



*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 Tahī 2025**

*Te Ara = pathway and Tupu = beginning and developing*

**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.**

7 February 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

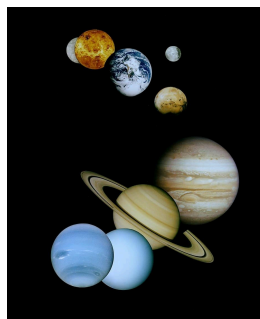
Welcome to term one and a new school year. It is lovely to meet and reconnect with all the tamariki and to see the children with their friends after the long holiday. Their joyful voices and giggles fill our space with excitement and make it a pleasure to be in our team Tupu.

We extend a warm welcome to the new families that have joined Te Ara Tupu (or the Tupu Team for short) or are about to join us. What an action-packed term we have ahead, and we wanted to share with you what is ahead.

Tupu starts the year with three teams, Tupu Toru with Miss Andrea Molloy and year 2's, Tupu Rua with Miss Jodie Corcoran and year 1's, and Tupu Tahī with Miss Susie Brown and year 1's. Our release teachers this term are Tupu Rua, who will be Mrs Jo Hamid, Tupu Tahī, and Toru, who will be Ms Jenny Cossey.

### **Curriculum Topic**

We start the term with *'It's all about Me'*, a topic spanning several curriculum areas, to give meaningful connections to the learning. We will be focussing on what makes us special and different. This unit incorporates learning in the curriculum of PE and health, social science, English, and the arts. We will be talking about our responsibilities in the team and shared area, at home, and how to work together and share. Throughout this investigation, we will be establishing our routines and positive behaviour expectations for the year.



Our major topic for the term is called *To Infinity and Beyond*. We will hop into our personal space rockets and head off to investigate and develop our understanding of the planets and stars around us, and the effect that they have on us and our planet. We will be diving into

finding out the science behind our shadows and how light and colour work.

We will finish the term celebrating Easter. We will ask for parents' help in the class to support these fun activities closer to the time. Please keep an eye out for this update soon.



## Mathematics and Statistics

As we develop and become familiar with the new curriculum and the Maths No Problem programme in our everyday mathematical lessons, we have started with a one-week introduction to statistics, focusing on data collection and graphs as we get to know each child.



'Maths No Problem' has a mastery approach and follows a scope and sequence that will progress throughout the school. It is a level-based programme. In Year 1, the topics include matching, sorting, comparing, and ordering objects and numbers; recognising and creating simple patterns; counting forwards and backwards; understanding positional language. Introduction to

basic operations: addition, subtraction, and concepts of halving and sharing, and exploring number bonds to 10. In Year 2, the topics include numbers and counting and introduce various strategies for adding and subtracting, including number bonds and word problems. Building into multiplication and subtraction concepts, fractions, geometry, and measurement. Problem-solving is a major part of the programme, and it incorporates word problems and practical applications throughout various topics.

Like our previous lessons, our maths lessons will follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration and rich discussion.

Like our previous approach, this programme involves applying maths knowledge in real-life situations, helping children understand how and why maths works, instead of only learning rote procedures. This allows children to make stronger connections, develop a long-term understanding of maths and, more importantly, enjoy learning mathematics. We will be working out how best to share with whānau how you can support them at home.

## Literacy

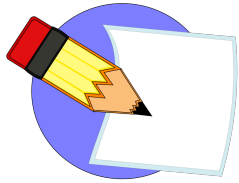
Structured Literacy through the *Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)* will continue this year for both Year 1 and 2 tamariki. We will hold whānau meetings throughout the year for more detailed information. We encourage all families to support their child through the BSLA parent activity sheets sent weekly on Seesaw.



Your child will bring 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, as well as actions that may go along with it. They can also re-read their favourite poems. A library book that your child has chosen will come home on Friday, too. Sometimes, your child may choose a reading book to bring home, which could be a book they have brought home before. This aims to develop student choice, fluency, and expression when reading.



We know every effort is made in your busy lives to make time 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 value your feedback and input.

