

# Newsletter

**POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN GLENDOWIE**

## **Term 4 2025**

Term dates: 6th October - 19th December

With the warmer spring weather, our tamariki are spending much of their time outdoors – exploring the natural environment like looking for snails and developing all sorts of play alongside their peers.

We are delighted to welcome **Shiloh and her whānau** to our kindergarten community. Aswell as Liliana we welcome as she joins her mummy at kindy.

Last term, we had also farewelled and celebrated two wonderful tamariki Alex and Jake as they move on to school. We wish them all the very best for their exciting new journey. There will be many more celebrating their graduations at the end of this

### **FOOD SAFETY AT KINDY**

We follow **New Zealand food safety guidelines** to help keep everyone healthy and safe. When bringing food for morning teas or events, please remember:

- Bring **nut-free options** (to support children with allergies).
  - Choose **healthy kai** where possible (fruit, sandwiches, savoury items).
- Avoid food that needs reheating or refrigeration.

#### **Ideas of Foods that can be included in lunch boxes:**

- **Fresh fruit and veg** – apple slices, banana, cucumber, carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes (cut in half).
- **Sandwiches or wraps** – cheese, hummus, egg, chicken, avocado, vegemite.
- **Dairy** – yoghurt, cheese sticks, cottage cheese.
- **Protein** – boiled eggs, cooked meat slices, beans, chickpeas.
- **Grain-based** – crackers, rice cakes, mini savoury muffins.

**Water only** – please send a named drink bottle.

#### **Foods we ask you not to send:**

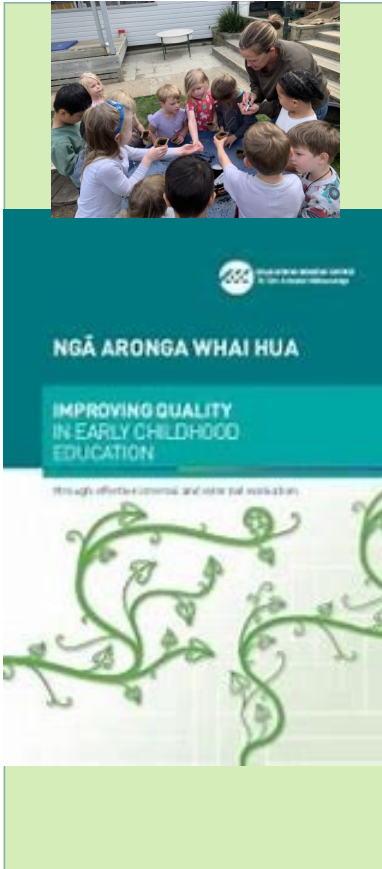
- Popcorn, whole grapes, nuts, whole seeds and other small hard foods that can pose a **choking risk**.
  - Peanut and nut butters, Nutella, or nut-based muesli bars (**nut-free kindergarten**).
  - Lollies, chocolate, chips, and sweet drinks.
- Foods that need **reheating or refrigeration**.

Thank you for helping us keep kai safe, healthy, and enjoyable for all tamariki!



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## INTERNAL EVALUATION

**How can individual planning improve the quality of learning outcomes? How can this planning be reflected in our documentation compared to previous styles?**

We believe that focusing on each child as an individual learner is key to supporting their unique learning journey. While this approach takes time, it allows us to respond meaningfully to each child's needs, making it a valuable foundation for our planning and documentation.

Partnerships with families are essential, as learning and development happen not only at kindy but also at home and in the wider world. We warmly invite you to share any progress or examples of your child demonstrating the learner focus we've identified together.



*“Internal evaluation is a systematic process used to evaluate what is and is not working, and for whom, and then to develop our practices and make improvements as a result of evaluation” p15 Ngā Aronga Whai Hua*

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

This term, we're excited to begin a brand-new topic — 'All About Me', a 7-week programme beginning in Week 2.

Throughout this course, we'll explore important topics such as I am special, My body, My home and family, How do I feel, Secrets vs. surprises, and Getting help.

This programme provides a gentle introduction to lifelong skills and knowledge that help our tamariki understand themselves and others. We'll be holding a parents' evening soon, and we'd love for you to join us to hear more about each topic and ask any questions you might have.

## AKOMANGA PUĀWAI

Kia ora our wonderful families,

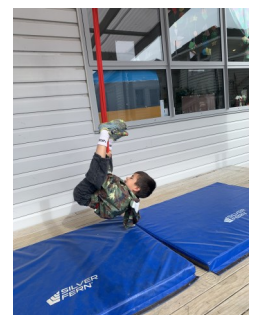
What a fantastic time we've been having in Akomanga Puāwai!

Over the past term, our focus on bucket filling and mathematics has brought so much joy and growth. It's been encouraging to see how much learning has been carried into other parts of the day — and even at home! Our literacy and phonics learning from Term 2 is still shining through too, as our tamariki continue to use the language confidently and feel so proud of writing their names.

We've also noticed a lot of curiosity around ecosystems, so we'll be exploring this through inquiry-based learning — discovering more about snails, butterflies, frogs, and plants, and learning how to be kaitiaki (guardians) of our environment and world.

We're really looking forward to another term full of wonder, growth, and discovery — and we hope you are too!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Kate and Natasha



## HUERO AKOMANGA

Season's greetings from the Huero Akomanga!

After the wonderful adventures sparked by our tamariki's enthusiasm for the Bear Hunt and Croc Hunt stories last term, we are excited to begin a new journey together. This term, the children's curiosity has turned to the post office and delivering mail – a theme that offers rich opportunities for learning across many areas. Through this interest, tamariki will be encouraged to explore literacy and communication, strengthen their sense of belonging and contribution, and practise working together in ways that value each learner's voice and ideas.

