



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Toru 2024

26 July 2024

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

We hope the term break was a refreshing and enjoyable time for your whānau, after a busy and successful term two. It was wonderful to see the children's pride in their learning as they shared their mahi with you through our play-sharing and celebration of learning. The plays are always a highlight of the year, and this year we were particularly proud of the children's reflectiveness, collaboration, and creativity throughout the process.

What are we learning this term?

This term we will be focusing on the Olympic games, through our integrated unit 'Faster Higher Stronger'. Through this context, we will be incorporating learning in social sciences, health and PE, mathematics, art, digital technology and literacy. As well as following along with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, we will be learning about the New Zealand Olympic team, how the Olympics has changed over time, and researching different sports and countries from around the world. Alongside this, we will be developing, measuring, recording, and challenging our very own World Records.



In week six, we are going to hold our own 'Whanake Olympics' at Magpie Lawn, inviting parents and whānau to come and take part. This will be on Thursday, August 19th, from 12pm to 2pm. We will share more details about this closer to the time.

Science and Technology

Our Digital Technology focus this term will link with our Olympics topic, as we use computational thinking to create a story about the Olympics using Scratch Junior. Alongside this, we will continue to build our digital literacy skills using the google suite, across a range of curriculum contexts.

During the last three weeks of term, we will shift our focus into 'The Chemistry of Bread Making'. Through the context of bread making, we will be learning about the properties of different materials, and how we can create changes to these using different processes. As this will involve working with food, please be assured we will have processes in place and alternative ingredients available for children with allergies. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to discuss this.

Literacy

Our major writing focuses this term are instructional writing and report writing, both of which will link closely with our integrated topics. Children will also be writing poetry, recounts, and narrative stories. 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 delving into 'Amorangi and Millie's Trip Through Time', a New Zealand novel by Lauren Keenan. This story follows two children as they travel back through time to meet their ancestors across multiple generations, lending itself well to exploring aspects of our Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum.

This term, the Whanake teachers will be launching into new learning through the BSLA programme. Many of you will be familiar with BSLA from Tupu, and this programme is now being extended into year 3 as well. BSLA has had an exciting impact on literacy learning in the junior school, and we are looking forward to learning more about structured literacy in a year 3/4 context. We will keep you updated on how this will be implemented in the classroom, but to begin the term we will be continuing with our existing spelling programme. We will also be continuing to teach handwriting on a regular basis, with our focus shifting to cursive for terms three and four.

Mathematics

Our mathematical focus for the first seven weeks of term is number knowledge, number strategies and problem-solving, with particular reference to multiplication and division. 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 around how to support your child's learning at home ([NZ Maths Families & Whanau](#)). To finish the term, we will focus on geometric patterns, symmetry and translation. Week four is New Zealand Maths week, and this will be linked to our Olympics and DIY World Records learning, as we measure, record and compare our attempts at a range of World Records.

Physical Education

Inspired by our Olympic athletes, this term our PE focus will be athletics. Children will take part in weekly rotations, covering quoits, vortex, high jump, long jump, and sprints, in preparation for our school athletics day early in term 4. We will also have the opportunity to take part in some cricket skills sessions later in the term.

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 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.

Art

To begin the term, we will be continuing to develop the weaving skills we began in term two. Later in the term, we will be using a range of mediums to explore Cubism. This will link to our geometry focus in mathematics. Keep an eye out for some Olympic-inspired art, too! We will be exploring music and movement through 'Hā Ora', which connects Ngā Toi (The Arts) with concepts of Hauora (health and well-being), in a Te Ao Māori context.



Te Reo me Tikanga Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. We will start the term reflecting on Matariki, through art, Te Reo and a short story drama. Following this, we will be using the context of 'Kei te aha ngā tamariki?' ('What are the children doing?') to learn new kupu and sentence structures. On Tuesday afternoons, children have the choice of either taking part in Te Reo lessons, or opting-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group.



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. The children will bring home their home learning notebook on Mondays, and these are collected for marking on Fridays. Alongside this, children are encouraged to utilise their 'Maths Whizz' log in to support and consolidate their mathematical learning. In Whanake, we encourage children to develop their independence by taking responsibility for their own book bag and home learning book. If you are finding that your child's book bag is not making it home (or out of their school bag), they may need additional reminders to develop success with this. Please get in touch with your child's teacher, as we are happy to provide extra support from school, too.

We strongly encourage children to read at home everyday. Children will 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 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.

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

The children performed well at our musical assembly last term, and it was a great display of the mahi they put into their ensemble groups each week. If your child would like to join a group at this stage in the year, they can speak with their teacher about this possibility. Below is a reminder of the times each of these takes place.

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

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 optional for children in years 4-6.

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

Little Xylofun: 8.30-9.00am on Fridays, in the Mahler room. This is for year 2-3 students

Junior Kapa Haka: 1.45-2.15pm on Tuesdays.



Parent Help & PTA

Through our daily reading programme, we accumulate a significant number of school reading books that need to be put away each week. If you are able to spare half an hour (or more) during the term to help with this process, it would be much appreciated. If this is something you are able to help with, please email brookeh@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

As you will have seen at our Matariki celebration last night, our PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki. If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved with the PTA, you can contact pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

Housekeeping

- **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.

- 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.
- Borrowing Books: Our library day in Whanake is Thursdays. 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, as well as providing snapshots into what we have been learning. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.
- Communication: All newsletters are shared via the school app, and this is also where we will communicate about upcoming events or activities.



Getting in touch

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address (below). 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)
marianneb@kelburnnormal.school.nz
brookeh@kelburnnormal.school.nz
sophieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz