



Newsletter

**September
2020**

- ### Dates for your Diary
- Parent Teacher Meetings 3-9th September
 - Little Ferns Wonderful Worms—Tuesday 8th September 10-12pm
 - Grandparent’s morning Thursday 17th September 9-11am
 - Cultural Day Wednesday 21st October 9-11am
 - Father’s Sausage Sizzle Tuesday 10th November 5.30-7pm



Important Messages

Please let us know if you are planning any holidays in the October school holidays

Book our Dad’s night in your diary on Tuesday 10th November 5.30-7pm

Programme Highlights

Lockdown

With another COVID-19 level 3 lockdown in August kindy has been quiet with only a few children attending. Our families have been busy at home supporting children and juggling their own work commitments. We enjoyed receiving our contributions for Our Community at Home and we hope that you all enjoyed our teachers sharing stories with you during this period. We are excited to have everyone return to kindy and will look forward to settling everyone back into kindy life again.

Learning about our bodies

Our Wise Owls have been learning about their bodies within our science

exploration sessions. This induced the revisiting of an earlier interest in medical play. We saw lots of imaginative role play as broken bones, sore tummies, cut fingers and sick baby dolls were lovingly diagnosed by our doctors and nurses in the medical clinic.

Supporting our Cultures

We have introduced two new cultural initiatives to the children recently — Maori days of the week and greeting of the month. Our older children have been learning the days of the week in Maori during mat times, introduced through learning a new song. We are intending to extend this to include the date, month and weather

over time. We have also introduced a greeting of the month which is being displayed in our entrance. Each month we will choose a different language to learn and use every day. We are excited to grow and extend on our knowledge of the wonderful languages from around the world. This months language was Cook Island Maori in support of Cook Island language week where ‘Hello’ is ‘Kia Orana’. We see every child’s own language as a treasure and ensure that their cultural heritage is valued and in doing so strengthen their sense of integration and belonging at kindy.

Supporting Transitions

Thank you to all of our parents who supported our current planned self review by completing one of our parent surveys on transitions. Parent feedback is very important to us in maximising the learning from our review and to improve outcomes for our children. Key learning was:

Transitions into kindergarten are well supported with value placed on the primary caregiving role between teachers and children, empathetic teachers and contact by phone or text when a child is unsettled at drop off. Some consistency of information shared at the outset of transition visits about what to expect was identified to support improvement.

Our children are experiencing positive transitions from **kindergarten to school**. Many aspects of our programme support what parents value as important in preparing children for school and supporting their transitions. Some academic support by way of numerical knowledge and following multiple instructions along with knowledge of a wider network of schools to better support transitions were some areas to support improvement.

Our next area of focus for this review is to visit local schools to build our knowledge of school environments, expectations of new entrant teachers when children start school and exploring how we can work alongside schools to better support our children’s transition to school.



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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 enquired about whether Mr Sebastian was Miss Gulbransen's baby's Daddy. I guess this could be a logical conclusion as the only constant adult male at kindy.

Communication Corner

Happy Fathers Day: We would like to wish all of our Dad's a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday 6th September.



Resource Request: We would like to offer our children the opportunity to explore technology and how things work as part of extending our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programme at kindy by giving them the opportunity to see inside different technological resources by dismantling used resources such as printers, vacuum cleaners etc. If you have any unwanted technological resources please bring these into kindergarten for us to explore.

Building Independence: Our kindergarten programme supports children to build independence as an important skill in preparing our children for school and becoming active and valued members of our community. There are many ways in which we foster this independence such as encouraging our children to take responsibility for naming their art work, taking their shoes on and off and teaching them to go to the toilet and eat their lunch independently. Parent's can support this also by encouraging children to dress themselves, put their own shoes on, walking into kindergarten independently, putting their lunch box into the basket and ensuring that children wear clothing and shoes at kindergarten that they can manage independently.

Staff absences: Mrs Dudley, Miss Reidy and Ms Bloem will all be on leave for a week in September. Mrs Hensby-Bennett will be supporting the teaching team as required during this time.

Holidays: Please let us know if you are planning on taking a holiday from kindergarten during the October school holidays so that we can manage our staffing during this time.

Upcoming Events

Cultural Day - Wednesday 21st October 2020: We have rescheduled our Cultural Day to Wednesday 21st October. 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 let us know so we can incorporate this into the planning for the day.

Little Ferns - Wonderful Worms programme: On Tuesday 8th September we will be hosting Little Ferns who will be supporting us in extending the children's knowledge and learning about worms with the opportunity for the children to help set up a mini worm farm and hold real tiger worms.

Parent Teacher Meetings 3rd-9th September: Rescheduled dates from August due to level 3 restrictions.

Grandparent's Morning - Thursday 17th September 9-11am: All grandparents are invited to spend the morning with us at kindergarten on Thursday 17th September from 9-11am. This date will be revisited if COVID-19 level 2 restrictions still exist. 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. Children who do not normally attend kindergarten on Thursday are welcome to join us with their grandparent(s).

Dad's Night - Tuesday 10th November 5.30-7pm: Our annual Dad's sausage sizzle evening will be held on Tuesday 10th November. Children are invited to bring along their Dad or other significant person (Grandad, Uncle etc) for an evening of fun at kindergarten. This is a great opportunity for Dad's to see what their children love about kindergarten and to meet other Dads.

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

Farewell

Miller George
Phoebe Frazerhurst
Tilly Grace Mahony

Baby News

Congratulations to Miss Gulbransen on the birth of Scarlett Winnie Jacobson on 4th August 2020 at 7.29pm

Congratulations to Miss Myburg on the birth of Lincoln Ezra Linton on 11th August 2020 at 4.06pm