



*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*

Te Ara Tupu Newsletter Term Tahi 2026

Te Ara = pathway and Tupu = beginning and developing

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

Everybody has something to offer, a piece of the puzzle, and by working together, we can all flourish.

5 February 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Welcome to term one and a new school year. It is lovely to meet and reconnect with all the tamariki and to see the children with their friends after the long holiday. Their joyful voices and giggles fill our space with excitement and make it a pleasure to be in our team, Tupu.

We extend a warm welcome to the new families who have joined Te Ara Tupu (the Tupu Team for short) or are about to join us. And a special welcome to Tupu for the joyful return of Marianne Blair as a teacher for Tupu Toru, alongside Jo Hamid, both expert kaiako who will bring strong school knowledge and experience to our team. The wealth of knowledge that Mrs Wendy Bamber brings to Tupu Whā, especially in literature, and her genuine joy and excitement for teaching and learning, will be a wonderful addition. What an action-packed term we have ahead, and we wanted to share what is coming.

Tupu starts the year with four teams, Tupu Whā with Mrs Wendy Bamber and year 2's, Tupu Toru with Mrs Marianne Blair and year 1 and 2's for four days a week and one day a week with Mrs Jo Hamid, Tupu Rua with Miss Jodie Corcoran and year 1's, and Tupu Tahi with Miss Susie Brown and year 1's. Our release teachers this term will be Mrs Jo Hamid, Mrs Philippa Hillard, and Ms Jenny Cossey.

The Tupu team has already launched into our school learning in mathematics, writing, and handwriting in the first week, and reading is starting for all teams in the second week of this term. All tamariki will have made changes over the summer break, so we may revisit prior learning to build a strong platform before launching into new knowledge.

Curriculum Topic

We start the term with 'SUPER HERO ME', a topic spanning several curriculum areas, to give meaningful connections to the learning. We will be focussing on what makes us special and different. This unit integrates learning across the PE and health, social science, English, and arts curricula. We will discuss our responsibilities in the team and shared area, at home, and how to work together and share. Throughout this investigation, we will be establishing our routines and positive behaviour expectations for the year.



Our major topic for the term focuses on science, the arts, and English. It focuses on the science strand 'The Living World', and we will be investigating sea creatures and what makes them strong, from the rocky shore and beyond. The children will be exploring how living things change, adapt, and interact with their environment through investigations and discussions. This unit is called '**Super Heroes of the Sea**'. We will be having a trip to the Marine Education Centre on Monday, 23rd and Tuesday, 24th March from 9:30 to 12:30. We will be asking for parent support on this trip, so please keep an eye out for this notice in the very near future.



We are continuing our journey with the Mitey programme. Mental health education has never been more crucial for our tamariki. Mitey is an evidence-based, school-wide approach to teaching mental health education, built around the NZ Curriculum and aligned with the Mental Health Education Guidelines. The key concepts we will use are feelings, emotions, whanau, friendships, and strengths.

We will finish the term celebrating Easter. We will ask for whānau help in the class to support these fun activities closer to the time. Please keep an eye out for this request soon.



Mathematics and Statistics

As we develop and become familiar with the new curriculum in our everyday mathematical lessons, we use the 'Maths No Problem' as a mastery approach and follow a scope and sequence that progresses throughout the school. It is a level-based programme. In Year 1, the topics include matching, sorting, comparing, and ordering objects and numbers; recognising and creating simple patterns; counting forwards and backwards; understanding positional language. Introduction to basic operations: addition, subtraction, and concepts of halving and sharing, and exploring number bonds to 10. In Year 2, the topics include numbers and counting and introduce various strategies for addition and subtraction, including number bonds



and word problems. Building into multiplication and subtraction concepts, fractions, geometry, and measurement. Problem-solving is a major part of the programme, and it incorporates word problems and practical applications throughout various topics.

Like our previous lessons, our maths lessons will follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration and rich discussion.

This programme involves applying mathematical knowledge in real-life situations, helping tamariki understand how and why maths works, instead of only learning rote procedures. This allows tamariki to make stronger connections, develop a long-term understanding of maths and, more importantly, enjoy learning mathematics.

Literacy

Structured Literacy through the *Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)* will continue this year for both Year 1 and 2 tamariki. We will hold whānau meetings in term 2 for more

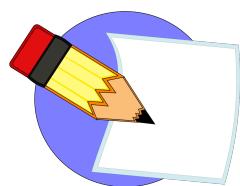
detailed information. We encourage all families to support their child through the BSLA parent activity sheets sent weekly on Seesaw.



Your child will bring a reading book home every night, Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, your child will bring home their poetry book to share the week's poem, as well as actions that may go along with it. They can also re-read their favourite poems. A library book that your child has chosen will come home on Friday, too. Sometimes, your child may choose a reading book to bring home, which could be a book they have brought home before. This aims to develop student choice, fluency, and expression when reading. We won't be sending a new book home if the previous book hasn't been returned or their reading folder is missing- this way we are looking after all our readers.



We know every effort is made in your busy lives to make time to fit in this important reading; the more children read, the better they get. Please remember to fill in the children's yellow home reading book, as the teachers value your feedback and input.



For writing this term, we are also working on personal and expressive recounts and descriptive writing. This ties in with our integrated units of work. Children will also have regular handwriting sessions focusing on correct pencil grip, forming lower-case, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly.

