



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Tahī 2025

*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*

Friday 7th February 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Mr. Miller and I are thrilled to reconnect with last year's Year 5 students (now Year 6) while also welcoming our new Year 5s. The atmosphere is one of excitement and anticipation as the new term brims with energy and potential. As our Year 5s transition to the upstairs space, our Year 6 students are showing tremendous manaaki in making them feel welcome. We look forward to creating a shared sense of joy and belonging at being back together and building a strong foundation for success at school.

We also welcome back our CRT teacher, Ms Jenny Cossey, who will cover Rebekah on Fridays, and Mrs Jo Hamid, who will cover Mr. Miller on Thursdays. Additionally, we are pleased to have Miss Ella Ayto (a student teacher), working with the tamariki alongside the teachers.

Whānau/Parent-Teacher Conversation

It was a pleasure meeting whānau and tamariki during our Friday conversations. Understanding our ākonga—their strengths and interests, where they come from, and what supports we can put in place to strengthen their development—is vital to ensure they have the best start to the year's learning journey. Positive relationships and communication between whānau, kaiako, and ākonga are cornerstones of learning and building strong learning communities. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to share any concerns or successes with us. We look forward to seeing on Wednesday 12th Feb for our Whānau Ara Information Evening



Literacy

Our literacy focus, inspired by Edward de Bono's "Dog Exercise Machine," offers an exciting exploration of creativity and critical thinking. Children will design imaginative machines to keep dogs fit, sparking curiosity from the start. Through this playful approach, ākonga will blend visual and written elements while using learning conversations and drama conventions to discuss, brainstorm, collaborate, and bring their ideas to life.

Students will explore various writing styles, including persuasive texts, to pitch their ideas, narratives from the dogs' perspectives, instruction manuals, letters of complaint from owners, poetry, and more. By working with multiple text types, ākonga will gain confidence in adapting their writing for different purposes and audiences. This approach not only hones writing skills but also encourages inventive thinking and problem-solving. We can't wait to see the innovative ideas they come up with and look forward to sharing their creations with you!

Maths

For Term 1, like all other schools, we will introduce a new approach. Still, we will continue to work our way through the important topics of place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division.

Our maths program will follow a deliberate sequence of topics, which are designed to support moving forward with mathematics. Each lesson has opportunities to learn new strategies and consolidate prior knowledge. Our kura is embracing the 'Maths No Problem!' programme to support our ākonga to achieve success. This programme uses the 'mastery' model of mathematics learning which reintroduces topics covered throughout the year to revisit and solidify the learning. Like our previous approach, our children will learn to work independently and co-operatively, but this programme operates in year-level groups.



Art & Social Science

In this engaging unit that combines art and social studies, ākonga will explore the fascinating world of masks and mask-making. They will learn about the diverse cultural meanings and uses of masks throughout history, from ceremonies to performances to personal identity, thereby deepening their understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Ākonga will also have the opportunity to create their own masks, allowing them to express their ideas about transformation and the roles masks play in our lives now. They will experiment with various styles, techniques, and materials to encourage creativity, and will share their unique creations along with the stories behind them.

Science

Term 1 will have our scientists exploring the microscopic world in our unit 'It's a Small World (After All)'. From germs to insects to the chemicals in our water, we will seek to understand the effect of the 'minute' in our daily lives. The tamariki will have the opportunity to go 'hands-on' with experiments that stimulate their curiosity and build their knowledge of the underlying science. They will observe, hypothesise, test, and discuss results. Get your magnifying glasses out, because we're going micro!

Physical Education

This term, we have cross-country practice. We are lucky to have the beautiful Botanical Gardens at our doorstep. We will familiarise the children with our 'dark steps' training route, a track that weaves through native trees and bush. We walk in groups, and then once the children are familiar with it, we will encourage our 'eager to move' students to run the course while allowing others to jog or walk at their own pace.

Health and Wellbeing

As we kick off the new term, we focus on nurturing relationships, caring for each other, and ensuring we are all contributing towards creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and connected. A strong class culture, where everyone is looking out for each other and feels appreciated, is at the heart of manaakitanga. Establishing this culture takes time, willingness, active participation, and practice. At Kelburn, this process is informed by our dialogic pedagogy, and developed through learning conversations, co-creating a shared understanding, and working collaboratively with one another.

Te Reo

We're fortunate to have Matua Jason sharing his knowledge of Te Reo and Tikanga with tamariki again this year. Matua provides tamariki with lots of exposure to Kupu Reo (Māori words), which he puts into context. This approach enriches children's cultural knowledge and supports their understanding of Te Ao Māori (Māori world and perspectives). Lessons are both fun and informative.

Home Learning

In Whānui, we recognise that our students engage in numerous extracurricular activities. However, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that everyone commits to the following two activities every evening:

- Reading before bed - at least 30 minutes most days. This could involve reading a chapter book from school, reading a chapter to someone in their whānau or listening to audiobooks.
- MathsWhizz - 10-15 minutes three times a week. MathsWhizz serves as an educational resource that reinforces the significant learning occurring in the classroom. If your child does not have their login information or has forgotten it, please remind them to ask their teacher for the details.

If you have any questions regarding the journey ahead, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Ngā mihi nui,

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