

Newsletter

POHUTUKAWA KINDERGARTEN GLENDOWIE

Term 1 2026

Dear Parents of Pohutukawa Kindergarten Glendowie

We hope you have all enjoyed some sunshine and rest over this holiday period.

A very warm welcome to our new tamariki, Stevie and her whānau, who are joining our Pohutukawa Kindergarten community.

WAITANGI DAY

Waitangi Day is a special day in Aotearoa and every year we like to share with the children the significance of it. We explain that it's a day when we remember a very important agreement called Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), which was signed a long time ago in 1840.

Why it matters

- It was a promise made between Māori chiefs and the Crown about how they would work together.
- It helps us remember to be kind, fair, and respectful to each other.
- It's a day to celebrate the people, cultures, and stories that make Aotearoa a special place.
- Many families spend the day together, enjoying kai, fun, and time in their community.

We use Waitangi Day to remind us to:

- Work together
- Share and take turns
- Look after each other
- Make sure everyone feels they belong



WAITANGI DAY



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Poipoia te kakano kia puawai – Nurture the seed and it will



TERM ONE PLANNING

Together, we provide the most powerful support for our children to thrive and reach their full potential. Whanaungatanga-strong, trusting relationships between kaiako and tamariki, and kaiako and whanau- is at the heart of how we provide the best care and education for your child. So much can change in a short time, and we would love to take the opportunity to hear a brief update about your tamariki: their development, interest, needs, and anything new you've noticed.

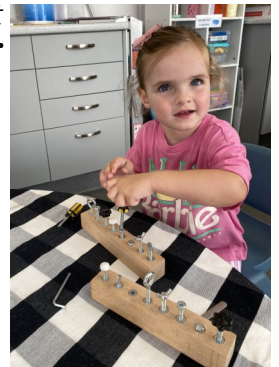
Please fill out and bring back the questionnaire and share this with your tamariki kaiako so that together we can set individual learning goals for the beginning of this year.

Huero

Kaiako Phillipa and Sarah are excited to know what the new interests, growth and skills our tamariki have developed over the holidays. From this and what we will observe in their play, we will form individual and group planned experiences.

Puāwai

Kaiako Natasha and Kate are excited to welcome our ākonga back and catch up on any new interests, growth and skills our tamariki have developed over the holidays. We welcome Finn into our akomanga from the Huero room. We would love to hear about their summer holidays and will encourage them to share their holiday news during mat times – please feel free to email Kate (Kate@pohutukawa.net.nz) or Natasha (natasha@pohutukawa.net.nz) a page of photos for your tamariki to share. From this and what we will observe in their play, we will form individual and group planned experiences.



MAHI WHA CLUB

This term we are focussing on Belonging/ Mana Whenua

Week #1 will have an Auckland theme: Landmarks and *Water Safety Week* based on Prevention Auckland Float First programme for under 5 (dpanz.org.nz) with some sink and float science added in for fun!

Week #2 will have a Waitangi focus including raranga/weaving, a simple pepeha /mihi, rakau, poi and waiata /songs.

Week #3 until the end of the term we will explore storytelling through books/ pukapuka, myths and legends.

We will explore a new book each week that will include pre-literacy skills, drama, movement and arts. Should you have any significant cultural stories, myths or legends please feel free to share these with us so that we may incorporate them into our programme.

OUR VISION

Pohutukawa Kindergarten is an environment where all akonga (learners) are valued as unique individuals. By developing respectful positive relationships, each tamariki and their whānau (family) experience a learning journey where they are supported through an engaging environment, with equitable opportunities to grow as confident, competent learners .

OUR PHIPHILOSOPHY

We aim to ensure each child has a positive experience at Pohutukawa Kindergarten, to feel acknowledged as an individual, supported as a learner, and enriched with skills and abilities to make a constructive contribution to society.

We value and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all that we do.

