

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### Busy in the Outdoors

We have taken advantage of the summer sunshine and continued our focus on messy play this month with lots of opportunities for children to engage in water play in the water trough, sandpit and mud kitchen, along with gloop, shaving foam, painting activities and play dough.

We have continued to make bath bombs to support us in enjoying lots of foot spas in the water trough. This is a wonderful sensory experience for the children as they explore the smells of different essential oil as they make the bath bombs and then enjoy the fragrance and cool feel of the water when enjoying a foot spa. A great way to spend a summers day in the sun.

The garden has also been a busy place this month. The children were fascinated by growing a kumara plant using a kumara, watching daily as the shoots grew bigger and bigger. They are now nurturing them as they grow in the garden. We have been propagating some new seedlings to support our Know Me Eat Me programme in the months ahead and they are responding well to the children's care and the warmer weather.

### Sunflowers

We have enjoyed revisiting our learning on our sunflower project. We collected some blooms from the sunflowers we grew and have explored the extraction of the seeds this month. The children extracted the seeds using tweezers making this a great fine motor activity. We were also very surprised by how many seeds we collected. We hope to use these seeds later in the year to grow more sunflowers, enabling the children to experience the full cycle of the sunflower. We have supplemented this learning this month with some additional art and craft activities using sunflowers and we even froze sunflowers in water to provide another sensory experience. Thank you to all of our parents who supported this learning at home.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MARCH

4 Holi Celebration

5 Mt Hobson Sports Day

17 St Patrick's Day Celebrations

20 Down Syndrome Rock your socks day

MARCH/APRIL

30-2 Easter Celebrations

APRIL

2 Autism Awareness Day

8 Sinhalese New Year Celebrations

23 World Book Day

24 Anzac Day

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES

We have renamed our morning mat time as 'Kiwi mat' and 'Tui mat'

## CELEBRATING THE LUNA NEW YEAR

This month we celebrated the Lunar New Year and were very fortunate to have a number of our whanau spend time with us at kindy to share their culture and traditions with us which enriched our learning. We feasted on traditional Chinese dumplings, Korean rice cakes and sweets and experienced traditional dances and instruments. Children have shared traditional Chinese and Korean dress, language and stories. Our Kaiako prepared lots of art and craft activities that have supported this learning, acknowledging the year of the horse and exploring the Chinese Zodiac animals for the year of our children's birth.

Thank you for all the support from our families in celebrating the Lunar new year.





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.

While playing an imaginary game of families one morning one of our children shared "If you kiss on the lips it means that you are married. If you kiss on the forehead you are married too.



## COMMUNICATION CORNER

**Philosophy:** Our teaching team have just completed the annual review of our centre philosophy to ensure that it aligns with our current values and teaching. We have included a reference to a 'positive learner identity' to align with our new child planning and assessment processes. In addition we have added a statement at the end of our philosophy that acknowledges that we enact our philosophy through our kindergarten values of Kindness, Respect and Ako aligning with the introduction of our Kindy Values in 2025. This was shared with our kindergarten community through our parent portal.

**Morning mat time:** We have recently introduced new names for our morning tea mat times. Our younger children's mat time will now be referred to as our 'Kiwi mat time' and our older children's mat time will be referred to as our 'Tui mat time'. We have also made a change to our older children's mat time to separate our morning tea and learning time. This change has been made to support us in having minimal disruption to our learning time to maximise the learning for our children at this time.

**Changes in ECE Licensing Criteria:** The Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008 has been updated and changes are effective from 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. There has been no changes to Curriculum standards however there is notable changes in remaining standards including Health and Safety, Premises and Facilities and Governance, Management and Administration. We will be working through these changes over the next few weeks and share notable changes with our parent community throughout this review process.

**Policies:** Review of centre policies is carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Human Resources and Human Rights Policy and our Supervision Procedure with minimal change. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

**Greeting of the Month:** This months greeting of the month is *Diadhuit*, the Irish greeting for Hello. This supports our celebration of St Patrick's Day.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Games Day at Mt Hobson - Thursday 5th March:** All children and parents are welcome to join us for our annual sports day at Mt Hobson even if Thursday is not a day your child attends kindy.

**Autism Awareness Day - Thursday 2nd April:** We will support Autism Awareness Day by sharing some sensory activities that support the wellbeing of children with autism.

**Cultural celebrations:** Over the next few weeks we have lots of cultural celebrations to share at kindy drawing from the cultures of our Kindergarten Community. We will celebrate the Holi Festival, St Patrick's Day, Easter, Sinhalese New Year and Anzac Day. Culture is rich in learning for children and teachers so please ensure that you share your culture with us at kindy so we can share this within our kindergarten programme.

**Down Syndrome Rock Your Socks Day - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** We will be supporting this day within our curriculum by inviting everyone to wear your favourite socks, odd socks or your craziest or most colourful socks to kindy.

**World Book Day - Thursday 23rd April:** Nurturing a love of books is an important part of our curriculum so we will celebrate World Book day on 23rd April with a book day at kindy. Children can bring along their favourite book and dress up as their favourite book character.

## WELCOME

Luca Patel  
Mason Sun

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Barrett family on the arrival of a baby girl, Harper Robyn Barrett, born on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 weighing 6.75lbs. Billie and Coco are loving being big sisters!