



Quality care & education from birth to five years

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Dear Parents and Whanau

It's been a busy, if not wet, start to Term Two. Both the Explorer and Preschool Room have taken trips to the Tauranga Art Gallery to see the amazing Light Exhibition, which was a real hit with the children and teachers alike. They have also been out and about in our local community researching healthy food, working in the Community Garden and gathering fruit from the orchard for our Community Sharing Table.

The Early Childhood community were very pleased to receive a well overdue, if somewhat small, increase in ECE Funding with this budget. Unfortunately this increase does not cover rising costs in providing a safe environment and meaningful, engaging curriculum. As a result we will need to revise our current Fee Structure over the next month. As always, if you have any queries or feel this will cause hardship within your family, please feel free to contact Claire, in the office.



## Spare Clothes

As winter approaches, it is important that children come to the centre adequately dressed with spare warm clothing, a hat and some socks in their bags. We have a limited supply of spare clothing, which we purchase each season, but as much of it does not get returned to the Centre, our supplies run low. Please ensure all Village clothing is returned to the Centre.



## Matariki Celebration

We will be celebrating Matariki this year on Thursday 28th of June at 5:30 pm with a presentation by the children followed by a shared soup meal. We love this occasion to get together with The Village friends and family, and it is a wonderful opportunity for our children to showcase the work they have been doing building up to this event. As with every year there will be the room soup competition, to see who produces the tastiest soup of the night – so get your aprons on girls!

## Tots

At the end of this month we are sad to say farewell to our lovely Tasha, who is returning home to England for an extended stay. Tash has been an awesome member of our Tots Team and we know you all will miss her dearly. I'm sure we will see her again, once she returns to New Zealand. Congratulations to Michelle who has completed her postgraduate degree in Teaching and Learning (ECE). Michelle previously had a Primary Teaching degree, but is now a fully qualified ECE Teacher.



Our babies remain firmly interested in babies, both real and play. This month we have welcomed Lawson and Jaxon who are of great interest to our more mobile Tots. Lawson has enjoyed special treatment from his cousins Lenox and Nikolai who enjoy coming to Tots to make sure he is being well looked after.



A number of our Tots are reaching new milestones, taking their first steps, learning to master a spoon or a cup and important self care skill like blowing the nose.

## Explorers

The love for babies has extended into Explorers, with the dolls being high demand by future mothers and fathers practicing their nappy changing, feeding and comforting skills. Our boys in particular are demonstrating their kind and caring natures when it comes to the babies, and have enjoying visits to the Tots Room for some real hands-on practice. Our new resources have seen an interest in the light table which culminated in the trip to see the Light Exhibition at the Art Gallery. Testing physical limits has also been a keen interest with obstacle courses, climbing and jumping off the boxes extending from our mini Commonwealth Games competitions.

We have also been enjoying heading over to Preschool on a Friday to participate in Kapa Haka sessions, learning new songs and dance moves with the biggies.



## Preschool

With the start of the new term came a surge in the interest of cooking in both play and hands-on cooking experiences for the children. One area of our curriculum encourages children to setting and achieving their own goals and taking responsibility for their own learning. We have seen this in action through the children being empowered to do tasks like making their own toast and buttering it with a spread of their choice, and individual process baking. During process baking children are given visual clues to allow them to cook independently. This type of hands-on cooking activity helps children develop pride and confidence in their skills and abilities. The act of following a recipe can encourage self-direction and independence, while also teaching children to follow directions and use thinking skills to problem solve. Additionally, cooking offers authentic opportunities for students to understand and apply their knowledge of measuring, one-to-one correspondence, numbers, and counting. As they follow a recipe, children organize ingredients, follow a sequence, and carry out multiple directions.



**Claire Topping & the Team at the Village**

