

Sunsmart

Remember to sunscreen your child every day (regardless of the forecast) before drop off. Please write the time it was done and sign the sunscreen register which is located beside the sign in sheet. We will reapply later in the day as required. Children need a named wide brimmed sunhat for outdoor play.

Photo sharing app

We are trialling an app called SeeSaw at present to share photos. Thanks to those that have downloaded this and are giving it a try. If you would like to be part of the trial, simply download the app and accept the email invitation. You are welcome to share the initial email you received with your wider family members for them to join as well. At the end of the trial we will ask for feedback and if we continue with the app will encourage the rest of our families to join.

Holidays

Christmas is approaching and we are starting to plan ahead for this time. We will be having our whanau Christmas party on Thursday 23rd December and warmly invite you to attend. More information on this to come closer to the time.

We close for the Christmas break with our last day of operation Thursday 23rd December and reopen on Wednesday 4th January. No fees are charged during this closed period.

If you are planning holidays, please email with your holiday dates. If you provide more than two weeks' notice, you will qualify for half price fees for your holiday.

Renovations

The new back fence is looking great alongside the updated hut. You may have noticed a digger here after lockdown. We have dug the level of the back playground down so we could have another two of truckloads of bark chips for soft fall in the playground.

Learning focus

In the nursery we have been enjoying the warmer weather! We have been spending lots of time exploring outside and engaging in a variety of sensory play experiences. These have ranged from water play, bird seed, musical instruments, painting/messy play and investigating our role as kaitiaki, guardians of the earth as we care for our natural environment, planting new vegetables, native plants and enjoying the growth of our sensory garden. We are very excited for the summer months ahead.



Manaakitanga continues to be our preschool group focus and it has been beautiful to see it reflected throughout our daily programme. So many of our tamariki are quick to notice when a peer needs help or comfort and race over to lend a hand. We have been talking a lot about respect, respect for one another as well as our environment.

The new 'family play space' has been very popular among all the tamariki and the addition of extra resources throughout the environment has led to wonderful imaginative individual and group play.

The older tamariki are thoroughly enjoying having their own special mat time after morning kai. It is a time to come together as a group and have fun while supporting and developing different skills the tamariki will need when starting school. Currently we have been exploring the numbers 1-10 through different games, learning to identify each number symbol as well as one-to-one counting.

Music is a big part of our daily programme, listening to or singing favourite songs, having dance parties together, using music during transition periods or to set a calm mood. Lizzy has introduced us all to some great new songs that are often requested by both tamariki and kaiako! If anyone has a special song they love to sing or listen to at home we would love for you to share it with us.



Staff news

Caitlyn is going on maternity leave shortly. We wish her all the best and look forward to her return next year with her new baby in tow. Yama has recently completed her final year of study and will be graduating in the New Year. She has been an outstanding student over the course of this year and we are pleased to announce that she will be taking on Caitlyn's maternity leave cover.

Our tamariki

Welcome to our new children: Heidi and Teddy d

Congratulations to August and his family on their new arrival Etta. Also, congratulations to Violet and family with their new baby Oscar who arrived during lock down.

Covid

As you may have heard in the news, it is mandatory for ECE kaiako to be vaccinated against Covid-19. We encourage our families to get on board with vaccination as well to support our little ones who are not able to be vaccinated yet.

Please continue to wear your masks during drop off and pick up and maintain social distance where possible, sticking to the left when in the driveway.

Lunchboxes

Please ensure your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled on the top. Baby bottles to be labelled on the bottle as well as the top as these can get separated at times, along with any small containers in lunchboxes. Please ensure you take home bottles at the end of each day for washing. Vivid washes off easily with each wash so please use name stickers or rename these each day.

We have noticed that many children are struggling with their lunches such as opening containers and packets. We suggest having a practice run or picnic with your children in the



weekend to see what they can manage to open independently.

We recommend providing a nude lunchbox. This means that all the food is unwrapped and ready to eat. This allows the child to see all their choices and eat independently rather than waiting for a teacher to open something for them. There are many lunchboxes available that have compartments to separate their food.

Some examples below of great products:
Bento Lunchboxes are available from most stores such as:Kmart, The Warehouse, Briscoes have lots as well as online store such as
www.thelunchboxqueen.co.nz
www.littleandloved.co.nz

Photos below of bento lunchboxes in action without the need for containers, gladwrap or packaging:



Stickers can be ordered online from companies such as:

www.stuckonyou.nz

www.nameit.co.nz

www.tinyme.co.nz

Baby bottle silicon bands are great:

www.stuckonyou.nz

The preschool has adjusted their kai times to 10am, 12noon and 3pm and have gone back to drinking from glasses so drink bottles can be collected and taken home. The nursery will continue with kai at 9.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm.

