



KELBURN COMMS – WEEKLY UPDATE

TERM 2 – WEEK 3

RĀAPA 6 HARATUA

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026

This week...

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Wednesday 6 May | WGC Principal talks to Y8 girls and whānau @ 3.15pm |
| Monday 11 May | PTA Meeting @ 7 pm in the Tupu space |
| Tuesday 12 May | Gymnastics Tupu and Māia |
| Wednesday 13 May | Celebration of Learning from 3.15pm - 4.45pm |

Staffing Update

We would like to let whānau know of the following staff changes at kura this term and in term 3.

Leavers

Ms Jenny Cossey has resigned from her position as a classroom release teacher from June 5th to spend more time with whānau and to relieve. We thank Jenny for her many years service to Kelburn and we wish her all the very best for her trip to the UK in June and in the years ahead.

Mr Tom Pearce will complete his time as a fixed-term Classroom Release Teacher (CRT) kaiako at the end of this term. Tom and his whānau are moving overseas for a few years. We thank Tom for his huge mahi around the kura and we will miss Tom, Kathy, Rowan and Connor while they are away and we wish them all the very best for their new lives in Vietnam.

New Staff

I am delighted to let you know of the following staff appointments we have made recently.

Ms Lisette Wilson has been appointed to Tupu Rima in a fixed-term new entrant position from beginning of term 3 to the end of the year. Lisette has previously worked at Crofton Downs School.

Mrs Ann Kendon has been appointed as the literacy support teacher in a fixed-term position beginning on 14th May to the end of the year. Ann has been doing a similar role at Corrina School in Porirua this year.

Ms Nicole Lewington has been appointed as the new Māia fixed-term CRT to replace Mr Tom Pearce who leaves at the end of term 2. Nicole has previously worked at Newlands Intermediate and Kaori Normal.

Celebration of Learning

Next week on Wednesday, 13 May is the Celebration of Learning from 3.15 pm to 4.45 pm. The tamariki will host you into the learning spaces to share the work they have completed so far. It is always lovely to take the time to go through the books and hear the student's voice as to what each learning experience was about in context.

Lockdown Training at Kelburn Normal School on 21 May 2026

As part of keeping our school safe we need to be able to respond safely and quickly to a range of emergency situations. **We are holding lockdown training on Thursday 21 May 2026.**

We work alongside an independent company, Harrison Tew® Ltd, who specialises in emergency management planning for schools, whose procedures have been successfully implemented in hundreds of schools throughout New Zealand.

As part of maintaining our emergency procedures in our school, specialised training is being conducted with our senior leadership and staff by Harrison Tew® Ltd.

The students will also receive information on how to respond in an emergency directed at their respective age groups from either their teacher or Harrison Tew® Ltd.

We will then be conducting a lockdown exercise under the guidance and support of Harrison Tew® Ltd.

During the exercise you will receive a notification from the school, so it is important that your emergency contact details are up to date and correct. The notification will emphasise that this is an exercise/practice and will explain that all updated information will then be posted on the school website.

In a genuine incident, should you become aware of a lockdown or evacuation at the school, can I please ask that you do not attend the school or phone, as we will not be able to respond. Your presence or contact may make it more difficult for us or the emergency services to manage a situation.

We thank you for your support.

2026 Cross Country Results

We had a great time yesterday at our school cross country and fun run. It was fantastic to see the tamariki giving their all and showing manaakitanga as they cheered one another on. The fun run is also a time when we see tuakana-teina in action, with our oldest students doing a superb job supporting the younger children around the course.

Below are the top three placegetters for each competitive category - well done.

| 2026 Cross Country Results | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Year 4 | | Year 5 | | Year 6 | | Year 7 | | Year 8 | |
| Place | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys |
| 1 | Clementine W | Sam W | Sophia Y | Robbie O | Liv Y | Harrison K | Sofia M | Louis D | Greer Y | Chao W |
| 2 | Ellie R | August C | Adele D | Oskar B | Phoebe H | Ambrose H | Priyanka P | Nixon D | Bloem S | Jamie C |
| 3 | Arabella L | Ollie A | Chloe S | Odin W | Tessa S | Joaquin SV | Madeleine C | Atila G | Izzy S | Elliot S |

Tupu Updates

BSLA-Whānau Invitation for whānau 2026

Dear Parents & Whānau,

Tupu Tahi and Tupu Rua have started this year with the Better Start Literacy Approach. Tupu Toru and Whā have been continuing with the Better Start Literacy Approach.

