



# Newsletter

June 2020

## Dates for your Diary

- Auckland City Mission Appeal 2nd-15th June
- Kindergarten Disco Friday 26th June 5.30-7pm
- Celebrating Matariki 20th June –16th July
- Mum's Matariki Morning—Wednesday 15th July 9-11am



## Important Messages

If any families have a paper source to use for children's art we would be grateful for any contacts

Please confirm holiday absences over the July school holiday period

Little Treehouse Kindergarten blog commencing in June

## Programme Highlights

### Wellbeing

Children are experiencing an extraordinary period of history. COVID 19 has caused substantial changes to their daily routines, a period of prolonged isolation and for some fears of infection. A shared awareness of the needs of our children is required as we support them in recovering from this event. Everyone's journey will be different, some may not have been affected significantly while others may find this time challenging and need time and support to make sense of it.

Our teachers have been very mindful of the wellbeing of our children as they have returned to kindy. We are consciously giving our children time to adjust back into kindergarten routines, being responsive to

their needs and giving them quality time to support transitions and reconnect with teachers and friends. We have also incorporated daily breathing exercises, yoga and books supporting mindfulness, breathing and feelings into our programme. The children have responded remarkably well and are enjoying being back at kindy.

### Our Community at Home

We really enjoyed hearing from all our families who shared with us what they were doing in lockdown. Common themes were time in the outdoors walking, riding bikes and scooters and climbing trees along with cosmic kids yoga, science experiments and lots of craft activities. Thanks for sharing!



### Science experiments

During the lockdown we shared in our weekly Free Time Fun Time publications some science websites and experiments. We have been exploring some of these with the children at kindy and they have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the properties of different chemicals and their reactions. Some of this experimentation has extended into the sandpit as children use this learning in their play.

## Wise Owls Programme Review

During the lockdown period we took the opportunity to complete a full review of our Wise Owls ready for school programme following 2.5 years of running the existing programme. This revision supports our current kindergarten planned self-review on transitions.

Our review involved more formalised planning for this programme and more clearly defining our learning intents for each afternoon incorporating a focus in

literacy, numeracy science and nature exploration.

The literacy programme draws on the Casey Caterpillar literacy programme and our numeracy programme will focus on key concepts of shapes, numbers, patterns and measurement. New to our programme will be science experimentation across all science disciplines and nature exploration at Mt Hobson. All aspects of the programme will continue to be play based with some

flexibility for project work to support children's interests.

The programme will continue to be run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with the focus for each day rotating each term to ensure that our children have exposure to each of the focus areas during their year as a four year old. We expect to commence the new programme in term 3 2020 and more details will be available soon.



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## CHILD'S 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.

One of our children announced on returning to kindergarten that "I have a prank for my parents for when I am a teenager. It's for my Mum. It's going to be EPIC!" Unfortunately we weren't given any details of the intended prank!

### Baby news

Congratulations to the Alexander family who celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Yilan, on 27th April 2020. Big brothers Sloan, Forbes and Rhodes are smitten!

### \*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*

We have traditionally received donated excess paper from printing companies to use for children's art however our source is no longer available. If any families have any connections for an alternative paper source, one off or on-going, we would love your help!

## Communication Corner

- **Auckland City Mission Appeal 2nd-15th June:** The Auckland City Mission requires support with managing increased demand for family food parcels which has increased from a weekly requirement of 450 to 1200 food parcels following COVID-19. If you would like to support this appeal we will be collecting donations at kindy over the next two weeks.
- **Welcome:** We were also very excited to welcome back Mrs Dudley (nee Lennox) to our teaching team at Little Treehouse Kindergarten in May after spending a little over a year working in Sydney Australia. A big welcome also to all of our new families who have joined our kindergarten community over the last two weeks.
- **COVID-19:** Thank you to all of our families who have embraced the new requirements on returning to kindergarten at Alert Level 2. We have been amazed at how well the children have settled back into kindergarten after an extended period at home. They are managing well with the additional hygiene requirements and reduced availability of resources which supports our additional cleaning requirements. We appreciate the support of our families in keeping children at home if they or someone in their family is unwell. These requirements will continue in Level 2.
- **Blog:** When we rebranded in November 2018 and released our new website our intent was to write regular blog posts for our community and have these available on our website. Finding the time has proven challenging so we are very excited to share with our kindergarten community that the recent lockdown period has enabled us to achieve this. Our first blog 'Lets talk about Play' is available on our website now.
- **July School Holidays:** Please let us know if you are planning to take holidays during the July school holiday period and support us with managing our staffing requirements during this time.

## Upcoming Events

### Children's Disco—Friday 26th June 5.30pm-7pm:

Our annual children's disco will be held on Friday 26th June from 5.30pm to 7pm. This is a real favourite for our children and a fun night of celebration for all our families. All Mums, Dad's children and siblings welcome. Please bring a plate to share for dinner.

### Mum's Matariki Morning:

As we were unable to host our Mum's evening in May we have decided to host a Mum's Matariki Morning on Wednesday 15th July from 9am to 11am to come together as a community at the conclusion Matariki. Matariki is traditionally celebrated with the sharing of food so we will be hosting a special morning tea for all our Mum's and their children. Please feel free to join us even if Wednesday is not a traditional kindy day. Siblings welcome too.

### Welcome

Elske Schreve  
Ethan Webber  
Rhodes Alexander  
Beatrix Lindsay-Keown  
Verona Lindsay-Keown  
Mia Fernando  
Taika Bean  
Simon Lopez

### Farewell

Oscar Armstrong  
Poppy Taggart  
Amelie Jardine  
Zara Webber  
Vinnie Brown  
Tanya Yang  
Luciana Gollop