

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



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. We especially enjoyed following the Football World Cup, engaging in lots of football challenges, recording scores and sharing a Football day at kindy.

Drama and Storytelling

We have continued our focus on drama and storytelling and children have been enjoying many opportunities to create their own stories through storytelling card prompts and props. We are hearing lots of imaginative play scenarios unfolding as children grow in confidence in sharing their stories. The children are also collaborating on a group project at our Tui mat time, writing and performing a collective story which they have named Princess Salami. We are excited to see where this storytelling adventure takes us over the coming weeks.

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

1-30

Sign for Change Campaign
30 NZSL signs in 30 days

12

Cultural Day

31

Living Eggs programme
commencement

SEPTEMBER

9

Grandparent morning
9am-11am

14-18

Maori Language Week
14th - 18th September 2026

18

Independence Day

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

For the safety of children please ensure that the front door is closed on arrival and when leaving kindy

Please notify us when your child is absent due to sickness or holidays to help us to manage requests for additional days

KŌWHITI WHAKAPAE

Kōwhiti Whakapae is a website which provides resources and information to support early childhood teachers to lay the groundwork for children's learning and to notice, recognise and respond to their growth and development in oral language and literacy, mathematics and social and emotional competency in the early years. This material aligns with our prescribed curriculum, Te Whāriki. Teachers have been actively using this resource to support children's individual learning focus areas and relevant areas have been referenced in children's learning stories.

In addition, as part of an internal evaluation process, our teaching team has been reviewing this resource in more detail to identify ways in which we can improve our own curriculum and teaching in these areas. We have collectively identified a number of ways in which we can provide additional opportunities to support children and extend their learning. This may be in areas of environment set up, resources available and teaching. Our current focus on drama and storytelling has drawn on areas within the oral language and literacy area of learning and we have commenced a mathematics focus this term on measurement with the intention to reflect more deeply on each of the 4 mathematics areas within this resource each term over the next year.

Parents can access the information and resources on the Kōwhiti Whakapae website. We will look forward to sharing more of our learning from this internal evaluation over the coming 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.

With a few babies being born this year within our kindy community there has been a lot of family play involving caring for babies. During one of these play moments one of our children shared that one of our younger siblings was 'not a baby, he is a tobler' (meaning toddler).



"The future belongs to the curious. The ones who are not afraid to try it, explore it, poke at it, question it, and turn it inside out."
- Unknown

COMMUNICATION CORNER

Pg. 2

Entrance gate and door: To support us in keeping our children safe please ensure that the entrance gate and door are closed on arrival and when leaving kindy unless a teacher is present at the entrance. Please also ensure that children do not follow you out the gate without their parent. We would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message with siblings who come into kindy to collect younger siblings too. A recent incident in Melbourne where two children left an early childhood centre is a reminder of the need to always be mindful of the risks to children when doors are not secured.

Notification of absence: We request that parents notify us if your child will be absent due to sickness or holiday. With a full role this notification supports us in managing our availability so that we can provide additional days to families in need on a timely basis when required.

Early literacy: We have had a number of children who have been particularly interested in writing their name and we have been supporting this interest a kindy through offering lots of supported opportunities for children to add their name to artwork, explore and identify different letters and write invitations, recipes and cards. Our children's sign in space is an important part of our programme in supporting children to recognise their name through finding their shell, understanding initial making and then transitioning over time to forming the letters of their name. We encourage parents to make 'signing in' part of your child's morning routine, offering your child the opportunity to do this independently with guidance and encouragement. In supporting name writing please ensure that you support the formation of lower case letters except for the first letter of their name and correct letter formation. Teachers are available to support both you and your child with this.

Policies: Review of centre policies is carried out monthly on a rotational basis. Due to our review additional policies as part of the changes to our Licensing Criteria in April 2026 no policies were due for review this month. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the Month: As we will support the Sign for Change campaign in August we will explore greetings in NZSL this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cultural Day - Wednesday 12th 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.

Sign for Change: We are participating in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Foundation's Sign for Change campaign in August. We will learn 30 everyday NZSL signs in 30 days and help raise awareness of one of NZ's three official languages. This aligns with our learning of NZSL over the last year.

Living Eggs Programme: We are very excited to be doing the Living Eggs programme at kindy with 10 unhatched eggs arriving at kindy on Monday 31st August. We will care for these as the chickens hatch and grow over a period of 2 weeks.

Grandparent day - Wednesday 9th 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.

Maori Language Week 14th to 18th September: We will be celebrating Maori language and culture during Maori language week in September.

Independence Day - Friday 18th September: We will be celebrating Ms V's heritage by celebrating Independence Day in September.

FAREWELL

Agnes Kenny
Brielle Li
Madeleine Coe

WELCOME

Grayson Morris
Teja Shiriwastow
Millie Pepworth

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Maxwell family on the arrival of a baby boy, James William Alexander, on Monday 27th July at 12.51pm weighing 3.35kg.