

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Ice Cream Castle Project

Following an interest in selling ice creams as part of children's imaginative play we have embarked on a collaborative project to make an Ice Cream Castle. We explored ideas together, created a collective plan and vision and discussed materials. A milk bottle structure was agreed and we have been busy collecting milk bottles from home and the local café to build our Castle. The children's initial prediction of 100 milk bottles has already been well exceeded. Each day we count our milk bottles and add these to our prior day total, adding some math's learning into each day. Colourful sprinkles are added to the milk bottle tops as this was an important part of the children's design vision.

As part of this project we are also making ice creams using different materials. Children have been very creative making all their favourite ice cream flavours using fabrics, paints, shaving foam and loose parts. We are enjoying selling ice creams at various ice cream shops around kindy. We look forward to continuing this project and seeing what other additions the children decide to include to achieve their design ideas.

Alphabet

With so many of our children currently interested in learning to write their names we have been enjoying lots of drawing and alphabet activities with the highlight being an alphabet hunt, finding the letters of our name hidden throughout the kindergarten to support name and letter recognition.

Celebrations

This month we have celebrated 4 events. Holi is a festival of colour so we celebrated with lots of colourful activities to brighten our day. St Patrick's Day was a fun day of dressing up, Irish dancing, playing hurling and enjoying craft activities. Nowruz, the Persian new year was a new celebration for us where we decorated Persian eggs, jumped over fire and learnt about traditional spoon banging and sharing blessings through the gifting of a sweet. We also celebrated World Down Syndrome day by wearing crazy socks to kindy to support the Rock your Socks campaign and enjoying some sock inspired craft activities.

MT HOBSON SPORTS DAY

We were fortunate to have another amazing summer's day for our annual family sports day at Mt Hobson/Ōhinerau. The children tested their strength in our tug of war, their hand-eye coordination and balancing skills at our potato and spoon race and challenged their speed and resilience during a game of musical cushions. Balance and coordination was challenged again during our sack races and bean bag toss and children enjoyed the suspense and anticipation of capturing the Giant's Treasure.

Following our sports activities we took a well deserved rest by sharing a picnic morning tea together before enjoying some running races and music together with our parachute. Thank you to all of our amazing families who joined us for the morning.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



APRIL

- 1-2 Easter Celebrations
- 2 Autism Awareness Day
- 8 Sinhalese New Year Celebrations
- 23 World Book Day
- 24 Anzac Day Celebrations

MAY

- 5 Mum's night 7pm
- 4-10 NZ Sign Language Week
- 18 Kindness Collection Pyjama Day

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Please ensure that you provide written permission when someone else is collecting your child that was not included in your child's enrolment form.





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 of our younger children was playing on the xylophone. Mrs John's enquired whether the child was playing Twinkle, Twinkle Star to which they replied "No, it's Shake Your Booty!"



COMMUNICATION CORNER

Washing hands on arrival at kindy: To support the wellbeing of children we would like to request parents to support their children to wash their hands in the morning as they arrive at kindy. This is part of our Hand Washing Policy to minimise the spread of germs and allergen's at kindy.

Written permission to collect children: Just a reminder that our ECE Regulations require written permission from a parent when someone else is collecting your child. This includes other kindergarten parent's collecting your child. Permission is given on the enrolment form and any changes over time should be notified in writing by email. Our updated Licensing Criteria require formal notification to the Ministry of Education if a child is collected by someone where written permission has not been previously given.

Front door: For the safety of children please ensure that the front door is securely closed or locked when leaving the kindergarten when a teacher is not present at the door.

Notification of absence: We request that parents notify us if your child will be absent due to sickness or holiday to support us in managing our availability and provide additional days to families in need when required.

Lost property: Please check our lost property basket and inside hooks for any lost property as this is accumulating every week. Naming your child's belongings supports us in returning these to families. Remaining items in our lost property basket will be donated to charity on 13th April.

Policies: Review of centre policies is carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Animal Policy and Parents Needs and Aspirations Policy with minimal change. We are however finding that a number of our policies are effected by the upcoming changes in Licensing Criteria which will be effective from 20th April 2026. We will share these changes with our parent community soon. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the Month: This months greeting of the month is the Sinhalese greeting 'Ayubowan' to support our learning of the Sinhalese New Year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Cultural celebrations: We will celebrate Easter, the Sinhalese New Year and Anzac Day in April. Culture is rich in learning for children so please ensure that you share your culture with us at kindy so we can share this within our kindergarten programme.

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 with a book day at kindy. Children can bring along their favourite book and dress up as their favourite book character.

Mum's Night Out - Tuesday 5th May: All Mum's are invited to enjoy an evening of wine, nibbles and conversation on Tuesday 5th May from 7pm. Book the date in your diary, leave Dad at home with the children and enjoy a night out.

Kindness Collective Pyjama Day - Monday 18th May: We will be supporting the Kindness Collective Pyjama Appeal again this year to provide support to children in NZ who do not have warm clothing over winter to promote a good nights sleep and wellness. We will host a pyjama day on 18th May to support this learning at kindy and donations of NEW pyjamas will be collected until Friday 22nd May.

WELCOME

Owen Matuschka

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the James family on the arrival of a baby boy, Miles Maverick James, born on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 9.04pm weighing 3.91kg. A very lucky baby brother for Billie and Beau!