



*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 Wha 2023**

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.

12 October, 2023

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Welcome back to Term Four as we all look forward to what lies ahead in this action-packed term. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families that have joined or are about to join Te Ara Tupu (The Tupu Team). Te Ara means the pathway and Tupu means beginning and/or developing.

When we reflect on last term, there were numerous highlights. For us, the major one was being able to share with families and whānau our drama experiences around Fairy Tales. Seeing the tamariki working with their peers as their creative and imaginative ideas came to life was joyful.

We want to encourage families to support our amazing PTA. They plan, organise and run many activities for our kura, supporting the purchasing of resources and maintaining spaces. As a school, we would be lost without this hard-working team. There are many different ways to be supportive-so please get in touch with what you can do at [pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz)



As summer comes, the children must wear sun-smart clothing, including hats, and sunblock. Please check 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 starting on the first day back. No caps, please. Children are responsible for putting their own sunblock on – the roll-on kind seems to be the most manageable for them at school.



This term we encourage and welcome families to come into our learning space. Here are a few tips to make the mornings and afternoons run smoothly, as these are busy times in our learning area. The learning space is open at 8:30am, and the bell to start learning goes at 8:50am. Independence, problem-solving, and initiative underpin a lot of our learning and the start of the day sets up the success for each child. We have seen through the year how settled the children are in the morning by coming in independently. However, we don't want this to stop you from coming in and sharing your child's mahi or touching base with kaiako. If you want to pop in after school, we ask that you please wait until all the children have been farewelled - this is usually no more than five minutes. We look forward to having face-to-face sharing with all families.

**Discovery Time, Putting books away and Christmas crafts**

Another term of outstanding support from Lara with putting our books away has helped with our workload. But we would like to share the load, so we are asking if you are interested in helping to put books away. We would be grateful for your support, please contact Andrea to go on the roster.



This term we warmly welcome parent helpers for our ever-popular Friday Discovery Time. This session is on a Friday from 9 to 10:30. It is a wonderful opportunity to support tamariki with a provided activity. If you are interested, please contact your home learning team teachers as soon as possible so they can book in a time.

There will be school assemblies every second week so slots are limited. Sorry, we are unable to accommodate preschool children during these sessions.

We are planning a Christmas craft extravaganza in December. We would love to have family members come in and help. Keep an eye out for this information in the near future. These sessions are non-religious and are craft-related.

### Curriculum Topics

Our topic will interweave in all that we do this term. We are diving deeper into our Whakapapa me te Whanaungatanga-Culture and Identity by looking at Aotearoa's histories. We are exploring some of the tangata whenua myths and legends, focusing on our local Ngake and Whataitai legend. We will discover where people in our kura and class community come from, their connections, and how they keep those connections. We are looking for families to share any cultures and countries you are linked to so we can work this into our planning. We would be thrilled if you would like to come in and share your culture and experiences with the class, so contact us. If you would like to share any items related to personal culture, traditions, or countries, we promise to look after them. We are interested to learn about each other, we know everyone has something special to share.



Throughout the term, we will be looking at the many different celebrations celebrated in our many cultures in our teams such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Halloween, Guy Fawkes, and Christmas.

### Physical Education

A big focus this term is to develop swimming skills ready for the summer holidays. Swimming starts on Thursday 12th October and ends on Thursday 30th November, running for eight weeks. Please remember these useful hints that will help your child on swimming day:

- **named** togs, towel, goggles in a swimming bag.
- having the same towel each week ensures your child recognises it when they get out of the pool.
- make sure shoes and clothing can be removed and put back on easily by your child.



Sometimes, the tamariki accidentally pack their next-door neighbour's items in their bag, so if you have extra items, please send them back the following day. We also collect all the leftover clothes at the end of the session.

### Mathematics and Statistics

For the first seven weeks of the term, the syndicate will be working on addition and subtraction strategies and number knowledge. Number knowledge work will reinforce: forward and backward counting; sequences of whole numbers; number identification and sequence; knowing groups with five, within ten, and with ten. Number strategy work will have the children using a range of counting, grouping, and equal sharing to solve addition and subtraction problems. Completing the term, we have a four-week unit on exploring different ways of measuring using standard and non-standard units.



Don't forget to check out the ideas on Maths Alive on Seesaw, activities on your child's Sunshine Online account and advice on [www.nzmaths.co.nz](http://www.nzmaths.co.nz). Click on the 'Families' heading.

### **Literacy**

Our literacy programmes are back in full swing. Your child will be bringing 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 and a library book your child has chosen. Keep an eye out for the weekly BSLA with the focus for the week and ways to support your child on Seesaw. We do value your positive feedback in your child's yellow reading books.



For writing this term, we are working on personal writing, expressive recounts, and descriptive character writing linked to the integrated units. Tamariki will also have regular handwriting sessions that will focus on forming lowercase, uppercase, and numbers correctly and legibly, as well as using the correct pencil grip.

### **Arts**

In visual arts, we will be exploring collage, composition, texture, and shape to create artworks related to our investigations. This will also stimulate the children's imaginative responses and creativity. In music, the children will continue building on their singing skills and repertoire of songs, as well as adding musical instruments to accompany them. This term, we continue to make our day interwoven with Te Reo. Under the confident guidance of Matua Jeremy, we come together for a weekly whole Tupu waiata and Junior Kapa Haka.

We are proud of all the tamariki in our team and how they have been taking new experiences in their stride, adapting to changes and new experiences, while continuing on their learning journey in a steady way. We can see with their little and medium-sized feet they made big steps and strides last term, especially with their Key Competencies, an essential focus for the year. To keep this going, please see us if you have any questions or things you would like to celebrate.



Ngā mihi nui from the Tupu team

Andrea, Emily, Amy, Ali, and Susie