This approach is a research-based way of teaching reading and spelling. We are excited by the progress and developments that the tamariki are making. The WOW moments are numerous.

We would like to invite you to hear about this approach and learn how you can support your child's reading journey at home for the Tupu Tahi and Rua teams and for the Tupu Toru and Whā teams to hear about their next stage in the approach.

Day and Time: **Thursday 28th May at 5:30pm to 6:30pm**

Place: Tupu Nui space to start.

We look forward to you joining us. Sorry, this is just a meeting for adults.

Ngā mihi,
Marianne, Wendy, Jo, Jodie, and Susie

Whanake Trip to Te Papa

As part of our learning this term, Whanake is off on an exciting trip to Te Papa. At Te Papa, we will be taking part in learning sessions with Te Papa Educators, where we will learn more about the journeys made to Aotearoa, and how early explorers and master navigators from across the Pacific adapted to and shaped Aotearoa into the country it is today. We will also be learning about the journeys of 19th and 20th century arrivals from around the globe, and how they continue up to the present day. We will also spend time exploring the museum in small groups.

There will be a small charge for this trip, which will cover bus costs and Te Papa admission. This will be added to your child's statement.

Key Information: Date: Wednesday 20th May / Venue: Te Papa / Times:

Whanake Tahi: 10.25am-1.20pm

Whanake Rua: 9.25am-12.20pm

Whanake Toru: 11.25am-2.20pm

To make this trip possible, we will need parent helpers to accompany each class. If you are able to help, please contact your child's teacher.

Kelburn Normal School Variance Report on Student Achievement Highlights

Below is a summary of the Variance report that we submit annually to the Ministry of Education. You can find the full variance report on our Kelburn website. This report assists us in setting new kura goals for the current year and also in the development of the new strategic plan.

Kelburn Normal School continues to thrive as a place “where students learn creatively and strive for excellence, preparing for lifelong learning.” The strong foundations built in 2025—across teaching practice, wellbeing, cultural capability, and community partnerships—position the kura for a year of consolidation, innovation, and deeper impact in 2026.

Highlights Carried Forward From 2025

These 2025 achievements shape the priorities for 2026:

1. Strengthened Te Ao Māori and Culturally Sustaining Practice

Staff embedded te reo, tikanga, and kapa haka into daily routines, with “karakia in place at all levels” and strong engagement with Te Atiawa through Kura Ahurea. This provides a platform for deeper bicultural and multicultural learning in 2026.

2. High Academic Achievement and Curriculum Refresh

Achievement remained strong across reading, writing, maths, and science, supported by BSLA and the introduction of Maths No Problem. Staff noted that “Maths No Problem introduced as a new resource from Term 1” contributed to improved outcomes. This momentum will continue into 2026 with further PLD and curriculum refinement.

3. Creative Agency and Performing Arts Excellence

The drama kaupapa flourished, culminating in Year 7–8 performances of Hamlet and The Tempest to full audiences. The Creative Agency Framework continued to shape learning dispositions, with teachers reporting that themed units “successfully wove all curriculum areas together.”

4. Deep Commitment to Wellbeing and Manaakitanga

The school strengthened its hauora systems and pastoral care. Staff emphasised that “a culture of manaakitanga is present within the learners,” with students increasingly resolving issues collaboratively. The introduction of Mitey and continued use of Te Whare Tapa Whā set a strong wellbeing foundation.

5. Strong Community and Whānau Partnerships

Whānau engagement remained high through assemblies, celebrations, learning showcases, and kapa haka events. The school’s welcoming culture—evident in termly mihi whakatau—reinforced whānauangatanga and belonging.

6. Celebrating our academic results

In 2025, our tamariki continued to return excellent student achievement results in reading, writing, maths and science. Maths achievement continued to improve using the problem-solving approach.

BSLA has proven to make a real impact for tamariki's access to literacy and learning. For our oldest students, in Year 8, over 50% of students achieved in the “well above” category in all 4 disciplines, which is double the national average. The work of all the staff is to be congratulated.