We deeply appreciate the time you have taken to share aspirations and goals for your tamariki. These insights help us design learning experiences that reflect the individuality of each child while fostering collaboration and inclusion for the whole group. With careful planning, we will continue to weave intentional teaching practices with our commitment to whanaungatanga – strengthening the partnerships we share with whānau to support children's holistic growth.

We look forward to a term of discovery, creativity, connection and celebration!

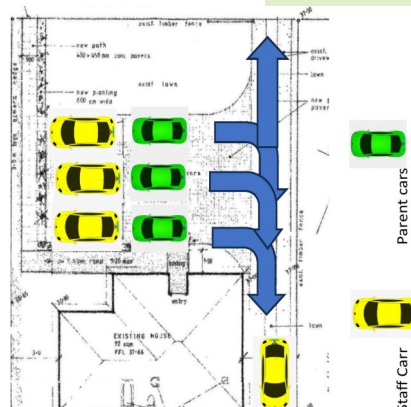
Ngā mihi nui,

Kaiako Sarah and Phillippa

## THE CARPARK

**Please park behind the teachers cars facing the hedge. The space behind Sarah's van needs to be kept clear so cars can safely turn and then head back out into the street forwards. Thank you.**

**Please pass on to anyone else who picks up your child**



## CONFERENCE REVIEW

I had the amazing opportunity to attend a Childspace conference for the first time “Creativity and Joy” with Melanie. There were over two hundred kaiako from around New Zealand and Australia. This conference was full of joy and celebration of being in this sector.

There were speakers from New Zealand and Australia. This really highlighted how much New Zealand leads the way for the world in early years education.

One speaker that had moved from early childhood education in the city to a rural school shared the work the children would do with loose parts. I felt so proud of our tamariki here at Pohutukawa, they are already so creative with the crates, tyres etc. It was nice to see the potential of this play as they grow.

Another keynote speaker shared his thesis on Empowerment and whakamana in ECE highlighting the importance of empowerment for the kaiako so that they can then empower the tamariki.

There were many speakers that offered opportunities to learn more about nature play, mud pits, gardening, Rongoa Māori, risky play and even how a nature kindergarten was created in connection to the regular programme. We do mud pits well here at kindy but did get some new ideas. I learn lots from the workshop on Rongoa Māori. It shared about the native plants and their use and how this is used and shared with the tamariki at their early learning environment.

We were split into creative teams and presented our creations at the end of conference. Mel and I were in a magnetic story telling group - we created a legend about the taniwha from Wellington. Our Tamariki will get to experience this story now also.

There were also opportunities to develop ourselves more in leadership roles. We also explored learning the ukulele. The ukulele will have to be a very long learning process for me.

There was a challenge to capture the flag. And yes, we did it! The play flag has come home with us. You will get to see that displayed soon... as the game continues.

This conference did engage in lots of new learning but also was filled with joy and creativity, inspiring already passionate kaiako.

## SUN SAFETY

- Please ensure your child has a **named hat** for outdoor play. You are welcome to leave it in the hat box at kindy.
- We do have spare kindy hats if needed.
- Apply sunscreen to your child before kindy; kaiako will re-apply in the afternoon if required.



## PICK UP TIMES

We kindly ask that tamariki are picked up promptly at the end of their booked session times:

**12:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, or 5:00pm**

This allows kaiako to support those staying for longer sessions, take lunch breaks, clean, and plan for upcoming learning experiences.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Dress-Up Day:** Thursday 31st October - Come in costume! Please be mindful of the age of the children, No scary outfits.

**Grandparents' Morning:** Wednesday 20th Nov, 9:30-11:30am

- Bring one grandparent along to share in the fun!
- Please bring a plate for shared morning tea.
- Tamariki still need their lunchbox and drink bottle.
- Even if your child doesn't usually attend on this day, they are welcome to join with their grandparent.

**Children's Christmas Party:** Friday 12th December, 9:30-11:30am

All tamariki are invited, and parents are welcome too.

*Please note: no siblings at this event.*

Bring a drink bottle and a plate for shared morning tea.

**Next Year:** Kindy will open for 1 optional week of holiday programme on Monday 19th January 2026. Then term 1 starts Tuesday 27th January

## REMINDERS

We have a few spaces in our Playball sessions here at kindy—Thursday **2.30-3.15pm**

**Spare clothes-** please remember to bring spare clothes. During the next two terms your child may need jackets and gumboots.

**Pick up times** – are 12.30, 2.30pm, 3.30 and 5pm. Please be on time to pick collect your child from there booked time.

**Parking** – Please do not park or drive on ours or the neighbours berm.

**Nuts**—Please be aware we have a **no nut policy**. Another child may come into contact with your child's food at the table and this can have serious consequences.

## FAMILY BOOST

The Family Boost payment has **increased**. It is made directly to families with young children to help with the rising costs of early childhood education (ECE).

Please contact Mel if you need help claiming this.

## CALENDAR ART

We are in the process of gathering beautiful pieces of art that the tamariki have done for calendar art orders. Other options to order are diaries, cards, mouse pads and sketch pads. We'll let you know when these are ready to select to make orders. \$15 each

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are always here to chat, listen, and share ideas. Please feel free to talk with us at drop-off/pick-up, or contact us via email.



Quarterly household income	Maximum quarterly refund
\$35,000	\$1,560.00
\$40,000	\$1,210.00
\$45,000	\$860.00
\$50,000	\$510.00
\$55,000	\$160.00
\$57,286 or more	\$0.00