



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter

**January /
February 2022**

Dates for your Diary

- Chinese New Year Celebrations - from 31st January—4th February
- Little Heart Day - Monday 14th February
- St Patrick's Day - Thursday 17th March

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 2022. We have been busy farewelling a number of children who are about to begin their school journey as well as welcoming some new children into the kindergarten. We look forward to supporting all of our new children in building relationships within our kindergarten community over the coming weeks.

Programme Highlights

Christmas Celebrations

The highlight for December was being able to welcome all of our children back to kindy. Although restrictions were still in place which did not allow us to host our traditional annual Christmas Show and Christmas Party we enjoyed a week of Christmas celebrations with the children during our Christmas week. We enjoyed lots of Christmas crafts and games, Christmas songs, daily pass the parcel, face painting and food treats for morning tea. We also made a Christmas grotto and captured some lovely photos of the children which have included in their 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.

Worm farm and composting

The children have enjoyed feeding and looking after our

worm farm and returning to our prior learning about composting. Our compost has been undergoing a magic transformation during our time in lockdown and our worms have been busy making worm tea providing us with lots of nutritious goodness to feed our garden. The garden has been cleared and the soil prepared by the children and we are almost ready for replanting.

The children have a huge sense of pride in their garden and are wonderful kaitiaki for our worms so we look forward to continuing this learning in 2022.

Oral Literacy

Teachers have been reviewing opportunities for children to engage in oral literacy learning following review of a document issued by the Ministry of Education entitled Talking Together / Te Kōrero-rero. The literature reinforces the importance of oral literacy for young children's learning and development in preparation for school. During

this review we assessed some of the oral literacy practices we currently include as part of our curriculum and looked at ways we could further strengthen our oral language focus within our environment.

Observing children's interactions whilst playing and learning and reviewing what resources we currently used formed part of our review. Although our curriculum and environment provides lots of opportunities to support oral literacy we identified further opportunities to create resources to support our bilingual and multicultural practice. In particular, variations of well-known songs, stories and games were sourced and printed in a variety of languages and added to our library.

The next focus area for 2022 is drama and storytelling. Current restrictions do not allow us to use props such as puppets or dress ups but we are looking forward to using these again to support this area of learning in the future.

Important Messages

- Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before kindy
- Planned self review focus in 2022 is on Wellbeing





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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 recent school leavers shared with us "I've been wondering, what would my life be like without you guys?" It's always nice to know that we hold a special place in the hearts of our children.

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 2021. We were truly spoiled and your generosity and kindness is much appreciated by us all.

Protection Framework: Thank you to all parents for your support, flexibility and understanding in operating with the restrictions required under the red and orange Protection Frameworks. We are expecting the next few months to be challenging and possibly disruptive as Omicron becomes more widespread in the community and therefore the protective measures we have in place remain very important. Children have been amazing at saying goodbye at the front entrance and have developed their independence skills as a result. Please continue to keep children at home if they are unwell. We will keep families informed of any changes as necessary.

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.

Games morning at Mt Hobson: Due to Protection Framework restrictions impacting the hosting of events and restrictions on numbers we will not be able to host our traditional games morning at Mt Hobson in March this year.

Upcoming Events

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

Little Heart Day: We would like to continue to support Heart Kids NZ and all the wonderful things that they do for children born with heart conditions by supporting the Little Heart Day appeal on Monday 14th February. We would love children to wear red or heart themed clothing to kindy and bring a gold coin donation. All proceeds will be donated to Heart Kids.



Planned Self-Review Focus for 2022

In 2022 our planned self review focus will be on wellbeing. With the disruption caused by the pandemic over the last two years and continued disruption expected in 2022 we felt that it was important to focus our teaching and learning on ways that we can better support our children and teacher's wellbeing. We will look forward to seeking parent input and feedback throughout the year.

Planned Self-Review for 2021

We are still working through the completion of our planned self-review focus for 2021 on sustainability. The extended lockdown period in 2021 delayed progress in introducing planned sustainability concepts with the children and embedding sustainability teaching in our curriculum. This will continue to be a focus for the coming year alongside our 2022 planned self-review. We are currently revisiting our learning on composting with the children and our next project will focus on creating a bug hotel to encourage more living creatures to make their home at kindergarten.

Welcome

Noah Aya
Louis Waalkens
Louisa Coe
Amelia Reilly
James Park

Scarlett Su
Noori Ebbett
Anika Balar
Emily Lunjevich
Nathapol Lewis

Farewells

Hugo Blair
Eliza Blair
Simon Lopez
Florence Mamo
Georgie Johns
Grace Kerr
Alexia Drake
Hugh Massey
Paxton Wong

Amelia Bent
Chloe Nicholls
Sam MacCormick
Rica Pineda
Freddy Vowell
Matthew Su
Reuben Lee
Mila Claudatos
Ted Linehan