In 2025, the school continued to work on sustaining its support for students with learning difficulties, expanding its online support toolbox and strengthening its understanding of neurodiverse learners, making improvements for children to grow their dispositions as learners. Our learning support team was superbly led by Danielle Sanders.

7. Celebrating our learning culture

Our powerful learning culture continued to develop as we referenced our Creative Agency Framework- work influenced by further delving into Claxton’s learning power, the 4 types of agency - resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity. Our drama kaupapa saw every team devise and perform a play or Drama Sharing. The progression through the school was evident in our Drama Sharing with Tupu, all the way through to our Year 7 and 8 students who performed Shakespeare’s Hamlet and The Tempest to packed houses at the Gryphon Theatre. The school research question for Teacher Inquiry continued to focus on agency and engagement.

Staff have been engaged in the refreshed curriculum around mathematics and embedded the new mathematics resource - Maths No Problem across all areas of the kura. Staff attended two mathematics professional development days with Northland School and Wadestown School. There are two more days organised for 2026. Staff also held a Whānau Information Evening for the community on refreshed curriculum changes.

Kelburn Normal School Strategic Plan

This year, the School's current Strategic Plan 2024-2026 expires, and the Board must prepare a new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines the School's long-term priorities and direction for supporting student learning, wellbeing, and community engagement. It provides a framework to guide decision-making, teaching practice, and resource allocation over a three-year period. The current Strategic Plan can be seen [here](#).

The Board has established a Communications and Strategic Plan Committee to lead consultation with the School community, including students, staff, and whānau, and develop the proposed Strategic Plan for adoption by the Board.

The Committee intends to undertake initial engagement with the School community during May and June through an online survey, and hui with staff, PTA, whānau and the Student Council. The Committee will share a draft Strategic Plan in July and August for more formal consultation and feedback, with a view to finalising the Plan for adoption by the Board in September.

Please keep an eye out for further information and notices in the weekly newsletter and emails. If any parents have comments on the existing Strategic Plan, please feel free to email them to bot@kelburnnormal.school.nz

School Hui – safe transition at the end of each hui

To help ensure a safe transition at the end of each hui, we kindly ask whānau to either stay in the hall or exit the hall through the side exit doors by the road patrol shed. Please then wait in the playground at your regular pickup spot so all tamariki can use the link to return to the learning spaces to collect their bags and be released from their class on time. In the interests of health and safety, please keep the linkway and doors clear at all times. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Easymoves Gymnastics Term 2 and Term 3

In terms two and three, we will be running in-school gymnastics sessions as part of our PE programme. These will be facilitated by Easymoves. Each class will have eight 30 minute sessions.

Maia and Tupu will have their sessions in term two, and Whānui and Whanake will have theirs in term three.

There is a donaton request of \$25 for these sessions, and this will be added to your child's statement.

WHAT IS MATHS MASTERY?

Maths mastery is about helping all children truly understand mathematical concepts—not just how to calculate, but how to use maths to solve real problems.

Maths mastery does not assume knowledge. Instead, it teaches children to become confident, flexible thinkers who can explain their reasoning and make connections across different contexts, concepts, and complex examples.



The five big ideas in teaching for Mastery

(From the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics)

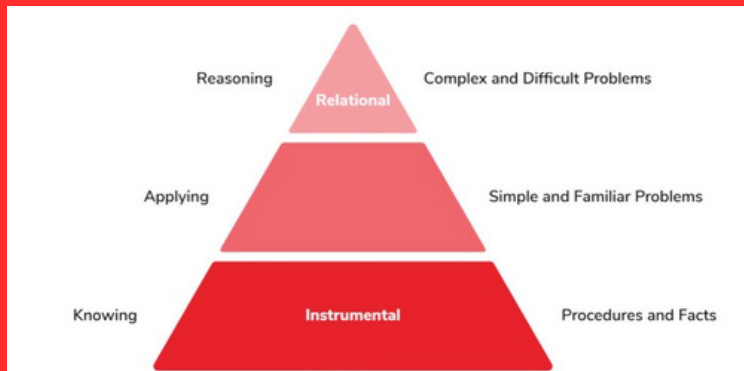
1. **Coherence** Learning is broken into small, connected steps to build understanding over time.
2. **Representation & Structure** Children use objects, drawings, and diagrams to see maths and make sense of it.
3. **Mathematical Thinking** Children discuss, reason, and explore ideas with others
4. **Fluency** Knowing number facts and methods well – and using them efficiently
5. **Variation** Concepts are shown in different ways to help children understand deeply.

