



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter

April 2022

Programme Highlights

Dates for your Diary

- Celebrating Songkran 13th April
Easter 14th April
St Georges Day 22nd April
Anzac Day 26th April
- Tuesday 3rd May Mum's Night Out - 7pm
- Kindergarten photos - 11th and 12th May from 9.30am. Rain date 17th May. Group photo Wednesday 11th May 11am



St Patrick's Day Celebration

An important part of our curriculum is building our children's knowledge of other cultures so in March we celebrated Miss Reidy's Irish culture on St Patrick's Day. At mat time the children enjoyed green smoothies using fresh spinach from our garden and learnt about the significance of this special day. We also enjoyed some traditional Irish music and dance.

The day was filled with lots of Irish inspired activities including a leprechaun house, dress ups, green water with floating shamrocks, green shaving foam and four leaf clovers at the collage tables alongside green accessories for decoration.

Protecting our Sea

We celebrated sea week with lots of fun sea themed activities such as rock pools and water play, arts and crafts using shells and sand, music, sensory play, sand collages, puzzles and books. During mat time the children explored the concept of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by discussing the importance of keeping our seas free of rubbish and the damage this can cause to our oceans and wildlife. Our Wise Owls created dioramas of an underwater scene using recycled materials.

Building an awareness of protecting our environment supports our sustainability review focus.

Gross motor challenges

With a lot of time being spent in the outdoors we have been offering the children lots of gross motor challenges with the children showing a particular interest in obstacle courses. We have set up a range of resources so children can practice balancing, jumping, climbing and crawling. They embrace any challenge with confidence and even add a few adjustments of their own.

With the return of Playball we have also been incorporating some Playball gross motor activities into our outside spaces which has enabled children to revisit this learning.

Planned Self-Review - Sustainability

We have recently completed the self-review commenced in 2021 on sustainability. There are a number of highlights from our review to share.

We have introduced recycling and composting as part of our curriculum and learning for children and are in the process of introducing a bug hotel. The children have embraced this learning and are showing kaitiakitanga (care and guardianship) of our environment. We have supported this learning by introducing a lot of recycled,

upcycled or natural resources and by introducing a number of teaching resources made from recycled materials. We have also incorporated this learning, along with our worm farm into our Wise Owls Science programme.

We have improved our commitment to sustainable practices such as recycling, composting and the use of eco-friendly product choices where possible.

Information from parents obtained from our parent survey was invaluable in

shaping this review.

Challenges we encountered throughout the review were a lack of water collection and conservation options, the Enviro Schools initiative no longer being supported in early childhood and the cost investment to support the use of more eco-friendly and biodegradable products. We are committed to continuing these initiatives within our programme and day to day running of the kindergarten.

Thank you to our parent community for your support.

Important Messages

- Outcome of our ERO review and planned self-review on sustainability
- We have written a blog for parents on supporting children with developing Oral Literacy



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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.

One of our younger friends shared with a teacher recently that "Sometimes our life just gets crazy!"

Upcoming Events

Celebrating our cultures:

We will be celebrating a number of cultural events in April including the Thai celebration of Songkran, Easter, St Georges day and Anzac day with some fun activities planned for the children.

Mum's Night Out: All Mum's are invited to come along and enjoy an evening of wine, cheese and conversation on Tuesday 3rd May from 7pm. Leave Dad at home with the children for the night and come out and enjoy the company.

Kindergarten Photos - 11th and 12th May:

Photos will be taken during our morning sessions on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May with a rain date on Tuesday 17th May. A group kindergarten photo will be taken on Wednesday at 11am. If your child does not attend kindergarten on these days or you would like them to be included in our group photo we would love you to bring them along.



Communication Corner

- **Education Review Office (ERO) Review:** We completed the first phase of our ERO review in March with positive feedback from our reviewers. This phase of the review considered our organisational conditions such as governance, strategic direction, philosophy, policies, procedures and health and safety. Learning conditions for children were also reviewed with a focus on our curriculum, planning and assessment and outcomes for children. Phase two will include onsite review of our teaching practice and will be completed later in the year.
- **Clothing:** With the restrictions on parents entering the kindergarten we are finding that we are accumulating a lot of clothing, particularly cardigans, jumpers and socks at kindergarten. Please support us by naming your child's clothing where possible and checking any clothing items at the entrance to the kindergarten regularly for items belonging to your child.
- **Holidays:** Please let us know of any holiday plans over the upcoming April school holiday so that we can manage our staffing requirements.
- **Policies:** Review of centre policies are carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Positive Child Guidance Policy with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.
- **Greeting of the Month:** This month the children will be learning about the Thai greeting 'Sawatdee'.
- **Blog:** Following our centre self-review on oral literacy we have prepared a blog focusing on supporting children's oral literacy development in early childhood. This is now available on our website.



Welcome

Jasper Sanders

Farewell

Gigi Bowring