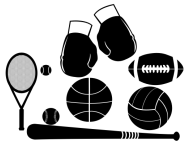


For writing this term, we are also working on personal and expressive recounts and descriptive writing. This ties in with our integrated units of work. Children will also have regular handwriting sessions focusing on correct pencil grip, forming lower-case, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly.



## Te Reo

Tupu is joining Jeremy, our kapa haka teacher, for half an hour of waiata this term. We also endeavour to make our day interwoven with te reo through instructions, names and numbers. Under the confident guidance of kaiako Andrea and Jeremy, we come together for our weekly Kapa Haka.



## Physical Education

We value sports, games, and skill development. A big focus this term is to develop and improve our running, jumping, and throwing abilities. Not only does every class have a fitness programme and P.E. skills sessions weekly, but we are also coming together as a syndicate for a range of physical activities. Daily fitness activities take different forms, focusing on moving using a selection of activities.

## The Arts

In visual art, we will explore the use of colour, detail, form, and composition in the children's artworks related to our topic studies.

Through music, the children will listen and learn to respond to tempo, tone, and dynamics changes.

## Discovery Time and putting books away

If you are interested in helping out by putting books away, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact Andrea as she is organising the time slots for all our team.

We also look forward to having whānau working with us at Discovery Time on Fridays. Please contact your child's teacher so we can book you into the roster.

## Mahi Ngātahi

Every Monday, we have an investigation and inquiry learning time from to 10:00 am. This session is called Mahi Ngātahi which means collaboration work. In these sessions, the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, as well as diving deeper into the wonderings that they have. This is a great opportunity to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is that children are able to learn from each other as they investigate their questions and interests. This is also a vehicle for the children to develop their digital technology skills, knowledge, and language.



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**Tūi Choir**—Our year 2 tamariki are lucky to be part of the Tūi choir, which is led by Miss Wilby and Mrs Smith every Thursday afternoon during school hours.

## Seesaw

The tamariki love posting their work so you can see what is happening during the day with their learning. We have many interesting ideas about what to post and share this term, and no doubt the tamariki will have, too. We are also all enjoying 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 your QR code doesn't work or you have trouble logging on, come and see us, and we will make it happen. The cost per child is \$15 for the year and this will be charged to your account.

### **Assembly**

Miss Molloy's team- Tupu Toru will be leading the Tupu assembly/hui on Friday 28 March. All the tamariki in Tupu will be sharing an item. All whanau are welcome. Assemblies are from 10:15 to 11am on a Friday.

### **Pick Up and Drop Off**

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 ask that you leave before the bell goes at 8:50am. 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 wait until we have let all the children go. This is normally a few minutes after the bell has gone.

### **Helpful reminders**

Summer is certainly here;. The children need to wear sun-safe clothing,, including hats, and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking whether 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. No caps, please. Children are responsible for putting on their own sunblock—the roll-on kind seems to be the most manageable.



All kaiako encourage the children to work towards independence, and we would appreciate your help to encourage tamariki to walk independently into the learning space. However, please don't let this stop you from touching base with us, as we enjoy seeing you and sharing with you what your child has been achieving. Seeing the children coming in by themselves and taking responsibility for carrying their school bags to and from school while putting their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings is great.

As you know we are a 'no shoes inside' school so slippers are welcome as well as just socks or bare feet. It is important that your children wear shoes to school that they can get off and on by themselves. Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled including lunch boxes and drink bottles.



To provide a safe environment for all the tamariki in Tupu, we ask that while in years 1 and 2, we encourage you to support us to be nut-free. There are a number of tamariki who are allergic to nuts. In Tupu, we don't share food, but accidents do happen, and being nut-free makes these odd occurrences safer for all.

We use many different materials in arts/crafts and Discovery Time, so if you have things such as boxes, ice cream containers, old Christmas and birthday cards, cardboard rolls etc we would like them. Just ask your class kaiako what they might need if you are unsure.

Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or things that you would like to celebrate or discuss. We look forward to working alongside you in your child's best interests.

Nga mihi nui- from the Tupu teaching team

Andrea, Jodie and Susie

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