What does this mean for my child?

- Your child is learning maths in a way that helps them understand, not just memorise
- They'll use real objects, images, and discussion to explore maths
- They'll become fluent, flexible, and confident with numbers
- All children are included and supported to succeed
- Advanced learners are challenged through depth – exploring more complex problems, reasoning in greater detail, and developing deeper conceptual understanding



Why Strong Foundations Matter



Imagine building a skyscraper. Without deep, strong foundations, you can't build higher.

The same goes for maths. We need to support all learners to secure the foundations of mathematical knowledge – so they can go further, with confidence.

Concrete – Pictorial – Abstract Approach

Children (and adults!) can find maths difficult because it is abstract. The CPA approach builds on children's existing knowledge by introducing abstract concepts in a concrete and tangible way. It involves moving from concrete materials, to pictorial representations, to abstract symbols and problems.

In Maths - No Problem! Children often begin by using physical objects (like counters, blocks or base 10 equipment), then move to drawings or diagrams, before using numbers and symbols.

This helps them understand **why** the maths works, not just **how**.

Looking Ahead Term 2 – dates are subject to change

| Week | Date | Event |
|---------------|------------------|---|
| Week 3 | Wednesday 6 May | WGC Principal talks to Y8 girls and whānau at 3.15pm |
| Week 4 | Monday 11 May | PTA meeting at 7 pm in the Tupu space |
| | Tuesday 12 May | Gymnastics Tupu and Māia |
| | Wednesday 13 May | Celebration of Learning from 3.15pm - 4.45pm |
| | Thursday 14 May | Gymnastics Tupu and Māia |
| | Friday 15 May | School hui hosted by Māia at 1.50 pm Colourful Shirt Day |
| Week 5 | Monday 18 May | Wellington College chat in Māia |
| | Tuesday 19 May | Gymnastics Tupu and Māia |
| | Wednesday 20 May | Gymnastics Tupu and Māia Whanake Te Papa Trip |
| | Thursday 21 May | Lockdown Training |
| | Friday 22 May | School hui hosted by Whanake at 1.50 pm |
| Week 6 | Monday 25 May | Playhouse Theatre Puss in Gumboots |
| | Wednesday 27 May | Year 7 Boostrix and Gardasil Vaccinations |
| | Thursday 28 May | Tupu BSLA Meeting 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm |
| | Friday 29 May | Dental Van Onsite Whānui and Māia Hockey Music Assembly at 1.50pm |
| Week 7 | Tuesday 2 June | Wellington Zone Cross Country 11am to 2pm (pp 4 June) |
| | Thursday 4 June | NZSO Petrushka Schools' Concert Y1-6 School Disco 3.30pm - 6.30pm |

Wellington Girls College Principal Talk with Y8 girls and Whānau

WGC Principal, Julia Davidson, talks to year 8 girls & whānau on Wednesday 6 May at 3.15 pm in the Māia teaching space.

Wellington College Open Mornings

Monday 15 June 2026 at 9.00 am

Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 9.00 am

This is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to tour Wellington College facilities and meet the Senior Leadership Team.

Registration is not required. All students and their families are welcome to attend.

School Clubs and Ensembles Timetable

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Lyrica – Yrs 6–8 8.30 am – 9.30 am Mahler Room Mrs Anna Sedcole & Mrs Munn | Orchestra – Yrs 4–8 8.20 am – 9.30 am Mahler Room Ms Katharina Vautier & Ms Smith | Xylobeats – Yrs 4–6 8.30 am – 9.30 am Mahler Room Ms Katharina Vautier | Piccolo – Yrs 4–6 8.30 am – 9.30 am Mahler Room Mrs Anna Sedcole & Mr Miller | Little Xylofun Yrs 2–3 9.00 am – 9.30 am Mahler Room Ms Katharina Vautier |
| | Code Club – to be advised | Chess Club to be advised | Tūi Choir Yrs 2–3 9.00 am – 9.30 am Hall Mrs Smith | Kapa Haka Yrs 5–8 8.30 am – 9.30 am Hall Matua Henare Parata, Ms Smith and Ms Rasmussen |
| | Junior Kapa Haka – Yrs 1–4 1.40 pm – 2.10 pm Hall Mr Jeremy Desmond & Mrs Blair | | Eco Club to be advised | |

