment found in Antarctica, and the adaptations and eco-systems that enable different species to live there. We will also be learning about Antarctic explorers, and going on our own (virtual) expedition to the icy continent. Along the way, we will be getting hands-on with some icy experiments, as well as carrying out research and investigations to support our learning.



Key dates this term

25 July:

- Book Character Dress up Day
- Whanake Assembly (1.50-2.50pm)

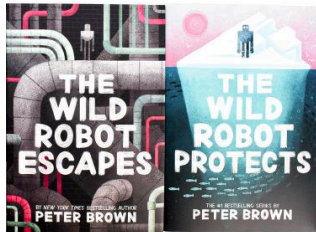
1 August - Musical Assembly (1.50-2.50pm)

13 August - Whānau curriculum evening

29 August - Three way goal-setting conversations

Literacy

Our major writing topic this term will be persuasive writing. Children will also write poetry, reports, and narrative stories, as well as engage in informal debates about various topics. Reading opportunities will be varied, with teacher-directed (reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment). This will be integrated across all areas of the curriculum, and closely linked to our integrated topic. Children will research and read for information, read for meaning, and understand a range of texts. We will continue to encourage fluency, expression, and reading punctuation to enhance comprehension levels.



For Chapter Chat, this term, we will be returning to the much beloved 'Wild Robot' series, written by Peter Brown. This term, we will be reading both the second and third books from this series ('The Wild Robot Escapes' and 'The Wild Robot Protects').

We are continuing to use the BSLA structured literacy approach. We will be posting a weekly overview on Seesaw each Monday, along with ideas you can use to support this learning at home. Children will also be practising their handwriting skills regularly, through both teacher-led lessons, and independent practise.

Mathematics

Our maths lessons follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration, rich discussion, and problem-solving. As we continue to implement the refreshed maths curriculum, following the scope and sequence of the 'Maths No Problem' programme, children will primarily be taught in their year groups. Alongside this, teachers will include opportunities for whole-class and small-group activities to support conceptual learning and reasoning skills. Our focus this term will begin with financial literacy, followed by geometry and algebra. We will finish the term learning about rational numbers (fractions). Underpinning all of these topics will be a strong focus on building and applying number knowledge and basic facts.

Physical Education

This term, we will continue our focus on netball skills, before moving onto athletics. Children will be taking part in rotations, where they will cover quoits, vortex, high jump, long jump, and sprints. This is in preparation for our school athletics day, which will be held early in term 4. Later in the term, we will also have Cricket Wellington visiting to run skills sessions with each home learning team.

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 are a focus on STEM-based and/or creative provocations, as well as opportunities for children to reinforce their skills in mathematics, digital technology and literacy. The children will be continuing to use their 'innov8' passports, to support them in selecting a range of activity types over the term.



Art

The children have been enjoying exploring different media and mediums to create a range of artworks. In term three, we will be continuing to build on this, and will be looking specifically at printmaking. As part of this, we are looking for textured materials that we could use (e.g. textured wallpaper samples, bottle caps or corks). We look forward to sharing our creations with you.

Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. Alongside this, each home learning team will have weekly sessions with our Te Reo kaiako, Jeremy Desmond. This term we will continue to build on our learning about time, dates and seasons. Later in the term, we will begin learning how we can describe emotions, physical attributes and characteristics in Te Reo Māori. 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 who are not part of this performance group will be building and consolidating their Te Reo skills during this time.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to come home in the same format. This 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 on Fridays for marking.

We strongly encourage children to read at home everyday. Children bring home reading books from school, which may be a book they have read in class, or a 'browsing box book' they have chosen. We know that often children have books they are reading at home, which they may prefer to read instead. We encourage you to access the local community libraries with your child to choose extra personal reading material. 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 (please see your child's home learning notebook for some suggestions).

We know our children lead very busy out-of-school lives. For this reason, out-of-school activities are perfectly acceptable to count as home learning during the week. Please rest assured there are no consequences for children not completing home learning.

Ensemble Groups

Our ensemble groups are a fantastic opportunity for tamariki to be part of a team and develop their confidence, as well as their musical and performance skills. We encourage all children to be part of at least one ensemble group. If your child would like to join a group at this stage in the year, they can speak with their teacher about this possibility.



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

Piccolo Choir: 8:30-9.30am on Thursdays, in the Mahler room (year 4-6).

Xylobeats: 8.30-9.30am on Mondays, in the Mahler room (year 4-6).

Little Xylofun: 8.30-9.00am on Fridays, in the Mahler room (year 2-3).

Junior Kapa Haka: 1.45-2.15pm on Tuesdays.

Housekeeping

- **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.

- Footwear: Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and often run around. During the winter terms, children may like to have slippers at school to wear while indoors.
- Borrowing Books: Our library day in Whanake is **Wednesdays**. Children 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.



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 arrange a meeting.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,
Marianne, Brooke, and Sophie (Team Leader)