Whanaungatanga (relationships) are vital, including kaiako-tamariki, tamariki-tamariki, kaiako-whānau, tamariki-whanau, whanau-whanau. Solid relationships must be created so we can learn, teach, communicate, and grow.

Manākitanga (showing care and respect for each other) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship and care for the environment we learn and live in), guides our curriculum, and supports the programme we offer. We recognise and promote ranga whatumanawa (the development of social and emotional competence).

It is important that every child develops mana (authority and control) over their learning within each strand of Te Whāriki, so they are active participants in their learning journey. Kaiako (teachers) support this through acknowledging their taonga tukuiho (identity and uniqueness), interests, strengths, needs, and achievements including these in the learning planning and documentation.

We will support all children to reach their goals by meeting them wherever they are at, understanding their individuality, supporting their unique needs, and walking with them on their learning journey to grow to their full potential.

Reviewed January 2026

THE VALUE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We know that as families, you understand just how important high quality early childhood education is for your tamariki. Over the past year our sector has been in the spotlight, and it's likely to stay that way as the current government uses ECE to demonstrate the purpose of the new Ministry of Regulation.

The Education and Training (Early Childhood Education Reform) Amendment Act 2025 brings a range of changes designed to modernise the ECE regulatory system and strengthen its effectiveness for children, parents, and caregivers. These updates include clearer purpose and guiding principles for regulation, a new statutory role — the Director of Regulation — and more defined responsibilities around licensing criteria. We also expect further changes to licensing regulations in April.

Alongside this, the Teaching Council has updated the professional standards that all teachers are assessed against for their Registration and Certification. This means a significant amount of additional work happening behind the scenes to ensure we continue to meet these expectations. The government is also reviewing the funding system, with a focus on distributing the existing funding more fairly.

However, what remains unaddressed are the challenges we all feel daily: the ongoing teacher shortage, the need for improved pay parity, and better ratios for our youngest learners.

Through all this high level discussion and change, our focus in the Pohutukawa classroom remains steady and unwavering. We continue to provide **teacher-to-child ratios well above the minimum**, tailor our **programme to each child's unique needs**, and work closely with you to ensure your tamariki experience a **warm, responsive, and enriching start** to their learning journey.

Your children's wellbeing, growth, and sense of belonging are at the heart of everything we do — no matter what shifts are happening around us.

KEY WORDS

Tamariki- child or children
Ākonga - learners
Kaiako- teacher
Kete- basket
Whanaungatanga - close connection between people

KETE AKO/ PORTFOLIOS

We love sharing your children's learning and development with you . Please feel free to take these home and share with your whanau and then return so we can add some more pages as we create them.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Waitangi Celebration - Thursday 5th February

- Oven cooked Hangi for lunch, please bring a root vegetable to contribute to the lunch.

Whānau Night – Friday 5th March 5-7pm

- Spend time with all the whanau and kindly getting to know each other bring a picnic dinner for your whānau.



Children's Day - Monday 2nd March

- We will celebrate with a kindy Dress Up Day. Come in your favourite outfit.

-Dad's Night Thursday 19th March 5–7pm

- Bring your Dad along to play at kindy and share in some fish n chips

Play Ball

- Is an after kindy extra activity on **Thursdays** this **2:30pm to 3:15pm**. Any child can book even if they don't attend kindy on that day. Book on their website and come along for a free trial.

Playball Stars Auckland [021 255 9211](tel:0212559211) phil@playball.co.nz

REMINDERS

Sun safety

Please ensure your tamariki has a named hat for outdoors play. You are welcome to leave it in the hat kete at kindy. We do have plenty of spare kindy hats if needed.

Please apply sunscreen to your child before kindy. Kaiako will reapply in the afternoon if required.

Lunch Fruit

The tamariki that are staying for lunch please remember to place your *fruit* in the basket in the morning to contribute to lunch.

Pick up times

We kindly ask that tamariki are picked up promptly at the end of their booked session times: 12:30, 2:30, 3:30 or 5pm.

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

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 payment.

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