Te Reo

Tupu is joining Jeremy, our kapa haka teacher, for half an hour of developing our reo this term. We also endeavour to make our day interwoven with te reo through instructions, names and numbers. Under the confident guidance of our kaiako, Marianne and Jeremy, we come together for weekly Kapa Haka.



Physical Education

We value sports, games, and skill development. A big focus this term is to develop and improve our running, jumping, and throwing abilities. Not only does every class have a fitness programme and P.E. skills sessions weekly, but we also come together as a syndicate for a range of physical activities. Daily fitness activities take different forms, focusing on movement through a variety of activities.



The Arts

In visual art, we will explore the use of colour, detail, form, and composition in the children's artworks related to our topic studies.

Through music, the children will listen and learn to respond to tempo, tone, and dynamics changes.

Discovery Time and putting books away

If you are interested in helping out by putting books away, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact Susie so she can put you in contact with our amazing parent helpers.

As a new team this year, we are having the first term of Discovery time with no whānau helpers as we work through the new routines, timetables and how things work.

Mahi Ngātahi

Every Monday, we have an investigation and inquiry learning time from 9 to 10:00 am. This session is called Mahi Ngātahi, which means collaborative work. In these sessions, the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, as well as diving deeper into the wonderings that they have. This is a great opportunity to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is that children are able to learn from each other as they investigate their questions and interests. This is also a vehicle for the children to develop their digital technology skills, knowledge, and language.



Tūī Choir—Our year 2 tamariki are lucky to be part of the Tūī choir, which is led by Ms Rachel Smith every Thursday during school hours.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a digital platform for children to share their learning. This year, we have moved to the free school platform due to the rising costs of this programme.

You will receive a letter with your child's individual code to access their Seesaw account. Please let us know if you don't receive this, and we will print you a new one.

Seesaw is private; you'll only see posts created by your child or with your child. Families may do as they wish with posts on Seesaw that include only their child, but should not share them if other children are also included. This keeps all children's images safe.

Seesaw reflects some of what we do in our learning spaces. The children have been learning to use Seesaw independently, and are developing their digital skills through this.

Some of the activities they have posted are of things they have mastered, created, or are still learning to do, therefore they may not be perfect.

We invite you and your whānau to respond to your child's posts by talking with them and posting your own comments to celebrate their work.

We look forward to you travelling along with your child's learning through this exciting portal.

If your QR code doesn't work or you have trouble logging on, come and see us, and we will make it happen. Thank you for supporting your child's learning. If you have any questions, please contact your child's home learning teacher.

Happy Seesawing!

Assembly

Tupu Toru-Marianne's team will be leading the Tupu assembly/hui on Thursday 26th March. All tamariki in Tupu will share an item. All whanau are welcome. Assemblies are from 1:50 to 2:45pm on a Friday in the school hall, so do book this date in your calendar.

Pick Up and Drop Off

When you arrive at our school building and step into Te Ara Tupu, you will see four main areas. Our learning space is open at 8:30am, and the bell to start learning goes at 8:50am. There will be numerous school tamariki in these areas, as well as mums and dads, and preschoolers. We ask that you leave before the bell goes at 8:50am.

At the end of the day, there are several spaces where you can wait for your children. Please do not come inside the building to wait. We would also appreciate it if you didn't stand against the glass, as this makes it tricky for us to see everyone.

Tupu Tahi and Rua will leave through the Piwakawaka door. Please can whānau for these classes wait on the green turf by the playground.

Tupu Toru and Whā will leave through the side doors leading to the yellow spot. Please can whānau for these classes wait around the yellow spot under the small sunshade area.

We welcome all whānau to come in after school if you want to see work, or talk to us; however, please wait until we have let all the children go. This is normally a few minutes after the bell has gone.

Helpful reminders

Sun safety - All tamariki need to wear sun-safe clothing, including hats, and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking whether they have a hat in their bag or one they can leave at school. The school policy is that all children wear a brimmed hat. No caps, please. Children are responsible for putting on their own sunblock—the roll-on kind seems to be the most manageable.



Building independence - All kaiako encourage children to work towards independence, and we would appreciate your help in encouraging tamariki to walk independently into the learning space. However, please don't let this stop you from touching base with us, as we enjoy seeing you and sharing with you what your child has been achieving. Seeing the children coming in by themselves and taking responsibility for carrying their school bags to and from school while putting their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings is great.

Shoes off inside - As you know, we are a 'no shoes inside' school, so slippers are welcome, as are socks or bare feet. It is important that your children wear shoes to school that they can get off and on by themselves. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, including lunch boxes and drink bottles.

Nut-Free - To provide a safe environment for all the tamariki in Tupu, we ask that while in years 1 and 2, we encourage you to support us to be nut-free. There are a number of tamariki who are allergic to nuts. In



Tupu, we don't share food, but accidents do happen, and being nut-free makes these odd occurrences safer for all.

Craft materials - We use many different materials in arts/crafts and Discovery Time, so if you have things such as boxes, ice cream containers, old Christmas and birthday cards, cardboard rolls etc we would like them. Just ask your class kaiako what they might need if you are unsure.

Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or things that you would like to celebrate or discuss. We look forward to working alongside you in your child's best interests.

Nga mihi nui- from the Tupu teaching team

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