



Newsletter May - June 2020

Manuka Room

Lockdown was an interesting experience for us all but I am proud to report that our relationships with our families have become much deeper throughout this experience.

Together, kaiako and whanau have used emails, phone calls and texting to stay connected over this period. We all worked tirelessly to make sure that each person, child or adult, teacher or parent, felt connected to the world during this testing time. Particularly, teachers in Manuka have absolutely loved receiving images of the precious tamariki and hearing the stories of their growth from families.

We encouraged maintaining these deepening relationships during Covid 19 lock down by:

- sharing with each other what we felt comfortable to share (photos, stories, videos, ideas for learning).
- Reflection on what we learnt from one another through sharing these experiences.
- deepening relationships with parents by listening to each other's concerns.
- Teachers regularly attempting to reach out to parents, families and other teachers and understanding the methods each individual person prefers to communicate by.
- Holding all fee payments to enable families to live a little more comfortably in uncertain times.
- Appreciating each person's conditions.
- Speaking from the heart.
- Engagement in the online teaching communities and developing our knowledge and skill set via online courses and meetings.

Our first month back together has been exciting, fun and provided calming engagements due to this deeper knowledge and understanding of our families. The kaiako professional development over this period has also enabled the Manuka room to provide more engaging experiences that align with what our families do at home. We would like to thank our families for opening up their worlds up to us over this time and can already see the benefits from our deepened relationships. We encourage and hope that you all continue to feel empowered to share your home life experiences with us so we can continue to nurture your child's growth



Kowhai Room

In Kowhai room we would like to welcome all our little friends who had returned during Level 2. Kaiako have been collecting photographs from families to share on our relationship wall and group inquiry book that tells us how we all have been keeping in our bubble during level 3. As a recap, our group inquiry focus is Relationships and we are continuing this concept by embracing events and celebrations that focuses on strengthening our relationships with whānau, tamariki and hoa mahi. We have been asking families to share their family tree with us to get to know each other better and to celebrate cultural Kaupapa. Children and kaiako have been building their awareness around the Samoan language busy making the Samoan flag, and kaiako have been learning alongside tamariki how to say the days of the week, colors, counting and learning a new song 'Savalivali means go for a walk'. With another event to celebrate, kaiako have been reminding parents about P.J day where everyone will be dressing in their P.Js for our centre birthday celebration and this week children have been given a gift to take home. Most importantly, kaiako have been encouraging all our tamariki about keeping up with hygiene practices throughout the day.

Pohutukawa Room

Now that our nation is easing down from the lockdown restrictions, it is pleasing to see familiar faces again. Lockdown has certainly brought family close together and as we are focusing on building relationships on May 15, 2020 was International family day; it is an occasion to reflect on the work started during 1994 to celebrate the importance of **families, people, societies** and **cultures** around the world. On this occasion we discussed the importance of families to the tamariki and what family means to them. There were plenty of responses from the tamariki, they clearly identified who their families were from baby brothers/sisters, mom/dad, grandmas/granddads, uncles/aunties, cousins, and even neighbors from their bubbles perhaps. Another celebration followed this time was the Samoan week which was held from May 24 till 30th. It is focused more on its people and culture. The children learned some Samoan greetings, songs, name of days, colors and counting. The tamariki drew and colored Samoan flag and enjoyed listening to Samoan story of Sina and the eel.

The upcoming events is Matariki celebration which starts on June 22, we got heaps of experiences line up for this family celebration. We in the Pohutukawa team are thinking of making Maori bread which are absolute delight and a big boil up to share with our whanau after all Matariki is all about gathering of family and enjoying their harvest for that season. For arts and crafts we will be showing the tamariki how to weave whariki using paper, proper use of poi in dance, basic cultural haka moves and learning about the nine stars in a song version.





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Birthday celebrations in May:-

Zatanna, Abigail, Laetitia, Isaac
Quintin, Jasmine

Upcoming Birthday Celebrations in June:-

Raj, Jawa, Mikayla, Nahid, Theo,
Nikita, Caleb, Connor, Ario, Soren,
Matthew, Ethan

Policy Review for the month of June:-

- 1) Staff safety checking policy(June)
- 2) Lockdown Policy
- 3) Pandemic Policy
- 4) Hand Washing Procedure Policy

Transitions:-

Manuka to Kowhai:-

Evie and Zoe in June

Kowhai to Pkawa:-

Shreemukhi and Nova

We have Spaces

For referring a new enrolment,
we are offering 2 weeks free
for your child

Events and Celebrations:-

• May 2020

- 1) New Zealand Sign Language Week
4th to 10th May, 2020
- 2) Mothers Day
8th May, 2020
- 3) International Family week – 15th may
- 4) Samoan language week
(25 May -29 May 2020)

• June 2020

- 1) Matariki Celebration
(From 22 June)

Staff Updates:-

- 1) Rika is joining our team from June in our Kitchen.
- 2) Heather is moving to BBELC Glendowie.
- 3) Nisha will be helping in Manuka room till further notice.
- 4) Annie joined in Pohutukawa Room as the Team Leader.