



Little Treehouse
KINDERGARTEN

Newsletter

January /
February 2025

Dates for your Diary

- Waitangi Day celebrations
Wednesday 5th February
- Games Day at Mt Hobson
Thursday 20th February
9-11.30am
- St Patrick's Day Monday
17th March

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed lots of family time together over the holiday period. We are all very excited to welcome you back to kindergarten for 2025. We have been busy farewelling a number of children who are about to begin their school journey as well as welcoming new children into the kindergarten. We look forward to supporting all of our new children in building relationships within our kindergarten community over the coming weeks.

Programme Highlights

Christmas Celebrations

December was filled with lots of Christmas celebrations and activities and was a fun time for everyone. The highlights were our Christmas Show and Christmas party. The children worked really hard learning their songs and prompts and loved sharing this with their families. Involvement in an event like this is instrumental in building confidence, self-esteem and a sense of belonging. We are so proud of what the children achieved.

Thank you to our families for sharing in our Christmas celebrations and supporting their child/ren.

Holidays

Since returning from holiday the children have been sharing with us what they enjoyed doing with their families over the holidays. We have been enjoying listening to their stories and capturing what has been important to them which we are sharing in their portfolios.

Chinese New Year

This month we celebrated the Chinese new year and the year of the Snake. We learnt about traditional Chinese new year celebrations through our mat times, reading stories, music and art and craft. We have been creative painting snakes and moulding them with playdough. We have made Chinese fans, fireworks paintings and collectively painted a large dragon. We learnt all about traditional Chinese lion dancing and enjoyed making our own lion and dancing outdoors to traditional music. This was revisited frequently with lots of laughter and fun.

We were also very lucky to have Brielle's Mum and sister join us at kindy to share their

Chinese traditions and read stories.

Enjoying the outdoors

It has been the perfect weather for having fun exploring in the outdoors. Our sandpit and water play are a strong feature of every day and we have enjoyed creating lots of different opportunities for children to play creatively within these space with lots of lakes and rivers, roads and construction sites to utilise our new trucks. The children have enjoyed pouring, mixing and experimenting with ice and water. They have also had lots of fun enjoying music in the outdoors and have even made strawberries smoothies and tomato and cheese pizzas in our outdoor spaces.



Important Messages

- We have some availability at kindy for additional days or if you have friends looking for kindergarten options
- Our planned self review in 2025 will focus on foundation skills in literacy and numeracy drawing upon the MOE online learning resource Kōwhiri Whakapae





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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...

At the glue gun table one day one of our children made a phone. As he was talking on his 'phone' he was talking to little Jimmy and he informed us that little Jimmy hasn't grown up yet so he needed to tell him what to do.

Communication Corner

- **Thank you:** All teachers would like to thank parents and children for all the lovely gifts and gift vouchers that we all received at the end of 2024. We were truly spoiled and your generosity and kindness is much appreciated by us all.
- **Availability:** With so many children leaving us to head to school we have some availability for new children to join our kindergarten community. If you have any friends considering kindergarten options then please let them know about us so they can get in touch. If you are considering additional days please let us know so we can secure these for you. We look forward to welcoming lots of new families into our kindergarten community over the next few months.
- **Sun protection:** We are supporting children at kindergarten to keep themselves safe in the sun over the summer months by talking about the importance of wearing their hat while outdoors, using clothing to protect themselves from the sun and applying sunscreen to skin that is exposed to the sun. We would like your support to ensure that sunscreen is applied each morning before kindy and ensuring that children's clothing covers their shoulders to provide an additional level of protection. We follow our Sun Protection Policy of apply sunscreen at lunch time and requiring children to be wearing their hats while playing outside during these summer months.
- **Library:** Children who attend kindergarten on a Friday have the opportunity to select a library book to take home each week. This supports them in preparing for school as the book bags are similar to what the children will have when they go to school and they have the responsibility of returning these each week to choose a new book. We would like to ask parents to support their children with this responsibility as children do get disappointed when they don't have an opportunity to select a book along with their friends.
- **Greeting of the Month:** This month's greeting is the Chinese greeting Ni hao to connect to our teaching on the Chinese New Year.

Upcoming Events

Games Day at Mt Hobson: We will host our annual games morning at Mt Hobson on Thursday 20th February from 9-11.30am. All children and parents are welcome to join us for the morning so please book this morning into your diary.

Cultural celebrations: The children will learn about the significance of Waitangi Day on Wednesday 5th February and St Patrick's Day on Monday 17th March. Each year we try to celebrate the significant celebration days within the cultures of our kindergarten community so please ensure that you share your culture with us at kindy so we can share this with our children.

Planned Self-Review Focus

In 2024 our planned self review focus was on building our teaching capability, resourcing and processes to support children with diverse needs. This has resulted in the building of knowledge within our teaching team, the introduction of additional resources and changes to our documentation of children's ongoing learning and development. We are in the process of completing the documentation requirements for this review however we will continue to review new initiatives and their outcomes for children during the coming year.

Our 2025 planned self review will focus on strengthening our foundations skills in literacy and numeracy, drawing on the Ministry of Education's online curriculum resource, Kōwhiri Whakapae, released throughout 2024. The intent of this resource is to provide support for teachers and whanau to lay the groundwork for children's foundational skills in social and emotional competence, literacy and numeracy, support successful transitions into school and identify children who need extra support early on. The content directly supports the areas of actions ERO has identified and connects with other work the MOE are doing to raise literacy and numeracy achievement in the early years.

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

Welcome

Coco Barrett
Munro Berry
Erkhem Munkhtsog
Lucas So
Penelope Pringle

Farewells

Leo Van Sambeek
Alessandra Rudolph
Madeleine Rudolph
Lucia Thorburn
Van Cullen
Harrison Martin
Sylvester Marsic
Greer Noakes