



Newsletter

June 2022

- ### Dates for your Diary
- Samoan Language week 30th May - 3rd June
 - Jammies in June - Pyjama day Tuesday 14th June
 - St Johns Ambulance in Schools Programme - Monday 20th June 11.30am
 - Celebrating Matariki 20th June-1st July 2022
 - Kindergarten Disco Friday 1st July 5.30-7pm



Important Messages

Please support our Jammies in June appeal by donating pyjamas to those in need

Please confirm holiday absences over the July school holiday period

Programme Highlights

Bug hotel

The children have completed the process of creating our bug hotel and this is now hanging on the back fence at kindergarten. The children are enjoying exploring the bug hotel daily often with the aid of a magnifying glass and we cannot wait for lots of little bugs and insects to make it there home over winter.

Quiet cosy spaces

To support our self-review on wellbeing we have been creating lots of cosy quiet spaces for children to promote rest and relaxation. We have experimented with different spaces in our indoor and outdoor environments using tents, tee pees, boxes, hanging or draped fabric. We have added comforting resources and soothing materials such as books, sensory bottles, bean bags, cushions, a cosy rug or

soft blanket to promote mindfulness, breathing and reflection.

We are exploring how children use these quiet spaces during the day and what locations and resources work better for promoting rest and relaxation. We would like these spaces to be a regular feature of our kindergarten environment to support children's wellbeing with the goal of allowing them the opportunity to sit in quiet with their own thoughts and feelings and feel safe and comfortable recognising and regulating their emotions in a healthy way.

Loose parts play

Using loose parts to create something meaningful creates lots of learning opportunities for children to explore, problem solve and

apply critical thinking. We have recently obtained some pipes and connectors that children have been using in their play with a popular group challenge being the creation of a ball run. New configurations and props are used each time exploring height and gravity to ensure the balls or marbles travel successfully to their end destination. These projects provide opportunities for children to practice hand eye coordination as they connect pieces together and spatial thinking as they consider what they want the outcome to look like. Once built, they have predicted what would happen and explored ways to make the balls or marbles traverse faster. So much conversation, problem solving and fun at kindy!

Wellness Parent Survey

Thank you to all our families who contributed to our parent survey providing valuable feedback to guide our planned self-review. Our survey results identified a number of wellness strategies used at home that we also use at kindergarten such as encouraging good nutrition and hygiene, growing vegetables and learning through our Know me eat me

programme, quality one on one time together, lots of cuddles, time outdoors, consistent routines, activities such as yoga, mindfulness and breathing and providing opportunities to try new experiences. Emotional competency is also supported through talking about feelings, managing big emotions and reading stories about feelings and emotions at mat times.

Suggestions to grow our practice for us to explore are extending our teaching on mindfulness and breathing and providing quiet spaces to support this, more time in nature, more regular yoga, use of peaceful music alongside activities, talking about what we are grateful for and establishing a kite of parenting tips to support families in this important role.



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

130 Remuera Road
Remuera 1050

e-mail: admin@littletreehouse.co.nz
www.littletreehouse.co.nz

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.

A group of children were playing on the monkey bars alongside a teacher when one child knocked her shoe off on the monkey bars. She fell to the ground and announced "I lost my shoe. Now I will have to be a flamingo." She was wearing stockings and stood with her shoeless foot half way up her other leg balancing indeed just like a flamingo. Fantastic problem solving!

Communication Corner

- **Welcome:** We welcome two Year 13 students from Epsom Girls Grammar who will be spending one day a week with us for 10 weeks. Noelle will be joining us on a Wednesday and Mary-Ann will be joining us on a Friday. Both girls are studying early childhood and this is an opportunity for them to get valuable practical experience in an early childhood environment.
- **Jammies in June:** We are supporting the Jammies in June appeal, an initiative by the Middlemore Foundation to provide support to NZ children who do not have warm clothing over winter to help prevent respiratory illness. Donations of new pyjamas, hats, socks or blankets would be appreciated.
- **Illness:** We would like to thank families for keeping children at home when unwell which has supported us in minimising the spread of illness at kindy. We are anticipating higher levels of sickness this winter and would appreciate your ongoing support to protect our children and teachers. The MOE have provided us with a supply of rapid antigen tests for our kindergarten community so please let us know if you would like any.
- **Sharing News:** We have noticed a decline in children sharing news at kindergarten recently and we would like to encourage families to support children to bring suitable items into kindergarten to share with their peers. Children are often more invested in news items that they have chosen and carried in themselves. Gathering and choosing their news is a valuable step in the child developing their story and making a connection with the item. Ideas for news items that you could support include ticket stubs from events, printed photographs, items from nature/beach, homemade craft, books, cultural items and awards or certificates. Preferably no toys please.
- **Greeting of the month:** This months greeting is the Maori greeting Kia Ora to support our teaching on Matariki.
- **July school holidays:** Please let us know if you are planning to take holidays during the July school holiday period and support us with managing our staffing requirements during this time.
- **Policies:** Review of centre policies are carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Information and Complaints Policy and Parent Involvement Policy with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Upcoming Events

Samoan Language week: We will be incorporating learning on Samoan language and culture in our programme during Samoan Language week from 30th May to 3rd June.

St John's Ambulance in Schools Programme - Monday 20th June 11.30am: A St Johns educator will visit kindergarten to deliver an age appropriate learning experience aimed at empowering children to prevent injuries and respond to emergencies.

Pyjama Day - Tuesday 14th June: In support of the Jammies in June appeal and our teaching at kindy we will be hosting a Pyjama day. Children are encouraged to come to kindergarten dressed in their favourite pyjamas and are welcome to bring along their favourite bedtime friend. We are planning a fun day of winter fun, cosy spaces, story time and activities. Please bring a some pyjamas (preferably new) to donate or make a donation which will be put towards purchasing pyjamas.

Children's Matariki Disco - Friday 1st July 5.30pm-7pm: We will be learning about Matariki at kindergarten from 20th June - 1st July. This learning will be followed by our annual children's disco which is a fun night of celebration for all our families and a favourite event for our children. All Mums, Dad's children and siblings welcome. Please bring a plate to share for dinner.

