



Little Treehouse  
KINDERGARTEN

# Newsletter

August 2020

## Dates for your Diary

- Cultural day - Wednesday 12th August
- Parent teacher meetings - week beginning 17th August
- Grandparent's Day - Thursday 17th September



## Programme Highlights

### Matariki

This month we continued our learning on Matariki, the Maori New Year. Our Mum's joined us at kindy for a Mum's Matariki morning and our children worked tirelessly on creating two amazing Korowai cloaks for us to use at our Ka Kite ceremonies.

A korowai is a traditional cloak which is used by Maori for special ceremonies representing prestige and honour. Traditionally made from the feathers of native NZ birds, the children created the bright iridescent colours using oil pastels and inks. They sewed each feather onto a hessian background using wool and added a special ribbon around the top to tie the cloak around the shoulders. These beautiful cloaks will be used to celebrate a special time in our children's life as they graduate from kindy and em-

bark on their next learning adventure.

### Wellbeing

We have continued our focus on supporting children's wellbeing with the incorporation of breathing exercises, yoga and books supporting mindfulness, breathing and feelings into our programme.

Sensory play opportunities, especially messy ones, have also been a highlight in recent weeks. Tactile and sensory experiences inspire children's curiosity, allows them to explore the world around them enhancing their learning, language, creativity and imagination. Sensory play is also very good for a child's wellbeing as it calms and relaxes a child's mind. There is nothing like feeling paint or foam oozing through your fingers or exploring the textures of moon sand, gloop and play dough.

### Problem Solving

We have been supporting our children with developing problem solving, making choices and learning from them. This is an important part of early learning and is facilitated by teachers who observe, listen, and ask open-ended questions that further the process. If a child is able to solve problems on their own they will be happier, more confident, more independent and better able to navigate social situations in a positive way which in turn builds self esteem.



## Important Messages

Please share with us any contributions or ideas for our transitions self review and our upcoming Cultural Day

## Children signing in each day

An important part of our kindergarten programme is to provide a literacy rich learning environment to support children's pre literacy learning. Our children's sign in space is an important part of this with independent name recognition supporting early reading and writing skills. Accomplishment of name writing is a beginning step in developing awareness

of alphabetic principles (i.e. matching sounds with letters). Children learn that there is a difference between 'mark making' and 'letters' grouped together and that words and letters have meaning. Developmentally, children will be able to recognise their name before they can write it.

In supporting your child to 'sign in' each morning it is

important that they have the opportunity to try this on their own. Encourage and guide them. In supporting name writing please ensure that you encourage and support the formation of **lower case** letters except for the first letter of their name and correct letter formation. Teachers are available to support both you and your child with this.



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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 was assisting Ms Bloem with preparing food for our worms by breaking up egg shells when they exclaimed "This is hard work. My muscles are running out!"

## Communication Corner

**Planned Self-Review on Transitions:** This years review focus for our teachers is supporting transitions into and out of kindergarten. As part of this review we are seeking the support of past and present families in sharing their experience and views through a short survey on the support provided to their child when they transitioned into kindergarten or transitioned to school. This survey will be available shortly and we would appreciate your support in completing this.

As part of this review we will also be making connections with our local schools to strengthen and build on existing relationships and seek their feedback on important aspects to support school transition to ensure our curriculum best supports our children's school readiness. The revision of our Wise Owls programme has also been an important part of improving our support for school readiness. If you have any ideas to support our review then please see one of the teaching team, we would love any parent contributions.

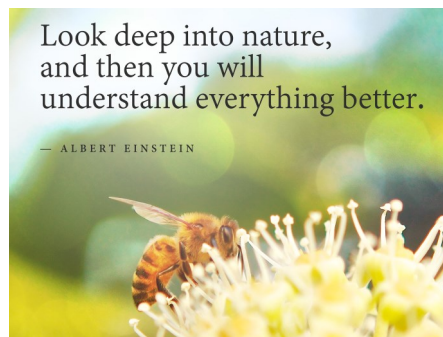
**Wise Owls:** Our revised Wise Owls programme has commenced this term. Key focus areas of this programme include:

- Casey Caterpillar literacy programme focusing on recognising, naming and forming letter shapes
- numeracy including shapes, patterns, measuring, locating, numbers counting and grouping
- science and interactive experiments covering multiple science disciplines
- nature exploration at Mt Hobson

We are particularly excited about offering a nature exploration component to our programme. This was met with great enthusiasm and success with our Wise Owls on our first exploration this week. We will look forward to sharing our adventures and our learning with our families as the term progresses.

Look deep into nature,  
and then you will  
understand everything better.

— ALBERT EINSTEIN



## Upcoming Events

**Cultural Day—Wednesday 12th August 2020:** Following the introduction of a very successful Cultural Day at kindergarten last year we are making this an annual event with this years Cultural Day being held in August. This is an opportunity for children to come to kindy wearing something from their culture and to bring something into kindergarten to share from their culture. We would love parent support so if you have a cultural song, dance, food dish or traditional craft activity that you can share with us please talk to one of our teaching team. Children who do not attend kindy on a Wednesday are welcome to come along with a parent or caregiver and share the morning with us too. Parents and siblings welcome from 9-11am.

**Parent Teacher Meetings—week beginning 17th August 2020:** If you would like to make a time to meet with Rachel and Allanah to discuss your child's progress at kindergarten then please select a meeting time on our meeting booking sheet available at the entrance to the kindergarten. If you have more than one child please book two booking times. If these dates do not suit you then please let us know as we are happy to schedule a time outside of these scheduled meeting times.

**Grandparents day—Thursday 17th September 2020:** All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten on Thursday 17th September from 9-11am. This is a lovely opportunity for the children to show these special family members all the wonderful things that they love to do at kindergarten and to share morning tea with us. Please let all of our wonderful grandparents know so that they can book this special morning into their diaries.

### Farewell

Ana Firth  
Dominic Clark  
Aileen Noah  
Martha Black  
George Bradley

### Welcome

Anika Schreve  
Alexia Drake  
Mikayla You  
Yi-Han Esther Liu  
Lachlan Doughty  
Georgia May  
Mahony

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

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