



Te Ara Whanake Term Two Newsletter

Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Rua 2024

3 May 2024

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

What a positive start to the year we had. It was exciting to see the way our home learning teams came together, and the focus and enthusiasm with which tamariki engaged with their learning right from day one. We were particularly proud of the Whanake children's determination and stamina at our school cross-country and fun run in week eleven.

The children have quickly settled into the new school term, with routines and team cultures now firmly established. We incorporated a number of assessment activities into the first term's programme, and the Whanake teachers have a strong understanding of where your child is at, and where they need to focus on next. We enjoyed meeting with most of you at our Learning Conversations, and we encourage you to contact your child's teacher if you would like to discuss their learning and next steps.

Parent Help & PTA

We are very appreciative of our fantastic parent helpers, who helped make our trip to Te Wharewaka and the waterfront a success last term. This term, we are looking for parents who can help with reshelving returned reading books. This can be done at any time during the day, and truly is a great help. If you think you might be able to help with this, please email sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

This term, we have the opportunity to attend the NZSO 'Firebird and Other Music Adventures' Concert, at 11am on Thursday 30th May. For this trip, we will require parent helpers from each home learning team. We will depart from school at 10.15am, and return by 12.30pm. If you are able to help, please email sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz. There will be a donation request for this exciting activity later this term.

It was fantastic to see many of you at our PTA school picnic last term. Our PTA team do a fantastic job supporting our tamariki through events, working bees and fundraisers. If you are interested in getting involved, you can contact them at pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

What are we learning this term?



This term, our major focus is on our team drama, as we explore the question, "How do we overcome challenges that we encounter?". We will be exploring this through the pūrakau 'Tāne-te-wananga' (Tāne and the baskets of knowledge). Using process drama, each home learning team will devise our own play, which we look forward to sharing with you in week nine. This focus will link closely with our literacy units, where we will explore characterisation, plot, setting and perspective. We will also use this context to explore te ao Māori, developing our understanding of both Te Reo and Tikanga.

Key dates this term

7 May - Swimming Sports (Karori Pool)

24 May - Whanake hosting assembly (9.45-11am)

30 May NZSO Firebird Concert at Michael Fowler Centre

6 June Music Assembly & School Disco

19 June Celebration of Learning

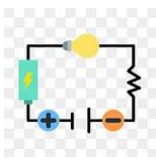
Class Play Sharing:

26 June, 2pm - Whanake Tahī

27 June, 12pm - Whanake Rua

27 June, 2pm - Whanake Toru

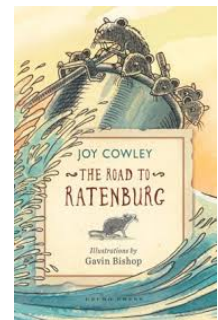
Science



This term, our science focus takes us into the physical world as we learn about energy sources through simple circuits. We will create and test our own circuits, make predictions, and gather data to find out more about the types of items that conduct electricity and what is required for electricity to flow.

Literacy

With a particular emphasis on developing their dramatic capability, children will be learning how to communicate ideas to an audience in a variety of different ways. They will also be writing character descriptions, poetry, reports, narrative stories, and engage in informal debates about all sorts of topics. Reading opportunities will be varied, with teacher-directed (reading groups) and independent (personal interest and enjoyment). This will be integrated across all areas of the curriculum. Children will be researching and reading for information, reading for meaning, and understanding a range of texts. We will continue to encourage fluency, expression, and reading punctuation to enhance comprehension levels. For Chapter Chat, we will be going on an exciting adventure with a family of rats, through Joy Cowley's 'Road to Ratenburg'.



Our spelling and phonics programme will continue, using the 'Wordlab' scope and sequence. Alongside this, we will be running weekly sessions with a focus on syntax. This links directly with our home learning activities. Children will also be practising their handwriting skills on a regular basis, both through teacher-led lessons, and independent practise.

Cultural Experiences

This term, in week 5, we will get to enjoy a NZ Playhouse performance of the play 'A Reluctant Dragon' in our hall. A donation of \$6.50 is requested for this performance. In week 6, we will be heading down to the Michael Fowler Centre to see the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra perform 'Firebird and Other Music Adventures'. **Parent help is required for this trip, if you are able to join us on the day, please email your child's HLT teacher.** A donation request will be made for this performance later in the term. These donation requests will be added to your child's statement.

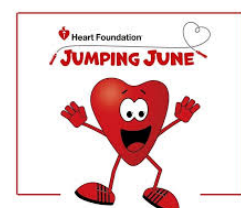
Mathematics

Our mathematical focus for the first seven weeks of term is number knowledge, number strategies, and problem-solving, with particular reference to addition and subtraction. Maths lessons are structured with a range of whole-class rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. The NZ Maths website is a useful resource if you would like ideas about how to support your child's learning at home ([NZ Maths Families & Whanau](#)). To finish the term, we will focus on measurement through the context of time.

Health & Physical Education

In Health, we will be building our resilience skills and learning more about growth mindsets, and how we can overcome frustrations.

