



# Newsletter

July 2020

- ### Dates for your Diary
- Celebrating Matariki until July 17th
  - Mum's Matariki Morning - Wednesday 15th July
  - Cultural day - Wednesday 12th August
  - Parent teacher meetings - week beginning 17th & 24th August
  - Grandparent's Day - Thursday 17th September



### Important Messages

Ellie Gulbransen will be leaving on 10th July 2020 with baby due three weeks later

New blog available on how we support children's play based learning

## Programme Highlights

### Fine Motor Skills

Motor development is an essential part of our early childhood curriculum and lays important foundations for children's ability to participate in learning opportunities throughout life.

Gross motor skills are refined on the playground with hand strength developed through the use of the monkey bars and the more complex climbing equipment that children need to grip onto. Once children have gained mastery of gross motor skills through physically active play we often see them seeking out fine motor challenges.

Over the last few months we have provided our children with a wide range of activities and challenges that develop and exercise pincer grip, fine motor control, concentration and focus to support our children's fine motor

development. Activities that include threading, tweezing, pinching, posting and gripping of small objects are all an essential part of the children's journey towards correct pencil grip, letter formation and eventually name writing. This process is ongoing in the early years and therefore an important part of our day to day programme and we encourage families to support this development at home.

### Science Experiences

Science supports children in developing working theories about their physical environment and provides children with opportunities to develop and practice skills and qualities such as team work, communication, perseverance, critical thinking and problem solving.

At kindy science experiments and related activities have become a big interest.

Children shared experiences from home during lockdown and we have supported this further through making rain clouds, volcanos, water and oil mixing and lava lamps. We will look forward to sharing further investigations.

### Nature

The children are continuing to embrace nature opportunities especially with the replanting of our garden and kaitiaki of our worms. Vegetables planted will be explored within our Know Me Eat Me programme in coming months so the children get the opportunity to see the entire process of how we grow the things we eat. Through this programme the children are developing a sense of belonging for the wellbeing of another living thing and have further opportunities for questioning, discovery and investigation.

### Matariki Disco

We have been celebrating Matariki, the Maori New Year with plans to extend this learning into July. The story of Matariki and the group of seven stars known as Pleiades was introduced through books, mat time discussions and craft activities such as art and weaving. We have reflected on our year by asking our children what they are most proud of

learning or achieving this year and explored our future goals and aspirations. These have been captured on our Matariki stars alongside achievements from previous years.

As Matariki has traditionally been celebrated by gathering together with whanau our Matariki disco was an opportunity for our kindergarten whanau to

come together for an evening of celebration, sharing music, kai and time together as a community. The children were involved in our planning by preparing our invite, decorations and making soup to share. It was a great night of celebration for our families that was very much enjoyed by our children. Thank you for being part of the celebrations!



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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.

Ms Bloem was taking a bathroom break at the same time as one of our children who politely enquired "Ms Bloem, are you colouring the water like me?"

## Communication Corner



**Auckland City Mission Appeal:** Thank you for all of our families who have supported the Auckland City Mission Appeal by donating non perishable food items for Auckland families in need following COVID-19. We collected a total of 160 items. Through this appeal children have been learning about the importance of supporting those in need within our community.

**Farewell to Miss Gulbransen:** Miss Gulbransen will be leaving on Friday 10th July to prepare for her baby's arrival in early August. We will be welcoming a new teacher, Mrs Sameena Junaid in July in a long term relieving capacity until December 2020. Sameena has 6 years experience as an unqualified teacher and has been supporting us with some relieving over the last few weeks. We will look forward to welcoming Sameena officially to our kindergarten community soon.

**Professional Learning:** Over the last couple of months staff have had a number of opportunities to engage in professional learning including learning on wellness, learning stories, transitions, physical health and movement, early literacy and resilience and recovery during COVID-19. We are currently looking at ways to put this learning in practice particularly through kindergarten wide wellness initiatives and our Wise Owls programme.

**Absence:** We are experiencing higher levels of absence and appreciate the support of our families in keeping children at home when they are unwell. Children should not be attending kindergarten if they have any COVID-19 symptoms including runny nose, dry cough, shortness of breath, headache or fever. If your child has similar symptoms for other reasons such as allergy or asthma they are welcome to attend kindergarten. Please inform teaching staff.

**Blog:** We have released another blog on how we support children with play based learning. This is available on our website now.

**Wise Owls Programme:** Our revised Wise Owls programme will be introduced next term and will include literacy, numeracy, science and nature exploration. Parent information about our revised programme is available.

## Upcoming Events

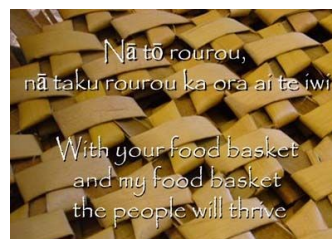
**Mum's Matariki Morning—Wednesday 15th July 9-11am:** As we were unable to host our Mum's evening in May we are hosting a Mum's Matariki Morning to come together as a community at the conclusion of Matariki. Mum's are invited to join us for the morning including a special morning tea. Please feel free to join us even if Wednesday is not a traditional kindy day. Siblings are welcome too.

**Cultural Day—Tuesday 12th August 2020:** With the successful introduction of our Cultural day in 2019 we would like to make this an annual event with this years Cultural Day planned for Tuesday 12th August. Children will have the opportunity to come to kindy dressed up in something from their culture or they can bring something into kindergarten that reflects their culture such as a traditional artefact or a cultural food to share for morning tea. All families are welcome to join us.

**Parent Teacher Meetings—week beginning 17th & 24th August 2020:** Each year we extend an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of their children at kindergarten. Meeting times are 15 minutes long and will be held in August. For those interested a booking schedule will be available at the beginning of August.

**Grandparents day—Thursday 17th September 2020:** This year we will be hosting our annual grandparent morning on Thursday 17th September from 9.30am to 11am. Please pass on this date to all of our lovely grandparents so they can come and join us for a wonderful morning at kindergarten.

**We would love your feedback on our newsletter. Please email us at [admin@littletreehouse.co.nz](mailto:admin@littletreehouse.co.nz)**



### Welcome

Harry Coldham  
Tommy McChesney

### Farewell

Noah Jones

### Family News

Congratulations to the Paisankitjaroen family on the birth of a little boy, Benji, born on Monday 8th June weighing 2.97kg. A little brother for Bella and Brooklyn.