



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Wha 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

16 October 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Term four! Where does the time go? With learning culture and familiar learning environments and routines well established, it's easy to get right into the work. The children are looking forward to Celebration of Learning in week four, where they can share and celebrate some of their mahi with you all.

As it's term four, remind your children to wear a hat and slop on some sunscreen before school. It is expected to be a hot summer.

Key dates for Whānui Students:

- Mihi Whakatau - W2, Friday 23rd Oct
- BLAKE NZ VR - W3, Wednesday 28th Oct
- Celebration of Learning - W4 Wednesday - 4th Nov
- Whānui Hosts School Assembly - W6 Friday 20th Nov
- Speech Finals - W7 Days TBC
- Whānui Rogaine - W9 Days TBC

Literacy

The children will put their opinions to work as they dive into speech writing, research and public speaking. Our big question is: "What is something that should be banned?" Children will choose a topic that matters to them. Something they feel strongly about, think is unfair, or perhaps believe the world could quite happily live without! It might be humorous or serious, from banning cartwheels to banning screens, but whatever they choose, they will need to be convincing.

Speeches build skills in writing, research, critical thinking, speaking and listening while giving students a genuine voice and choice in what they want to say. Children will research their chosen topic using online sources, different perspectives, and interviews, then turn their findings into a persuasive speech designed to make their audience stop and think. Children will work on and deliver their speeches to their peers. Through peer feedback, reflection and self-assessment, the children can refine both their ideas and their delivery.

Maths

This term, children will explore Geometry, investigating shapes, angles and measurement, through an art lens, while discovering how these concepts are used in everyday life. We will also revisit and consolidate key Number and Algebra concepts and strategies from earlier in the year. As this strand underpins learning across all areas of mathematics, strengthening these skills will help children build confidence and apply their knowledge in new contexts. We will also place a special focus on financial literacy, using practical, real-world situations to help children develop their understanding of money, budgeting and making thoughtful financial decisions.

Social Science

Your Voice, Your Choice! That's right, it's election time. Whānui will run a mock election with mock candidates, parties, and policies. The children will learn about how the MMP system works through a fun, meaningful and relevant first-hand voting experience.

Te Reo

Nau mai, haere mai Matua Jeremy! We are lucky to have Jeremy taking the children for their Te Reo and Waiata this term. We are fortunate to live in a bi-cultural nation where tamariki can learn and grow surrounded by the rich traditions of both Māori and Western cultures. Waiata is a beautiful celebration of language, history and culture. Jeremy will explore some kupu reo for feelings as this connects to our health and wellbeing programme.

Arts and Science Integrated

Whānui will have the opportunity to explore the ecosystems that exist in Aotearoa through the BLAKE-VR program. Each year BLAKE aims to inspire thousands of young New Zealanders to care for the environment through activities and adventures that encourage environmental awareness and leadership, and instill a deeper sense of kaitiakitanga within them. Paired with this, Whānui tamariki will be exploring how to communicate the scientific ideas we will be learning about through the arts. Music and dance provide opportunities to embody the learning taking place in class and the tamariki will have the opportunity to practice this in the area of food webs and habitats.

Digital Technologies

As part of our speech topic research, we will help students learn how to find trustworthy information online. We will provide a selection of safe, reliable websites for students to use. We will also teach them to ask simple questions like: Who wrote this? Is it up to date? Does another website say the same thing? These skills will help students become confident and safe researchers.

Physical Education, Health and Well-being

Our unit this term, 'Navigating the Journey', is a sexuality education program provided by Family Planning New Zealand. It has links with both the science curriculum and the health and physical education curriculum. It covers personal growth and the changes we all go through, and how we can best support ourselves and others. Topics such as pubertal change; body image; risks and issues; sexuality and diversity; critical thinking about gender; friendships; individual rights; dealing with social messages and stereotypes will be covered. Our programmes are designed with our children's well-being in mind, and as a class we create basic agreements so sharing and curiosity are safe and respected.

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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