



Newsletter

**January /
February 2021**

- Dates for your Diary**
- Chinese New Year Celebrations - from 11th February
 - Little Heart Day - Monday 15th February
 - Family games morning at Mt Hobson - Wednesday 3rd March



- Important Messages**
- We would love any resources to support our carpentry space such as untreated timber
 - Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before kindy

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed lots of family time together in the beautiful sunshine. We are all very excited to welcome you back to kindergarten for 2021. We have been welcoming some new children into the kindergarten in January and will look forward to supporting them in building relationships within our kindergarten community over the coming weeks.

Programme Highlights

Christmas Celebrations

December was filled with lots of Christmas celebrations and activities and was a fun time for everyone. The highlights were our Christmas Show and Christmas party. The children worked really hard learning their songs and prompts and loved sharing this with their families. Involvement in an event like this is instrumental in building confidence, self-esteem and a sense of belonging. We are so proud of what the children achieved.

Thank you to all the families who came and supported their children. We captured some lovely photos and have included these in children's portfolios.

Holidays

Since returning from holiday the children have been sharing with us what they enjoyed doing with their families over the holidays. We have been enjoying listening to their stories and capturing what has been important to them. This, along with some holiday photos, will be shared in their portfolios.

Garden

With the new year we have harvested the last of our vegetables in the garden and made our very own roast vegetable hummus. We have also prepared and replanted our garden with a variety of vegetables including beans and corn that we will soon learn about as part of our Know Me Eat Me programme. The children have a huge sense of pride in their garden and really enjoy caring for the plants and watching them grow.

Carpentry

Since returning to kindy we have reintroduced carpentry tools and materials to our programme. We are starting slowly with hammers, nails

and screwdrivers and have been reminding our children about the safety rules when managing these resources.

Carpentry gives children the opportunity to express their creativity in a 3 dimensional way. Children are learning how to handle tools properly and are developing a wide range of skills such as hand / eye coordination, science and mathematical skills, problem solving, sharing, exchanging ideas, cooperating and building a sense of pride and achievement.

As we explore and extend our children's learning in this area we would love any insights from our families of skills and resources that we can use in this area.





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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...

Two of our children were admiring another child's hairclip. They were sharing that they would both like a hairclip like this when one declared "I know, I think I will put it on my Santa list because Santa will get it for me."

Communication Corner

Thank you: All teachers would like to thank parents and children for all the lovely gifts and gift vouchers that we all received at the end of 2020. We were truly spoiled and your generosity and kindness is much appreciated by us all.

Carpentry resources: With the focus on re-establishing our carpentry space this year we are looking for any resources that can be used to support this learning space. In particular we need a supply of small pieces of untreated timber that can be used by the children. Other useful items are milk bottle tops, corks or cork product, laminate samples.

Reducing choking risk: Thank you for parents for supporting our new licensing requirements relating to the preparation of food provided in children's lunch boxes to reduce the risk of choking as recommended by the MOH. If you would like further details please see any of our teaching team.

Sun Protection: With the lovely sunny weather please ensure children have sunscreen applied before kindergarten each morning. Sunscreen is available on the sign in table if you have forgotten this at home. Sunscreen will be reapplied at lunch time and children wear their sun hats when playing outside.

Upcoming Events

Chinese New Year: The children will be learning about the Chinese/Korean New Year, the year of the Ox, in February .

Little Heart Day: We would like to continue to support Heart Kids NZ and all the wonderful things that they do for child born with heart conditions by supporting the Little Heart Day appeal on Monday 15th February. Children wear red or heart themed clothing to kindy and bring a gold coin donation. The children will also be making and decorating heart shaped gingerbread biscuits that we will be selling for \$2. All proceeds will be donated to Heart Kids.



Games Morning at Mt Hobson: On Wednesday 3rd March we will hold our annual sports morning at Mt Hobson. Parents are welcome to join us for the morning.

Planned Self-Review Focus for 2021

In 2021 our planned self review focus will be on sustainability where we will look at ways we can improve our sustainable practices at Little Treehouse Kindergarten and pass this knowledge and learning on to our children to encourage them to consider sustainable practices at home and into the future. We will look forward to seeking parent input and feedback throughout the year.

Planned Self-Review for 2020

We are still working through the completion of our planned self-review focus for 2020 on transitions with progress currently being made with two parent publications, one to support children's transition into kindergarten and one on supporting preparation for school and transition to school. We are hoping to have these available soon. In 2021 we would also like to continue to build on the relationships we established with our local schools in 2020 to continue to strengthen the support we provide to children as they transition to school as well as the knowledge we can share with parents about our local schools and community.

Welcome

Freddy Vowells
Harry Nicholls
Jack Johns
Tristan Liu

Farewells

Forbes Alexander
Rhodes Alexander
Sloan Alexander
Ronan Bevans

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021