



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter

**January /
February 2020**

Dates for your Diary

- Chinese New Year Celebrations - from 25th January
- Little Heart Day - Friday 14th February
- Family games morning at Mt Hobson - Thursday 5th March



Important Messages

- If you play a musical instrument we would love you to come into kindy and share this with the children
- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before kindy

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed lots of family time together in the beautiful sunshine. We are all very excited to welcome you back to kindergarten for 2020. We have been welcoming some new children into the kindergarten in January and will look forward to supporting them in building relationships within our kindergarten community over the coming weeks.

Programme Highlights

Christmas Celebrations

December was filled with lots of Christmas celebrations and activities and was a fun time for everyone. The highlights were our Christmas Show and Christmas party. The children worked really hard learning their songs and words sung in many languages and we loved sharing this with our families. Involvement in an event like this is instrumental in building confidence, self-esteem and a sense of belonging. We are so proud of what they achieved.

Thank you to all the families who came and supported their children. We captured some lovely photos and have included these in children's portfolios to remember the occasion.

Holidays

Since returning from holiday the children have been sharing with us what they enjoyed doing with their families over the holiday period. We have been enjoying listening to their stories and capturing what has been important to them. This will be shared in their portfolios.

Water Play

With the wonderful summer weather we have started the year with great enthusiasm for water play. Whether it is water and sea creatures in the water trough, our water pump and buckets in the sandpit, watering the garden or simply having fun with the hose and a sprinkler water play provides lots of opportunities for children to develop social skills, hand-eye coordination, and learn about concepts such as measuring, volume, pouring, floating, sinking, full, empty and so on. This play is very transferrable into the home environment too so we encourage you to explore water play options at home.

Garden

With the new year we have replanted our garden which the children have been caring for with enthusiasm. Through our Know Me Eat Me programme the children have been learning all about zucchinis. We have learnt about their high water content through science experimentation and enjoyed making zucchini fritters. Zucchini's are growing in our garden with daily checks for growth. We have also planted tomatoes which we will be learning about in February.

The children have a huge sense of pride in their garden and really enjoy caring for the plants and watching them grow.





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CHILDS VOICE

Immersing ourselves in the world of children every day means that we have the privilege of experiencing some magical moments that make us laugh...

"I'm eating my carrots for morning tea, did you know if you eat all your carrots, you'll get abs?"

Communication Corner

Thank you: All teachers would like to thank parents and children for all the lovely gifts and gift vouchers that we all received at the end of 2019. Your generosity and kindness is much appreciated by us all.

Musical Instruments: Along with our focus on singing and performance at the end of 2019 the children were engaging in a lot of play with musical instruments. To support this interest we would like to invite any parents or siblings who play a musical instrument to come in and share this with our children. Please contact Allanah to make a suitable time.

Sun Protection: With the lovely sunny weather please ensure children have sunscreen applied before kindergarten each morning. Sunscreen is available on the sign in table if you have forgotten this at home. Sunscreen will be reapplied at lunch time and children wear their sun hats when playing outside.

Upcoming Events

Chinese New Year: The children are currently enjoying learning about the Chinese New Year, the year of the Rat.

Little Heart Day: We would like to show our support for Heart Kids NZ and all the wonderful things that they do for one of our children, Poppy, by supporting the Little Heart Day appeal on Friday 14th February. We would like children to wear red or heart themed clothing and bring a gold coin donation on Friday 14th February. The children will also be making and decorating heart shaped gingerbread biscuits that we will be selling for \$2 during the week leading up to Little Heart Day. All proceeds will be donated to Heart Kids.



Games Morning at Mt Hobson: On Thursday 5th March we will hold our annual sports morning at Mt Hobson. Parents are welcome to join us for the morning.

Planned Self-Review focus for 2020

In 2020 our planned self review focus will be surrounding all things relating to transitions, both into and out of our kindergarten community. We will be actively seeking parent input and feedback on these transition processes throughout the year.

Transitions into Kindergarten: We have already begun reflecting on what our transitions into kindergarten look like for our setting. From here we will be researching and investigating as a team how we can improve on our transition into kindergarten processes to best support the child and their whānau as they join and settle into Little Treehouse Kindergarten. We believe the transition into kindergarten is a special time and wish to make this as comfortable for everyone involved as possible to promote the best outcomes for children as they settle, build relationships and develop a sense of belonging within our community.

Transitions out of Kindergarten: We are thrilled with our ongoing visits to St Michaels School and our progress with Casey the Caterpillar building blocks to literacy and numeracy within the Wise Owls programme and how this support our children in preparing for their school transition. This year through our review process, we hope to make connections with other schools in the area to strengthen those relationships, to gain knowledge and to be in a position to better support children transitioning to other schools in our community. We would also like to support parents further with more information around preparing children for school and their school transition.

Welcome

Aiden Jones
Archie Cable
Ava Cable
Florence Mamo
Rachel Shen
Max Dowd
Henry Clark
Paxton Wong
Tallulah Snelling

Farewells

Zaine Lee
Neve Lugton
Adela Slavich
Tilly Tupou
Zoe Chou

We would love your feedback on our newsletter. Please email us at admin@littletreehouse.co.nz.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020