



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter

March 2020

Dates for your Diary

- Family morning at Mt Hobson - Thursday 5th March 9.30am
- Easter 10th-13th April
- Songkran—Thai New Year celebrations 13th-15th April
- Mum's night out –Tuesday 5th May 7pm



Programme Highlights

Hot days and water play

We have had some wonderful sunny days with lots of opportunities to engage in different water experiences outdoors. Water is such a magical resource and we are so lucky to have unlimited access to this, with so many ways to play, laugh and have fun with water.

Chinese New Year

Exploring different cultures, beliefs and perspectives is an important part of our curriculum. The children have celebrated the Chinese New Year and the year of the Rat, learning about Chinese traditions and customs through mat time discussions, sharing stories and engaging in craft activities such as making and decorating special red envelopes.

Worm farm

This year we have welcomed our very own worm farm into kindergarten. The children have enjoyed setting up our three-tiered home for our new worm friends by layering soil, cardboard, kitchen scraps and water to keep them damp and cool.

The children have chosen a shady spot behind the tree in the back of the playground and like to check in on them regularly by lifting the lid and peeking inside. Quite often we can't see any on the surface which has sparked complex discussion around the conditions that worms enjoy and how they like the darkest spaces in the soil. Sometimes we have a gentle dig to discover our worm friends and the children have a gentle hold.

The worms have become an important part of our daily routine as we save our food scraps and carry them out to their home. Children enjoy posting the food into the layers and sharing this important responsibility daily. We have been learning about what the worms can and cannot eat, how they grow and change as they get older.

Our worm farm has been set up to complement our 'Know Me, Eat Me' Programme which looks into a different fruit or vegetable that we can grow and investigate each month. We are starting to get some 'worm tea' that we are feeding our kindy garden and are interested to see how this special food for our garden will help our plants to grow.

Important Messages

Sammy Hughes leaves us on Friday 6th March and Rachel Clayton joins our teaching team on Monday 9th March

Our waitlist has extended to March 2021 so please plan ahead for changes to timetables, enrolment of siblings and recommend friends enrol early.

Heart Kids Fundraiser



Thank you to all our families who supported our Heart Kids fundraiser by wearing red or hearts on Little Heart Day and purchasing our lovely heart cookies. The children enjoyed baking, decorating and selling our cookies at our homemade shop and the heart inspired celebrations on Little Heart Day. Poppy proudly celebrated being a heart baby, sharing her story with the children. This event raised \$400 for Heart Kids.



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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.

While engaging in a conversation about what animals eat we learnt that they can eat the same foods as us including meat, that the meat comes from the shop which comes from the farmer. When asked how does the farmer get the meat there was a pause and then the following response "I know - from the meat seeds!"

Communication Corner

- **Farewell Miss Sammy Hughes:** Sadly Miss Hughes leaves us next Friday 6th March for a well deserved break from teaching to focus on her recovery from an injury in 2018. We wish Sammy well in her recovery and hope to see her at kindy for the occasional visit. We will welcome Mrs Rachel Clayton to our teaching team as Head Teacher on Monday 9th March. We will look forward to introducing Rachel to our kindergarten community.
- **Waitlists:** We are experiencing high levels of enquiries and enrolments and our waitlist for new enrolments has now extended to March 2021. Thank you to all our families who have been recommending us. Our morning sessions are full and we have children waitlisted for additional available days. There is still some availability in our afternoon sessions. To help provide additional availability to our families where possible, we would appreciate it if families could notify us when your child will be absent. Given the lead time for additional days please ensure you plan ahead for changes in timetable, the enrolment of siblings or the extension of your child's leaving date if your child will not be starting school when they turn 5 so that we can ensure that we can meet your needs. Please recommend that your friends plan ahead and enrol early too!
- **Sharing News:** We welcome and encourage the children to share news with their peers at Kindergarten. We notice that children are often more invested in news items that they have chosen and carried in themselves. Gathering and choosing their news is a valuable step in the child developing their story and making a connection with the item as they leave it in the basket to share later in the morning. Ideas for news items that you could support include ticket stubs from events, tangible printed photographs, items from nature or the beach, something your child has made or created, a book, postcards from holidays, cultural items and extra curricular activity awards or certificates.

Mindful Parenting Course - Uplands Kindergarten in Remuera are hosting a Mindful Parenting evening on 1st April with Shirley Pastiroff, counsellor, mother of 5 and one of NZ's leading mindful parenting teachers. See flyer attached.

Upcoming Events

Family morning at Mt Hobson 5th March 9.30am to 11.30am: On Thursday 5th March we will host our annual games morning at Mt Hobson (at the reserve on Dilworth Ave). This is a fun morning of traditional outdoor games followed by a picnic. All kindergarten children and parents are welcome to join us. Permission slips are currently available at kindergarten for signing.

Easter 10th - 13th April and Songkran 13th - 15th April: We will be celebrating these cultural events in April with some fun activities planned.

Mum's Night Out - Tuesday 5th May 7pm: We would like to invite all Mum's to come along and enjoy an evening of wine, cheese and conversation on Tuesday 5th May at kindergarten. This is a great opportunity to get to know other kindergarten Mum's in a relaxed informal setting. Leave Dad at home with the children for the night and come and enjoy the company.



"YOU CAN DISCOVER
MORE ABOUT A PERSON
IN AN HOUR OF PLAY
THAN IN A YEAR OF
CONVERSATION."
-Plato

Welcome

Frank Walton
William Kirton
Chase Taggart
Luella Claudatos

Family News

Two families have welcomed new babies in February
Congratulations to the Dowd family on the birth of a baby boy, Mick Kirk, on 17th February weighing 9.5lbs.
Congratulations to the Van Oijen family on the birth of a baby girl on 17th February.