In PE, we will focus on ball skills through team games with an emphasis on developing passing skills, as well as those important skills essential to working together as a team. Later in the term, we will be participating in 'Jumping June', as we develop our skipping skills.



We also have our school swimming sports at Karori Pool in week 2 (Tuesday May 7th). All year 3/4 tamariki will participate in fun races in the teaching pool, and children will also have the opportunity to sign up for competitive races in the 25m pool. Earlier this week, your child will have brought home with them a list of the events that they have self-selected to enter into swimming sports. Please take a moment to discuss this list with your child. If you feel your child may have selected an event beyond their current swimming ability, please let your child's teacher know via email as soon as you can.

Innov8

We will be continuing to run innov8 on Monday mornings, between 9.30-10.45am. Innov8 is an opportunity for the children to work together across our ara, and learn through an exploratory and playful context. Underpinning innov8 activities are 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. Each week, we will have a key goal relating to one of the Key Competencies (managing self, relating to others, using text, symbols and language, thinking, and participation), which the children will reflect on together in their home learning teams at the end of the session.

Art

Our visual art focus this term is mixed media. Using the contexts of our integrated topics, we will weave and create patterns. Through this, we will explore how we can use a range of mediums and materials to create effect. If you have any spare wool or other materials you think might be useful, we would love to repurpose them as part of these projects.



Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, each home learning team will have weekly Te Reo Māori sessions with Matua Jeremy, our Te Reo Kaiako. Later in the term, we will be exploring the celebration of Matariki. Children are also encouraged to opt-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, which takes place weekly on Tuesdays from 1.45-2.15pm. We look forward to the first junior kapa haka performance later this term.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to come home in the same format as last term. This consists of three main parts: home reading, spelling practise, and mathematics. The children will bring home their home learning notebook on a Monday, and we encourage children to return this to school in their book bag every day. Teachers will mark the home learning book on a Friday and check for any messages from home. Alongside this, children are encouraged to utilise their 'Maths Whizz' log-in to support and consolidate your child's mathematical learning.

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.

Borrowing Books

We keep a wide selection of chapter and picture books in the Whanake space for children to read anytime.



Each Friday, children will have a set time to borrow two books they wish to take home. This is an opportunity for children to select their reading material for daily independent reading and home reading too. You can help your child make good book choices by talking to them about what books *you* read and why *you* choose them, as well as taking them to the public library to select from a wider range of books.

Ensemble Groups

Tui Choir: Tui Choir takes place each Wednesday morning, where we start the day by singing with all of our year 2 and 3 children. All children in year 3 will join for fun by flying along at 9.00am.

Piccolo Choir: The children meet in the big downstairs music room (Mahler room) for the Piccolo choir at 8:30am on a Wednesday. This choir is for year 4 - 6 if they want to join.

Xylobeats and Little Xylofun: Xylobeats will take place each Monday morning in the Mahler room, it too starts at 8.30am. Xylobeats is for the year 4 students if they would like to join. Little Xylofun will take place each Friday from 8.30 am until 9.00 am in the Mahler room. This is for our year 3 students if they would like to join.



Junior Kapa Haka: This takes place on Tuesdays from 1.15-1.45pm, and is for years 1-4.

Our Whanake students play an important role as the leaders in this roopu. The children practise a range of waiata and haka, building to 2-3 performances across the year.

Communication

We value ongoing communication with you, as an integral part of supporting your child's learning journey.

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. Our intention is that these will provide an insight into what is happening at school, and provide some discussion points for home. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.



Alongside this newsletter, we will be sharing a Whanake update in the school newsletter twice across the term. The school newsletter comes home each Monday, and is worth reading to keep up to date with what is happening in our kura. All newsletters are shared via the school app, and this is also where we will communicate about upcoming events or activities. When communicating about your child's individual learning, their teacher will email you directly. We endeavour to respond to emails promptly, however, please be aware that during school hours, our focus is with the children. If you would like to meet and discuss your child, please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher to arrange a time.

Housekeeping

- **Toys:** Thank you for your support in keeping toys and trading cards at home.
- **Lost Property:** It is crucial to name all clothing, lunchboxes, and drink bottles so they may be reunited quickly with their owners. 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's lost property boxes located in the link.
- **Beginning of the school day:** When the bell rings at 8.30am, children are invited into Whanake to prepare for the school day. Before this time, teachers are in meetings, preparing resources for the day, or engaging in professional development opportunities. Children are expected to wait outside or, on wet or cold days, in the Link. Please, as much as possible, delay your child's arrival at school until 8.30am.
- **Footwear:** Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and often run around. During the winter terms, children may like to have slippers at school to wear while indoors.
- **Break Times:** the children have two 10-minute eating times, at 11am and 1pm, as well as a 'brain food' snack break at 10am. Children are encouraged to eat fruit or vegetables for their brain food break. It may be helpful to discuss with your child how they might distribute their lunch across the day.

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address (brookeh, 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 talk with you. We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Ngā mihi nui,
Marianne, Brooke, and Sophie (Team Leader)