



Te Ara Whanake Newsletter

Term Wha 2024

Friday 18th October

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

Welcome back for term four. It has been fantastic to see the children arriving back at school full of enthusiasm and excited to reconnect with their peers. We were proud of the children's efforts and mahi last term, and are looking forward to this momentum continuing as we progress towards the end of the year.

At the top of this newsletter is an overview of important dates for your diary. Here is some additional information about our upcoming trips:

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal NZ Ballet)

On Friday, 25th October, we have the opportunity to attend a special school matinee performance of the RNZB production 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This is taking place at the St James Theatre, and we will need parents to accompany us on this trip. **If you can help with this, please contact your child's teacher.** A contribution of \$26 is requested to cover the cost of entry to the performance and transportation to and from the St James Theatre. This amount will be added to your child's statement, or you can pay by direct credit to our bank account 12-3223-0190001-00 using your child's name and ballet as a reference.

Zealandia Tours

In week five, we have the opportunity to visit Zealandia. As part of this trip, we will have a guided tour, exploring the sanctuary and encountering many native species. We will learn about the unique biodiversity of New Zealand's native and endemic species, how these species have adapted to their environment, and how introduced species are putting them at risk. We will also learn about the concept of a wildlife sanctuary, and how we can help to protect vulnerable species.

For this trip, children will need to be prepared with sturdy walking shoes and appropriate clothing they can move in. Each class will need parent helpers to accompany them on this trip. If you are able to help, please contact your child's teacher. There is a cost of \$9.50 for this trip, which will be added to your child's statement.

What are we learning this term?

'Te Ngahere, ngā manu'



This term, our integrated unit of study will be focused on the living world, as we learn about native New Zealand Birds and their habitats. Alongside this, we will be learning about endangerment factors, the impact humans and introduced species have had, and about different conservation efforts. This topic will incorporate elements of science, social sciences, and will link closely to our literacy and arts learning.

Key dates this term

21 October - Whole School Athletics Day

22 October - Year 3 Sports Festival

25 October - RNZB 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' Performance

12 November - Whanake Tahī & Rua Zealandia Tour

13 November - Whanake Toru Zealandia Tour

27 November - Musical Refreshment

4 December - Celebration of Learning

6 December - Whanake Hosting Assembly

Literacy

Linked closely to our integrated topic, we will explore report writing. Children will also be writing narrative stories, expressive recounts and poetry. 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 encouraging fluency, expression, and reading punctuation to enhance comprehension.



For Chapter Chat, we will be delving into a New Zealand children's novel, 'Brave Kāhu and the Pōrangī Magpie', written by Shelley Burne-Field. This story follows a trio of Kahu siblings on an action-packed adventure, where they, along with an assortment of friends, must contend with the elements, predators, and a villainous pack of magpies. Our shared novel will link closely to our integrated topic, and does explore some of the harsher realities of nature. We will be spending time discussing this in class, and you may like to talk about some of the themes from this story with your child, too.

We are continuing to use the BSLA structured literacy approach. We will be posting a weekly overview on Seesaw each Monday, along with ideas you can use to support this learning at home. Children will also be practising their handwriting skills regularly, and we will continue to incorporate cursive within this programme in term four.

Mathematics

We are beginning the term exploring fractions, before moving into algebra (patterns and relationships). Alongside these contexts, we will continue to incorporate opportunities for children to develop their number knowledge and strategies. Maths lessons are structured with a range of whole-class rich learning tasks, independent activities, and targeted group teaching. Our topics this term provide plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning experiences, too. If you would like ideas about how to support your child's learning at home, '[Supporting school maths](#)' contains a range of ideas (both online and unplugged). 'Maths Whizz' will continue to be our primary mathematics home learning resource, as well as a useful independent reinforcement tool in class.

Physical Education

This term, we are focusing on small ball skills, developing our hand-eye coordination, agility and sportspersonship as we explore a range of sports, such as tee-ball, cricket and hockey. Alongside this, each home learning team will be running a daily fitness programme.



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



We were proud of the effort the children put into their calendar art last term. In term four, we will be returning to our focus on cubism, exploring shape, line and texture using a range of mediums and media. We will be taking inspiration from our integrated topic, as well as artists such as Picasso, Klee, and Cézanne. We look forward to sharing our artworks with you.

Te Reo Māori

Te Reo is incorporated into our daily routines and activities. This term, we will be focusing on building our knowledge of day-to-day kupu, as well as building our language knowledge as we learn to describe our likes and dislikes. We will also be revising kupu relating to our Tinana (body), and extending this knowledge with extended sentence structures. Each home learning team will have a weekly Te Reo Māori session with Matua Jeremy, where we will be focusing on these skills. Children are encouraged to opt-in to our Junior Kapa Haka group, which takes place weekly on Tuesdays from 1.45-2.15pm. Alternatively, they can take part in Te Reo lessons during this time.

Home Learning

We strongly encourage children to read at home every day. Children 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.

Each Monday, children will bring home their home learning notebook, which will contain a reading log for them to complete throughout the week. Whether your child is reading school reading books, or other texts of interest, we would love to know what they are reading, and this helps us to build connections between home and school.

Alongside reading, each Monday there will be an overview posted on Seesaw with ideas to practise the spelling patterns we are focusing on in class, as well as the vocabulary we will be exploring through our class novel (you may like to discuss these words, and practise using them in sentences). We also encourage children to utilise their 'Maths Whizz' log in to support and consolidate their mathematical learning. There are also plenty of dice and card games you can play to practise and develop your child's basic facts knowledge, [supporting school maths](#) is a useful website, or you can talk to your child's teacher for more ideas.

We know our children lead 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

Our ensemble groups are a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to develop their musical and performance skills. This term, these groups will be working towards their final performances. Piccolo and Xylobeats will be performing at our musical refreshment on 27th November, and Xylofun, Tui Choir and Junior Kapa Haka will have a special performance at our Whanake assembly on 6th December.

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 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.



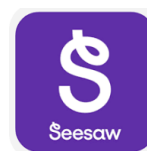
Parent Help & PTA

We would like to thank all of the parents who have helped this year. If you are able to help with reshelving our reading books, we would love to hear from you. This really is a huge help, and can be done at a time that suits you.

The PTA does a fantastic job supporting our school and tamariki; this is a great way to get involved with our school community. If you would like to find out more, you can contact pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz. Their first meeting of the term is on Monday 21st October, at 7pm in the Tupu space.

Housekeeping

- **Sun Hats:** The New Zealand sun is fierce. In terms one and four, children are required to wear wide-brimmed hats when learning or playing outdoors. Please remind your child to check they have their hat each day. We also encourage tamariki to come to school with sunscreen, and to reapply this during the day. Children without hats will spend their break times in the shade.
- **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.
- **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:** Each week, 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. If you are having trouble connecting to Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher.
- **Communication:** Alongside this newsletter and regular Seesaw updates, we will be sharing twice-termly updates in the weekly school newsletter. 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. 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)

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