



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Wha 2025

10 October 2025

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

Key dates this term

16-17 October - Year 3/4 Zoo Sleepover

21 October - Whole School Athletics

19 November - Musical Refreshment

26 November - Celebration of Learning

28 November - Whanake hosting School Hui

It's hard to believe we are already in term four. The children can be proud of their efforts and learning last term; we certainly are. We have hit the ground running this week, and have a jam-packed term ahead, filled with plenty of exciting activities and events. To keep up to date with what's coming up, remember to read the weekly 'Kelburn Comms'.

Zoo Sleepovers

Excitement levels are high for our year 3 and 4 sleepovers at the zoo, which are coming up next week on **Thursday 16th October**.

On the day of the sleepover, children can be dropped off at Wellington Zoo (at the front entrance), just before 7pm. A bus will bring us back to school on Friday.

Please find the key information and packing list here. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Our Whanake Year 2s will come to school as usual on Friday, 17th October, and will have a fun-filled Friday with Ms Hamid.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a light green background and decorative illustrations of various zoo animals (a koala, a leopard, a meerkat, a monkey, a lion, a giraffe, a lemur, a red panda, and a tiger) and foliage. At the top, there is an illustration of a 'ZOO PASS' ticket that says '4c ADMIT ONE ONE DAY' and has a barcode. The title 'Packing List' is centered in a bold, black font. Below it is a bulleted list of items to bring. The title 'Sleepover Outline' is also centered in a bold, black font. Below it is a bulleted list of the schedule for the sleepover.

Packing List

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Pyjamas
- Warm clothes for the night exploration of the zoo
- Fresh clothes for the next day
- Raincoat (just in case)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste, hairbrush etc
- Drink bottle
- Sunhat
- A cuddly toy (optional, but maybe for some, essential!) Please limit this to one cuddly toy only.
- Sleeping rolls are provided but your child is welcome to bring an additional mattress if needed.

Sleepover Outline

- **6.55pm** drop off **after dinner at home**.
- Settle in: drop bags off, discuss rules and expectations
- Special night time 'behind the scenes' tour.
- Supper (provided) - biscuits and hot chocolate
- Prepare for bed in the 'Archibald Centre' (year 3s) or 'The Living Room' (year 4s)
- Go to bed (and sleep!)
- Wake up and have a continental breakfast (provided)
- Pack up and brush teeth
- Early morning guided tour, before visitors arrive
- 9-10am - self-guided zoo tour in small groups
- 10.15 - return to school
- 10.45am - morning at school (provided) - crackers and cheese, biscuits and fruit.
- 1pm pizza lunch (provided)
- 3pm - home time

Parent Help & PTA

We would like to thank all of the parents who have helped this year by putting our reading books away regularly. This really is a huge help. If this is something you are able to help with in term four, please email (sophieieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz).

The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki; 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?

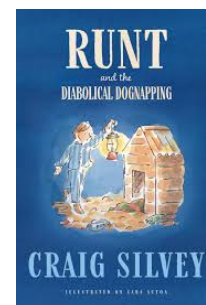
'A Carnival of Animals'

This term, our integrated unit of study will be focused on the living world, as we learn about different species of animals, and how they live and survive. We have designed this unit of learning to build on from our Antarctic topic last term. Alongside this, we will learn about endangerment factors, the ecosystem, and various conservation efforts. This will link closely to our zoo sleepovers, and will incorporate mathematics as we use area and perimeter to design our own zoos. We will finish the year reflecting on and celebrating our learning, and how we have grown and changed throughout the year.



Literacy

Linked closely to our integrated topic, this term our writing programme will focus on report writing, within the context of our animal research. Children will also write narrative stories, expressive recounts, and poetry. Reading opportunities will be varied, with both teacher-directed (whole class and smaller reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment) playing an important role in our reading programme. This will be integrated across all areas of the curriculum. Children will research and read for information, read for meaning, and build fluency across a range of texts. We will continue encouraging fluency, expression, and rich discussions to enhance comprehension.



For Chapter Chat, we will be delving into the newly released 'Runt and the diabolical dognapping', by Australian author Craig Silvey. This is a sequel to the widely acclaimed book 'Runt', and we are looking forward to seeing what new adventures await the Shearer family and community of 'Upson Downs'.

The BSLA structured literacy approach continues to be an important part of our literacy programme. Children will also practise their handwriting skills regularly, with a continued focus on cursive within this programme in term four.

Mathematics

We are beginning the term with a revision and consolidation of our fractions learning, before launching into measurement within the context of time. Children will be learning to recognise and read times, and measure and compare durations of time using these. A helpful support for tamariki when learning time is exposure and use of analogue clocks in everyday life. Following this, we will learn about area and perimeter and apply these concepts to our own zoo designs. To finish the term, we will be carrying out statistical investigations, and exploring probability.

Underpinning all mathematical teaching are connections to the core skills of number knowledge and strategy, and children have daily opportunities to consolidate and build on their skills, as well as apply them across different contexts (for example, adding or subtracting times to find the duration of an event, or multiplying lengths to find an area). Maths lessons are structured with a range of whole-class, rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. We continue to utilise the 'Maths, No Problem' resources as a tool to support learning. Maths Whizz continues to be available for home learning support, and we also encourage the use of card or dice games to support tamariki in building their basic fact knowledge.

Physical Education and Health

Our school-wide athletics day is in week three, and we will begin the term with a focus on high jump and long jump, as well as revisiting the track and field events we practised last term (quoits, vortex and sprints). Following this, we will focus on cooperative games and sportspersonship. In health, we will be beginning our school-wide journey using 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, which is built around the NZ Curriculum and aligned to the Mental Health Education Guidelines. The key concepts we will be using are our feelings, emotions, whanau, friendships, and strengths.

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 is 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. Children are encouraged to select a variety of activities offered across the term, using their Innov8 passports.

Art

Following a couple of weeks of continuing our focus on printmaking, the children will be taking part in arts rotations, exploring a variety of techniques relating to sketching. Tamariki will experiment with still-life drawing, mark-making, shading, gradients, and texture, and will learn about artists who use these techniques in their work.



Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, we will focus on building our knowledge of day-to-day kupu, as well as building our skills in expressing position and likes/dislikes, using the context of kai. Each home learning team will have a weekly Te Reo Māori session with Matua Jeremy, where we will be focusing on these skills. On Tuesday afternoons, children have the option of opting-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, or participating in Te Reo sessions.

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 every day. 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 our tamariki to develop their musical and performance skills. This term, these groups will be working towards our musical refreshment as a celebratory conclusion to a successful year.

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

Piccolo Choir: The children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) for the Piccolo choir at 8:30am on a Thursday. This choir is for children in years 4-6.

Xylobeats: 8.30-9.30am on Tuesdays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 4-6 students.

Little Xylofun: 8.30-9.10am on Fridays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 2-3 students

Junior Kapa Haka: 1.45-2.15pm on Tuesdays. This is for year 1-4 students.



Housekeeping

- **Sun Hats:** The New Zealand sun is fierce. In terms one and four, children are required to wear wide-brimmed hats when learning or playing outdoors. Children with forgotten hats will stay under the shade sails during break times. Please remind your child to check they have their hat each day. We also encourage tamariki to come to school with sunscreen, and to reapply it during the day.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Communication:** The weekly 'Kelburn Comms' is a one-stop-shop for all updates and information about what is coming up at school. We strongly recommend taking the time to read this each week. Alongside this, on the last Friday of each month, our 'Voice of Ngā Tātarakihi' newsletter celebrates the exciting mahi happening across the kura.



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)