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Dear parents, whanau and friends,

Welcome back to our recently returned families.

We hope you have all been enjoying the fabulous February weather – the children and teachers have certainly enjoyed being outdoors and all the water play!

New School Ready Programme

We are proud to introduce our **Growing Minds – Akoranga** programme to our 4 years old Kea and whanau. We call it “Ako Time” with our tamariki. It is a daily programme promoting self-help skills, team work, communication, literacy and numeracy through a semi- structured classroom based environment throughout the week in the morning at 10am. Each Kea teacher are responsible for a different session utilising their particular skills and interests. Please see our weekly plan.

Head Teachers

We are delighted to announce that our new Head Teacher of the Kea Room will be Ange while Katie remains the Head Teacher of the Tui Room. Crystal will continue as Centre Manager and Supervisor of both areas.

We are really pleased to have a full team on board now, creating a more stable environment for our children and families.

As part of our PD plan, Sue is participating in a wonderful programme, the Incredible Years. We look forward to hearing the great ideas she brings back to the team.

If you have any questions to the curriculum planning, you are more than welcome to come chat with our head teachers.



Upcoming Events

From 4th -8th March

Japanese Language Week

Friday 8th March

Lighthouse Fashion Show

Thursday 21st March

Lighthouse Colour Run

Monday 15th April

Lighthouse Term 1 Holiday Programme

Important Announcement

We are expecting the Ministry of Education to visit the Centre as part of the process of change of ownership from last year.

We will advise you of details closer to the time.

Policy Updates

We will continue to update all our Centre policies to align with the Ministry of Education and our new Centre philosophy. There will be a copy available at the foyer for our whanau to look at. We encourage you to take a moment to look through these documents and we welcome your feedback.

Permanent Lockers & Treasure Baskets

To look after the belongings of our Kea's we are introducing some new initiatives.

We have **3 treasure baskets** for Shoes, Hats & Clothing for our Keas. We encourage them to put their belongings in these throughout the day to keep them safe and in one place.

We are also going to have labelled permanent lockers for our children by mid-March. Our teachers will encourage and support the children to return their belongings to their lockers to build their self-help skills. In preparation for school routines, the 4 year olds will have a separate area to hang their bags at the start of the day.

We kindly ask our parents and whanau to support these new initiatives and learning experiences by labelling all your children's belongings.

If belongings are not labelled or not found in children's lockers, please kindly refer to the **3 treasure baskets** next to the Block Room door.

What we have been up to . . .

Tui Room

We have been having a lovely time reading stories about all the animals and singing *Old MacDonald Had A Farm* with our cute puppets. Animals will be our focus for the month. We are looking forward to all the conversations with our TuIs.

Transitioning older children to the Kea's and welcoming new babies into the Tui's are also our focus.

We farewell Evelyn and Samara to Kea's.

We welcome Sophia, Emir, Teagan, Quinn and their families to the Tui room.

We also welcome our student teacher, Jenny, who is on a 4 weeks practicum in the Tui Room from 25th Feb 2019. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our student teacher. ☺



From Centre Owners:

Thank you for supporting the teachers with our recent and upcoming events and excursions – the children had such a wonderful trip to the rest home we hope to further develop these links within the community.

Over the next month or so we plan to visit the local schools for insights into their expectations and gather information relevant to our families.

Kea Room

We went on an excursion to the Bucklands Beach Rest Home in our community with our 4 years old on Valentine's Day. The residents and our tamariki had a wonderful time. Thank you very much to all our parents helpers and children who made this special event happen. We are looking forward to more excursions later on in the year.

We have been focusing on celebrating our friend's birthdays and graduations lately as well as the Chinese New Year. Our children are intrigued by all these beautiful outfits worn on such special occasions. Building on this, Fashion Design will be our focus for the month which includes tie dying, natural petal dye, fabric collage and more.

To support one of our planned activities with our children, we are asking our whanau to bring us a plain white or light coloured tee-shirt for your child by Friday 8th March 2019 for our Tie Dye Week. We are looking forward to seeing all the unique designs from our young fashion designers. Please see Ange for more information.

Thank you Kaiden for modelling the Tie Dye Tee. We aim to produce one like the picture on the right.

We welcome Safia, Shinya, Kysan, Isla and families to the Kea's room

We also welcome our student teacher, Kayla, who will be on a 4 weeks practicum in the Kea Room from 25th Feb 2019. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our student teacher. ☺

Lighthouse Colour Run

One of our Lighthouse traditions is just around the corner – The Colour Run. It is an international event that promotes friendship and multiculturalism and also falls around the same time as an Indian Festival called Holi (A blessing festival with the spread of colours). We will be using natural coloured powder for this event. The powder is harmless but it may stain skin and clothing for 2-3 days. Therefore, we ask if the children can please wear old and light coloured clothes (they can wear their tie dyed T-shirt) on the day and bring a set of spare clothes for after the event.

The Lighthouse Colour Run will be held on Thursday 21st March 2019 in our playground.

If your child is not enrolled on the day, you are more than welcome to bring them along at 10.30am for this special event. Parents and whanau are also welcome to join us for this fun day. Please let us know in advance if you will be joining us.

If you have any questions about the Colour Run, or prefer your child did not participate in this event, please kindly see Crystal.



Story Park

To ensure we continue to provide quality learning and engagement with our tamariki, we are uploading more group photos than individual ones. We are focusing on posting 'daily glimpses' of the centre's activities to ensure parents and whanau are kept up to date of what has been happening on a daily basis. We understand how important it is for parents and whanau to see what their children have been doing and we aim to post individual photos and stories once a week.

We will also be using Story Park as a notice board for upcoming events and other important information. This will show as an announcement on Story Park.

Friendly Reminder:

Please be aware of keeping your car and belongings secure when dropping off and picking up. ☺

