



Newsletter

December 2024

- Dates for your Diary**
- Children's Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal Thursday 5th December 9 - 11am
 - Children's Christmas Show Friday 6th December 9.30am St Lukes Church
 - Children's Christmas Party - Wednesday 18th December 9-12pm
 - Last day for 2024 - Friday 20th December
 - First day for 2025 - Monday 6th January

Programme Highlights

Crossing the Midline

This month we have been focusing on activities that support children to cross their midline to build strength and coordination and support them to develop a dominant hand. The term 'crossing the midline' depicts the movement of a body part over the midline from one side of the body to the other to complete a task. Crossing the midline assists in strengthening the dominant hand's ability to complete fine motor skills. These activities increase strength and coordination of the dominant hand which is required for fine motor tasks and writing. If both hands are being used equality, then the development of a dominant hand can be delayed which consequently delays the

development of fine motor skills and early writing. Activities that cross the midline also support children to understand where their body is in space and improves coordination and confidence. Activities you can encourage at home include sweeping, dancing with actions crossing the midline, clapping games, hitting a tambourine, putting on shoes and socks, using a skipping rope, kicking a ball, rugby ball passes, Twister and playing pass the parcel.

Maia

We have also been exploring the Maori value of Maia which means building confidence, courage and bravery. This has linked well with our Christmas show rehearsals where children are building confidence to perform in front of an

audience. As part of this focus, we have also been setting up physical play challenges to provide additional opportunities for developing Maia.

Christmas show

The children have been very busy with daily practices for their Christmas show, becoming familiar with the spaces, songs and what they need to do. Our props and costumes are complete and the children are full of enthusiasm and looking forward to sharing their many talents with you in the very near future!



Dad's Sausage Sizzle

One of the highlights of our children's year is coming to kindy with their Dad's in the evening for our annual Dad's sausage sizzle. We were very lucky to have a wonderful sunny evening to share together. The highlight of our evening was our annual paper plane challenge. We all enjoyed a little friendly competition and had fun encouraging our competitors and celebrating

our winners. Thank you to all of our Dad's and guests who enthusiastically supported their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and siblings in making and flying their paper planes. We appreciate you taking time away from your busy work schedules to spend time with us at kindy. It was a special evening that our children will revisit fondly.



Important Messages

Please let us know of any extended holiday plans this Christmas



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CHILD'S 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.

Following our Dad's sausage sizzle evening one of our children's sister's shared 'Mum when I grow up I want to be a Dad so I can go to sausage sizzles'.

Communication Corner

Kindness Collective: Thank you to all of our families who have given generously to our Christmas gift giving initiative with the Kindness Collective. We sponsored a total of 60 children across two early learning centres with amazing gifts as well as donating additional gifts for the Christmas Joy Store. What we achieved as a kindergarten community was truly amazing and will have such a positive impact on the lives of so many children this Christmas.



Welcome: On 2nd December we welcome a new Danish early childhood student to join our teaching team for the next 6 months. Marie Dahlgaard will be here from December 2024 to May 2025.

Holidays: To assist us with our staff planning please let us know if you will be away for any extended time over the Christmas holiday period.

Toilet training: With the summer months approaching families may be considering toilet training. We like to provide consistency at kindy with what you are doing at home so please let us know if you are starting the toilet training process so we can support you. Some useful tips are available on the Parenting Place website.

Policies: Review of centre policies is carried out monthly on a rotational basis. This month we reviewed our Cybersafety policy with no notable changes. All policies are available for review and feedback by our parent community.

Greeting of the Month: In anticipation of the arrival of Santa from the North Pole later this month this month's greeting is Ho Ho Ho!



What is Christmas?
It is tenderness for the past.
courage for the present.
hope for the future.



Upcoming Events

Children's Christmas Show - Friday 6th December 9.30am

Full dress rehearsal Thursday 5th December 9-11am

Our Children's Christmas Show will be held on Friday 6th December at 9.30am at St Lukes Church for all parents, extended family and friends. We have a full dress rehearsal on Thursday 5th December between 9-11am and we would appreciate it if all children can attend this rehearsal. We will be providing all costume requirements so children should come to kindy in their normal kindy clothes. Our Christmas show will be followed by morning tea in the kindergarten. All children, parents, siblings and family are welcome.

Children's Christmas Party - Wednesday 18th December 9am to 12pm

Our children's Christmas party will be held on Wednesday 18th December during our morning session. We are planning a fun morning with a bouncy castle, face painting, Christmas activities and a morning tea surprise for the children. All children, parents and siblings are welcome to join us for the morning. Due to restrictions on our licensing numbers children who do not normally attend on a Wednesday must have a parent stay with them unless prior arrangements have been made.

We would love your feedback on our newsletter. Please email us at admin@littletreehouse.co.nz

Welcome

Greer Noakes
Walter Noakes

Farewells

Lily Horrocks
Chantel Lee
Eric Chen

December Farewell

Quill MacDiarmid

DECEMBER 2024