



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Rua 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

25 April 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Firstly, we enjoyed and valued our three-way learning and goal-setting conversations last term. Mr Miller and I noted how well we thought the children spoke, shared about themselves, and reflected on their strengths and areas for growth. It's no easy feat having your worlds collide in one small room with all eyes and ears on you. So well done, children! Reflecting on ourselves as learners can be a meaningful process that helps us to take responsibility for our learning. Thank you, too, to our families for working with us to support the children's learning journeys.

Literacy and Arts

This term, children will be devising their own class plays. Drama provides a playful and fun way to learn while encouraging critical thinking, questioning, and curiosity. This process helps develop literacy skills, including reading, interpreting, and crafting dialogue, while exploring multiple ways to communicate ideas. Children will develop scripts, characters, and narratives, and engage in lots of writing and creative thinking along the way. The drama term is a lot of mahi, but it is a rewarding experience for the children, as they have agency and ownership over what they create and must work collaboratively to shape their stories and performances. Through drama, children strengthen a wide range of key competencies, from perspective-taking and communication to creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork, making it a rich and meaningful way to explore ideas and share learning.

There is no theme for either class play this year, so expect varied performances exploring different questions. The performance evening is scheduled for week 9, Thursday, 18th of June, at 5 pm. Save the date! If, for any reason, your child will not be attending school this week, let their Home Learning Teacher know as early as possible.

Maths

In our maths time, we will be continuing to focus on multiplication and division strategies from the end of last term. In later weeks we will move to studying fractions, ratios and proportions. These areas of mathematics will help the tamariki to deal with everyday situations of shopping, cooking and sharing resources. Whānui will be balancing conceptual learning through the Maths No Problem program with selected problem solving activities and projects that apply mathematics to real life contexts. There are

opportunities for the children to work both independently and collaboratively with their maths buddy to practice and reflect on their learning.

Social Science and Arts

Art tells stories! This term, children will explore what we can learn about Ancient Chinese dynasties and society through an arts lens. We will look at landscape painting and poetry. By discovering these works, children will have opportunities to gain insights into culture, daily life, and beliefs, as well as how art reflects the values and ideas of a society. What's more, the children will get to create their own work in response, expressing their understanding and creativity. This approach helps children connect history, culture, and the arts while also developing an appreciation of cultural diversity in Aotearoa and the wider world.

Science and Te Reo

This term will see Whānui discovering the human body systems and functions that keep us breathing, moving and thinking. By studying what makes up our bodies, the children will gain an understanding and appreciation of the interconnected systems necessary to sustain life and keep us healthy. We will take a dive into the musculoskeletal, respiratory and digestive systems, and how they work together. Alongside the scientific focus of this unit, the children will expand their Te Reo vocabulary in relation to their bodies and physical wellbeing. We will explore 'taha tinana' of Mason Durie's 'Te Whare Tapa Whā' as a way to understand how our physical health is important and how it relates to other aspects of mental and personal wellbeing.

Physical Education, Health and Well-being

We will be taking advantage of the beautiful Botanic Gardens right at our doorstep, and taking children on the 'dark steps' cross-country training route. Weather permitting !!! Our cross-country event will be held on Tuesday, 5 May 2026, in Week 3. We will then use the remainder of the term to focus on invasion games such as netball, basketball, and touch-based games. These games develop key skills, including passing, moving into space, dodging, and shooting, as well as learning how to work as a team, defend effectively, and make quick decisions. These games help build both physical skills and an understanding of the game, while encouraging teamwork, communication, and fair play.

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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