



Glen Eden Primary Kiwi Team Newsletter Term 1 - 2026



Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Term 1 2026

Topic Focus

Our learning this term is centred on **Kaitiakitanga** – caring for ourselves, others, and our environment. The beginning of the year is also an important time for students and teachers to get to know one another and build strong relationships. As part of this, students will share or create a pepeha. A pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in *te reo Māori*, and it helps students connect to the places, people, and cultures that are important to them. It is a special opportunity for students to celebrate and share their cultural identities. We will also be building a shared understanding of our school values: **whakawhanaungatanga** (relationships), **kairangi** (striving for excellence), **ako** (learning together), and **manaakitanga** (care and respect for others).

Health PE Focus

The main PE focus for this term is swimming. Our pool is a wonderful resource for students to develop water confidence and safety, as well as their swimming skills. Each Kiwi class swims three times a week, teachers will let you know what days your child will be swimming. Children are expected to participate in the class swimming sessions.

General Reminder

It is extremely important for students to wear sun hats and to have water bottles on hand everyday. Classes have sunscreen which students are encouraged to use.

Kiwi Team

- **Belongings** : We actively encourage tamariki to take responsibility for their own belongings. That means names in hats, swimming togs, towels, clothes and scooters make it easier to return any misplaced items. Teachers have vivid markers that you are welcome to borrow to name these items.
- **Maths**: Students will begin the term doing statistical investigations where they gather and discuss data about everyday occurrences and objects. The rest of the term, they will be working on 'number structure', developing a strong understanding of numbers and relationships to them. Daily students learn about and discuss days of the week, time and understand more about the weather and temperature.
- **Literacy**: Kiwi teachers use the **Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)** to inform and guide their literacy teaching. This is an evidence based literacy approach that has been created by the University of Canterbury. Although students won't always bring a book home every night it is important that they have their bookbag at school everyday. Students will also visit the library once a week, their bookbags ensure books are protected.
- **Reading Eggs and MathSeeds**: These two online apps are funded by the School for students to have access to both at school and at home. Your child's classroom teacher will provide your child's logon information.
- **Communication with whānau**: Communication with whānau will be through our school newsletter that is emailed and also found on our website. We also share information through the Hero app.

Ngā mihi,

Julie Austin, Sarah Monday, Anshoo Lata, Arasi Faaiuasoo, Emily Silby, Liz Cassidy and Salomé Bergs



Introducing the Kiwi Kaiako 2026



Room 14 - Arasi Faaiuasao You can contact me by email at: arasif@geps.school.nz
Kia Ora! My name is Arasi. This is my first year as a teacher and I'm really excited to be part of the team, especially teaching Year 1 and 2. A little bit about me: I'm a proud Samoan, happily married and a mum to two beautiful boys. I have a Bachelor in Arts from the University of Auckland, majoring in Criminology and Pacific Studies, and I'm currently completing my postgraduate qualification in teaching with just one online paper left before graduating. I live in Kelston and enjoy music and spending time with my family .



Salomé Bergs (Team leader) Email at salomeb@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, ko Salomé tōku ingoa. I have been teaching at Glen Eden for many years. I am the Team Leader for the Kiwi whānau and for the last few years, I have worked with children in smaller groups to improve their reading and writing. I also love supporting and working alongside the fabulous Kiwi whānau teachers. I live in Titirangi, with my partner Jason, my young adult children Luca and Amelié and our wee dog Babu. I am always happy to meet with whānau to discuss any literacy learning needs.



Room 6 Julie Austin Email at juliea@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, my name is Julie Austin and I am the kaiako in Room 6. I have been teaching in the Kiwi team at GEPS for 11 years. I love supporting students to build confidence and independence as they begin their learning journey. I live in West Auckland with my husband and have two adult children. I love going for walks with my dog Jordie and spending time in my garden.



Room 4 Sarah Monday You can contact me by email sarahm@geps.school.nz

Kia ora! My name is Sarah Monday and I am one of the New Entrant teachers in Room 4. I joined the Kiwi team here at GEPS in term 3 last year, after being a parent here for a few years. I believe it is important, in gaining the trust and forming relationships with both Tamariki and Whānau, when transitioning a child into their new learning environment.

I live in West Auckland with my husband and children. I love the beach, spending time with family and friends.



Room 3 Anshoo Email at anshool@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, My name is Anshoo Lata and I am one of the New Entrant teachers in room 3. I'm excited to be joining Glen Eden Primary School this year. I am committed to creating a warm, positive classroom where children feel safe and confident. I live in West Auckland with my husband and two beautiful daughters, and I'm looking forward to being part of the school .



Room 14 on Thursday and Room 6 on Friday- Liz Cassidy. You can contact me by email at: lizc@geps.school.nz

Talofa and Kia Ora. My name is Liz. I am excited to be returning to GEPS after five years away. I have lived in Avondale all my life and live with my husband, Vernon. We have four adult children and three mokopuna. I'm really looking forward to being part of the Kiwi team and value building safe, positive relationships with ākonga and their whānau. Outside of school, I enjoy travelling with my husband and whānau and spending time with our mokopuna.



Room 3 on Wednesday- Emily Silby. You can contact me by email at: emilys@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, My name is Emily Silby and I am excited to be back at GEPS after coming back from maternity leave. I have been at GEPS since 2018 and love the Kiwi team. I live in Glendene with my husband, Brayden, daughter Riley (3) and son Micah (9 months). I am delighted to be back and look forward to working with the Tamariki and meeting their wonderful Whānau.