

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoying the holidays

A number of children enjoyed some time away with their families over the holidays, with some families taking extended holidays overseas. We have been enjoying hearing about what the children enjoyed about their holidays and sharing these experiences with them. There were lots of fun activities to keep us all busy at kindy too and the teachers enjoyed the extra opportunities for small group play with children.

Group games

We have continued our focus on group games this month providing opportunities for children to engage in collaborative play experiences within our daily programme. While collaborating with their friends they are learning to follow instructions, practice taking turns and learning to celebrate their own and others success with grace and kindness. Such collaborative play also supports children in using and extending vocabulary in an exciting way through play.

Nutrition

As an extension of our Know Me Eat Me programme we are teaching the children about nutrition within our programme this term. We have introduced the children to our food rainbow, with a focus each week on a different colour of the rainbow and the benefits that these foods provide for our body. Families can extend this learning at home by engaging in conversation with children about the fruits and vegetables they are eating at home and how they support their body to stay healthy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

4-7

Parent - Teacher Meetings

6

Cultural Day

18-23

Tongan Language Week
18th - 23rd August 2025

28

St John's Ambulance in
ECE Programme

SEPTEMBER

15-19

Maori Language Week
15th - 19th September 2025

17

Grandparent morning
9am-11am

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

We have spaces available so if you require additional days or know friends who are considering early childhood options please let them know. Recommendations are appreciated.

INDIVIDUAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

Given the recent change to our licensing requirements requiring our prescribed curriculum to reflect Te Whāriki's 4 curriculum elements of Principles, Strands, Goals and Learning Outcomes, our current focus is on how individual planning for children's learning can improve the quality of their learning outcomes as a child grows and develops at Little Treehouse Kindergarten. We also need to consider how we reflect this in our documentation in a way that authentically captures each child's learning.

We have been exploring these questions as we grow our understanding of the changes and teachers have recently engaged in professional development to support us in our progress towards strengthening our individual planning for each child. Teachers have been observing children to identify and document what they are interested in learning. During our upcoming parent teacher meetings we will discuss these observations with whānau alongside your aspirations so that we can identify a learning outcome from Te Whāriki that aligns with what each child is interested in learning about. From this discussion we create a learning focus that the child can connect to as we work together to support them to achieve their learning goal.

We will share our observations, your aspirations, the child's agreed learning focus and strategies we will use to support this learning in our first learning story. Future learning stories will capture the child's progress towards their learning goal until such time as the goal is achieved and we acknowledge this through a celebration story. We look forward to sharing these stories with you and obtaining your feedback throughout this process.



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

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 day during play one of our children said 'I want a ring'. When asked why they wanted a ring they replied 'Because I want to get married. I want to get married to my Daddy.'

IN DIVERSITY
THERE IS BEAUTY
AND
THERE IS STRENGTH.
MAYA ANGELOU



COMMUNICATION CORNER

Pg. 2

Outdoor play: The children have been enjoying some time in the outdoors in mild wet weather using our wet weather gear. If your child enjoys playing outdoors in the rain please bring some gumboots to kindy to support this exploration.

NO NUT policy: We are continuing to find children who have nuts in their lunch boxes. A no nut policy includes ALL nuts therefore products such as pesto which contains pinenuts is captured by our no nut policy. Froyze/bliss balls, peanut butter, hazelnut spread and almond butter are also captured. We would appreciate your support in ensuring we remain a nut free kindergarten.

Resources: Some children are collecting kindy resources in their pockets during play at kindy. If any of the resources end up at home we would appreciate it if you could return these to kindy.

Emergency drills: Our Emergency Response policy is reviewed annually and drills practiced regularly on a rotational basis. This month we have updated our Emergency Response policy to clarify the distinction between a 'Shelter in Place' and 'Lockdown' drill. A 'Shelter in Place' is a situation where we require children to come indoors to protect them against an external threat such as a swarm of bees, flash flooding or gas leak. This drill is practiced quarterly with children. A 'Lockdown' is a situation where an intervention by police requires us to lock down, assemble and stay indoors until we are given clearance to resume usual activities. This drill is practiced quarterly by teachers only. We have practiced both drills in July.

Policies: Review of centre policies is carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Centre Exclusion - Substance and Emergency Response policies. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the Month: As we will be celebrating Tongan Language week this month, the greeting of the month is the informal Tongan greeting of Mālō e lelei.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent teacher meetings 4th - 7th August: Each year we extend an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss the progress of their children at kindergarten. This year we will also take the opportunity to discuss parent aspirations to support our new documentation requirements. Meetings are 15 minutes long and a booking schedule is available at the entrance to kindy.

Cultural Day - Wednesday 6th August: This month we celebrate our annual Cultural Day. Children have the opportunity to come to kindy dressed up in something from their culture or bring something into kindergarten that reflects their culture such as a traditional artefact or a cultural food to share for morning tea. All families are welcome to join us for the morning from 9am to 11am even if this is not your regular kindy day.

Tongan Language Week 18th to 23rd August: We will be celebrating the Tongan language and culture during Tongan language week in August.

St Johns in ECE Programme - Wednesday 28th August: A St Johns Ambulance educator will be joining us for the morning to share with us learning about emergency services and how the ambulance service supports us within the community.

Maori Language Week 15th to 19th August: We will be celebrating the Maori language and culture during Maori language week in September.

Grandparent day - Wednesday 17th September 9-11am: Please pass on this date to all of our Grandparents so they can join us for the morning at kindy. All children are welcome to join us for the morning even if it is not your regular kindy day.

FAREWELL

Maggie Fourie
Sophia Reid

WELCOME

Jack Thorburn
Isabella Styrka
Penelope Pringle

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Coutts family on the arrival of a baby boy, Zachary Ignatius, on Thursday 24th July weighing 2.6kg.