

HOPSCOTCH

Early Learning Childcare Centre & Preschool
Otorohanga



Giving your child a jump start



Pānui Paenga-whāwhā Newsletter April 2021

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Preschool
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Diary Dates



2nd April: **Good Friday - HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**
5th April: **Easter Monday - HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**
6th April: B4 School Checks - 4 year olds
16th April: End of School Term One
23rd April: Dress Up Day/Walk to Memorial Park - both centres
26th April: **Alternative Anzac Day - HOPSCOTCH CLOSED**
30th April: Beattie Home Visit - Preschool
3rd May: Start of School term Two

We're collecting for Easter!
Easter is nearly here! Can you believe it?!

As part of our involvement in the community we'd like to give a little back. Our annual tradition is to provide Beattie Home with donations for their residents at Easter.

We're asking our families to make a donation of an Easter Egg, toiletries, puzzle books or even some fluffy socks! The gifts will be collected at either Hopscotch centre and then taken to Beattie Home by some of the Preschool children during the week before Easter break.

We believe our Kaumātua, grandparents and great grandparents are the pillars of our community. Their guidance and wisdom is often sought on all manner of topics in daily life and they should be recognised and respected.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day both centres will be having a dress-up day on Friday 23rd April. Dress up as your favourite book character.



Anzac Day

On 23rd April both centres will be walking to Memorial Park. We would love some donations of fresh flowers or greenery for us to lay at the War Memorial for Anzac Day. These can be brought to the centres on the morning of Friday 23rd April.

Daylight Saving Ends



Sunday 4th April: For anyone that is up at 2.00am, please don't forget to turn your clock back one hour. For the rest of us, it might pay to do this before we tuck in on the Saturday night.

Policies for review

The following policies are due to be reviewed: Parents, Caregivers & Visitors, Settling In, Sexuality Ed(PS), Staff Health & Substance Abuse. Our policies are on our website, please take the time to read them and provide feedback to any of the staff. Thank you.

School Holidays

If your child is going to be absent during the school holidays 19th–30th April, please let a staff member know.



B4 School Hearing & Vision checks

The vision/hearing technician from Waikids will be visiting the Preschool on Tuesday 6th April at 10.00am. Vicki Dixon will see four year old children who have not been seen for the above checks, or require re-checks from a previous visit. Parents will be notified of all outcomes from these checks and may be advised that their child requires a re-check or to seek further advice from another health professional. If you do not wish your child to be checked, or your child is currently under specialist care for their hearing or vision, please let us know.

Family Updates

Early Learning Centre



We farewell Finley, Harlee Mae and Layla who are moving up to Preschool.

Preschool

We welcome Finley and Layla from the Early Learning Centre.

We also welcome Teina to Preschool.

We farewell Ava S, Elise, Heidi, Madden, Max and Zaria who are off to continue their learning journey at school.



We also said goodbye to Ava E at the end of March, she is moving to a childcare centre closer to home.

Staff Updates

- * Gina is leaving!!! Our amazing Office Manager has been at the Preschool for almost 7½ years. She's been fully immersed in the centre and has kept us organised and under control since 2014, all with a smile and a laugh. Gina has no fixed plans at this stage but we wish her all the best for the future and know that she will be amazing wherever she goes.
- * After four years at Hopscotch and over 30 years in the childcare business, Annie is having a change of career and will be leaving us on 9th April. This will be a momentous day for her and of course for us too! We thank you Annie for all your kindness and you will be missed by us all.

The Gift of Giving

As a centre, we feel that Easter is a time for us to give back to the community by showing appreciation for our elderly. Our annual tradition of taking gifts to the residents at Beattie Home is a perfect opportunity for us to do this.

The elderly may miss out at times like Easter and this is our way of remembering them, letting them know they are valued and loved and giving them a sense of purpose. It's also a lovely connection for those who don't have grandchildren of their own - there are studies that show that intergenerational relationships can be hugely beneficial for both the residents and the children. The visits are also a learning opportunity for children: they gain an understanding of their place in society, they learn about how giving makes others feel special, the visit can fill a void for children who may not have grandparents and they see the joy of an unexpected gift.

Hopscotch chose Beattie Home for our Easter gift drive as we already provide additional support for children in many different ways - our food and gift drive at Christmas, annual donations to: the Special Children's Christmas Party; Otorohanga South School; the Asthma Society for children, and the Haemophilia Society for children with blood disorders - as well as providing financial support for local families with young children.

Please know that there is no obligation to donate and if you'd prefer to support local children at Easter, then the Otorohanga Support House will gladly accept your donations.