Term Dates 2026

| 2026 | Start Date | End Date | Public Holidays/Teacher only days |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Term 2 11 wks | Monday 20 April | Friday 3 July | Friday 24 April - Teacher only Day PLD Maths Curriculum Monday 27 April - ANZAC Day observed Monday 1 June - Kings Birthday |
| Term 3 10 wks | Monday 20 July | Friday 25 September | Friday 14 August - Teacher only Day 3 Way Learning Conversations Friday 28 August - Teacher only Day PLD Maths Curriculum |
| Term 4 10 wks | Monday 12 October | Wednesday 16 December - finish at 2pm | Monday 26 October - Labour Day |

School Reminders

Click to view [link to school reminders](#) published in previous newsletters

The Winter Project

The Winter Project is working with KNS to collect Winter clothes again this year.

The Winter Project is an organisation of Year 12 Marsden students who collect winter woollens and distribute them to schools with families in need in the Wellington region. These families might need some extra warmth for the cold nights ahead entering into winter.

Please donate second-hand winter woollens. Items could include: scarves, beanies, gloves, blankets, jerseys, jackets, raincoats, puffers, warm tops/pants or shoes. Please bring any preloved, clean, warm clothing items in good condition. There is a box near Reception for donations. Thank you for your help!

Child Contact and Permission Information on School App

Please take a moment to check your contact details on the school app to ensure your address and phone numbers are up to date. If you need to make any changes, kindly inform the school office. You can also update your child's details through the school app. Click on My Child icon in the school app and then update the contact and permission information as required.



MY CHILD

CONTACT

MEDICAL

PERMISSIONS

OTHER DETAILS

ATTENDANCE FOR TODAY

Keeping your details current helps us stay connected and ensures you receive important school updates. Two emergency contacts in addition to parents/caregivers are essential in case we are unable to contact you during an emergency.

Please also check your child's permissions under the school app to ensure they are correct and up to date. If any changes are needed, kindly inform the school office as soon as possible.

Community Notices



These are provided as a service to the community and do not necessarily reflect the policies and practices of the school - click the [link](#) to view school notices.

Help us fund gully maintenance by purchasing a

KNS Gully Tea Towel

**A GREAT GIFT
OR KEEPSAKE!**

100% cotton
Natural colour
Easily mailed
Long lasting



**\$20 EA
OR
3 FOR \$50**

You can buy these awesome tea towels at the school office
[EFTPOS AVAILABLE]

Kelly Club Notice

Kelly Club is about having fun doing interesting things with your friends & making new friends too! Our programmes are packed with activities; play sports & games, bake & cook, learn new crafts, do your homework or just relax and play. We offer After School Care every day of school term and Holiday Programmes during the school holidays too.

Kelly Club programmes at Kelburn Normal School can be searched [here](#),

or you can contact Kelly Club directly:

Phone: [021 744 636](tel:021744636)

Email: kelburnnormal@kellyclub.co.nz

- Visit: www.kellyclub.co.nz
 - e-mail: kelburnnormal@kellyclub.co.nz
- or just pop into Kelly Club any day after school.

Kelly Sports



SHORTER DAYS BIGGER PLAYS TERM 2 2026

As the days grow shorter and winter starts to set in our after-school sports programmes are here to keep the afternoon bright, active and full of fun!! Join us to sharpen your skills, try new games and burn of that extra energy in a positive structured environment!

This weekly programme gives children skills and confidence in a fun and enjoyable environment. It also encourages their enthusiasm for sport and the life skills that such involvement brings - giving them confidence to join sports clubs in the future!

For term 2 the sports we are focussing on are:

Football, Handball, Netball and Hockey (2 weeks of each).

Classes start on Wednesday 29 April 2026 (Week 2) and run for 8 weeks, 3.05pm-4.05pm

Go to www.kellysports.co.nz

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