



*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 Toru 2024

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

Friday 26 July

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Welcome back to Term Three. A special welcome to all the tamariki and whānau who join our team this term. On Thursday we celebrated 100 days of school. It has been action-packed so far with new learning and discoveries. After last term's investigations, what we now know about how the endless world of dinosaurs could fill many books. It is exciting to see the positive, 'can-do' attitude growing in the children as they travel along on their own learning journeys. We are especially pleased with the way that the children are working in our learning space, collaborating with each other, and developing their problem-solving skills by using their initiative.



All the Tupu Team teachers would like to say a big thank you to the parents who were able to help out with Discovery Time, putting books away, and supporting the learning. We do appreciate the time and support you give and look forward to parental help this term as well, especially with PMP.

We wanted to share with you what we have planned for this term. If there is anything that you feel you can contribute to our programme, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Curriculum Topics

Our major topic for the term has an English, drama, arts, and Te Ao Māori focus. It will be based around the legends and stories of Maui. We will listen to, read, and compare different stories, and look for themes as well as explanations to the world around these stories. We will be using drama and writing to explore and enrich our interpretations. We will be diving deeper into the story of how Maui caught the land. We will be sharing a range of drama processes and creative ideas in the form of a Tupu team piece at the end of the term. Save Tuesday 24th September at 2pm so you can come and see us in action.



Through the material world of Science, we will investigate our Wonderful Wai through activities that investigate water as a solid, a liquid, and a gas.

Mathematics and Statistics



This term, we are investigating and trialing a mathematical programme based around Numicon. Numicon is a distinctive multi-sensory approach to children's mathematical learning that emphasizes three key aspects of doing mathematics through communicating mathematically, exploring relationships, and generalising concepts to use in solving problems in everyday life experiences and contexts. Numicon aims to facilitate children's understanding and enjoyment of maths by using structured imagery that plays to their strong sense of pattern. This is done through research-based, multi-sensory teaching activities. Alongside this programme, we will be following our term programme. For the first two weeks, our focus will be developing the children's understanding of two- and three-dimensional shapes. We will then focus on multiplication (repeated addition) and division (sharing) strategies. This will involve skip counting, grouping, and sharing objects. We will also be working on our addition and subtraction knowledge. We will finish off the term with a focus on fractions.

All classes will take part in Maths Week. We will investigate mathematical problems that we find in a familiar fairy tale or nursery rhyme.

Don't forget to check out the activities and advice on www.nzmaths.co.nz. Click on the 'Families' heading. As well as using our Maths Alive information on Seesaw.

Literacy

Our literacy programs are back in full swing. Your child should be bringing a reading book home every night, Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, your child should be bringing home their poetry book to share the week's poem. Our weekly update on Seesaw will continue sharing the focus of learning from BSLA, especially around phonetic knowledge, by sharing ways to support your child at home. We value your support with this. We are holding a second BSLA whānau meeting. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks.



We know you make every effort in your busy lives 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 really value your feedback and input.

For writing this term, we are working on personal writing, expressive recounts, and descriptive character writing, which ties in with our integrated unit of work.

Children will also have regular handwriting sessions that will focus on forming lowercase, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly, as well as correct pencil grip.

Arts

In visual arts, we will be exploring collage, composition, texture, and shape to create artwork. The artworks will complement drama and role play and will enhance and expand the children's understanding of different shared class stories. This will also stimulate the children's imaginative responses and creativity. The children will be exploring



space, movement, and keeping in time to the music through music to match Maui's adventures. In music, the children will listen, respond to, and imitate the elements of beat, rhythm, and pitch, as well as continue with increasing their singing repertoire.

Te Reo

This term, all of Tupu are joining Jeremy, our kapa haka teacher, for half an hour of waiata at Kapa Haka and individual team time to develop our Te Reo.

Tui Choir will continue weekly this term for our year 2 tamariki with Emily Wilby.

Physical Education

In Tupu, we value sports, games, and skill development. This term we launch into PMP, twice a week for five weeks. Thank you to the many whānau who are supporting us. We will continue on from last term as we are focusing on skipping, balls, and hoops; we will also be launching into a few folk dances throughout the term.



Discovery Time and book shelving

We are looking forward to having parent support for our ever-popular Discovery Time and also book putting away.

We are also looking for parent helpers for Discovery Time. This session is on a Friday from 9 to 10:30. Please contact your class kaiako if you can help.

We are most grateful for offers to put books away. Please contact Andrea if you can help.

Mahi Ngatahi

Every Monday we have an investigation time from 9 am to 10:30 am. This session is called Mahi Ngatahi which means collaboration. In these sessions, the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, and dive deeper into the wonderings that they have. This is a great



opportunity for them to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is children are able to learn from each other as they investigate their own questions and interests.

Helpful Reminders

All the teachers encourage the children to work towards independence, and we would appreciate your help here too. The children are encouraged to take responsibility for carrying their own school bag to and from school, and to put their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings. We also would like to see the older children being encouraged to say goodbye to their parents at the gate and walk into school by themselves. We don't want this to stop you from coming in and sharing what has been happening in the class or touching base with the teachers. Instead, we would like to see a balance between children being independent and sharing with their families. So you might like to choose a day with your child when you can come into the learning spaces after school. Spend this time

with your child so they can share and explain what learning they have been doing, including reading their storywriting book with you.

Assembly Save the date on your calendar for Friday 16th August from 10:15 to 11am. Tupu Tahi and Rua will be leading the school assembly while all the tamariki in Tupu will be sharing an item.

Please make sure that your child has a warm jacket and/or a raincoat each day. As you know, we are a 'no shoes inside' school, so slippers are welcome, as are just socks or bare feet. It is important that children wear shoes that they can get off and on by themselves. Please make sure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled, especially lunch and drink containers.



Pick Up and Drop Off

Just a few points to make the mornings and afternoons run smoothly as these are busy times of the day. When you arrive in our school building and step into Te Ara Tupu, you will see that there are 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 children in these areas, as well as mums and dads, and preschoolers. We do ask that you leave before the bell goes at 8:50am, especially as you will need to walk through three other teaching and learning spaces to leave the building. 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. We welcome all parents and families to come in after school if you want to see work, or talk to us, however, please do wait until we have let all the children go. This is normally no more than a few minutes after the bell has gone.

SeeSaw

We are continuing to add to your child's SeeSaw this term to share with families and whānau. The children love posting their work for you to see what is happening during the day with their learning. We enjoy reading your feedback so please continue to share this on your child's SeeSaw as this creates a strong connection between home and school.

If you have any questions, or there is something you would like to talk to the teachers about, please come in and talk to us or feel free to email if that works better for you.

Ngā mihi nui from the Tupu teaching team
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