

## Sunscreen and hats

It's that time of year again where we need to be sun conscious. We have put up our sun sails and have built a new shade roof over the nursery sandpit to provide plenty of shade for our little ones.

Please provide a wide brimmed bucket style hat for your child to wear while at York Place. We recommend naming this boldly so we can see at a quick glance who it belongs to.

Please sunscreen your child on their face, arms and legs every morning before dropping off. We will reapply sunscreen during the day as required. If your child has sensitive skin and requires their own sunscreen, please let us know asap and drop a named one in for us to keep here.

Our Sun Protection Policy is available to read on Educa in the policies section.

## Fees

A reminder that fees are increasing from 24<sup>th</sup> October. Fee information is on Educa in the policy section, and in the parent messages.

## Lost property

The preschool lost property basket is full. Please have a look through for any items you are missing, it is mostly boys clothing. Help us to get clothing back to you by naming everything. Anything left next week will be donated.

## Renovations

The new divider in the dining area has enabled the teaching team to set up kai times quickly and divide the tamariki into groups for meals.

This has created a smaller calmer group setting, which in turn is enabling some lovely conversations during meal times.

The Preschool sandpit has had a play kitchen installed complete with taps that we plan to attach plumbing to make these function. This is sure to be a firm favourite over the summer months. If you have any old utensils eg soup ladles, slotted spoons, or little pots and pans, these would be greatly appreciated.

We are always looking for new ideas to continually develop York Place, so please feel free to share any inspiration you or your children may have for future projects.

## Learning focus

The Nursery Kaiako have been providing a range of sensory explorations, and music and movement using scarfs, drums and rākau sticks. Gloop made from a natural product called Psyllium husk has been a favourite.

There has been a group focus on being independent and facilitating this eg self-help skills, dressing and putting away kai plates.

Kaiako have introduced more construction play and loose parts exploration, both large outside and small parts inside. Kaiako had noticed tamariki were enjoying connecting things and lining them up so aim to further this interest.

As the weather starts to warm, we look forward to planting our peas and tending to the garden.





Evelyn our 2<sup>nd</sup> year University student brought her hen Mā in for the children to meet. This generated a great deal of interest while it was looking and scratching for worms and bugs in the ground.

In the Preschool our group planning has been focused around Independence where kaiako have spent time building, nurturing and supporting tamariki to become *increasingly capable of keeping themselves healthy and caring for themselves - te oranga nui*. A big focus has been on encouraging tamariki to take responsibility for their own possessions as well as putting on their own shoes and jackets, scaffolding the necessary skills to support this.

From this we have had a change with our kai times, which has been so positive for the tamariki! We have split the tamariki into the Kikorangi group (the younger tamariki) and the Kakariki group (the older tamariki) and we are having two separate morning kai times (9:30 and 10) and then two separate lunch times (11:20 and 12). This has allowed both groups of tamariki to have more space during kai times and for these kai times to be structured to support and encourage age appropriate self-help skills and rangatiratanga (independence).

While this is no longer our primary focus it is still a big part of our daily programme as well as one of our York Place Learning Priorities, so we

would really appreciate the on-going support from families to continue to encourage and support their child's/children's ongoing independence through dressing themselves (please ensure that children are bringing/wearing clothes and shoes that they are able to put on themselves as well as remember to pack 2/3 changes of clearly labelled spare clothes each day), choosing lunchbox items, helping to make their own sandwiches etc.



Please may we also keep toys at home unless for emotional support reasons, as this is leading to unnecessary and avoidable conflict.

## Tamariki and kaiako

Happy school days to: Evana  
Farewell to: Eleanor, Ren and Cooper  
Welcome to our new children: Lucas and Holly

## Christmas Closure Dates

Our last day for the year will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December closing at 4pm. We hope to invite families in for a Christmas party or shared lunch on this day. We will then close for a Christmas holiday break until after New Years. We reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. During this closure, no fees will be charged.

## COVID-19

As you know masks are no longer required. We welcome parents to come into the building again for settling your children. We will continue signing in/out outside so you do not need to come inside unless you wish. Children in the preschool are developing some great self help skills and we would love for this to continue.

