



## June—*Pipiri* Newsletter

## Toddler Room

### We LOVE Bugs!

Recently in the toddler room there has been a HUGE interest in the living world and in particular bugs! Many of the children have been spending their days exploring our outdoor area and finding lots of different bugs like crickets, spiders, ladybugs, flies, bee's, bumblebees and worms. This has lead to many interesting and informative conversations about what bug we have found, where we found it and sharing ideas about what it eats and where it lives. The teachers in the toddler room responded to this interest with great enthusiasm providing table top activities based on bugs, visiting the Zig Zag Zoo worm farm, getting books out from the library, mat time exploration and conversations and of course our very impressive bug wall in the classroom where the children love to see their photos of the bugs that they found. We also got a bug catcher and have had lots of fun safely putting our finds in the bug catcher and spending time observing what the bug is doing. This has been such a fun interest and we are sure your children have found lots of bugs at home that they have shared with you!



### Matariki—Māori New Year!

In the toddler room we have been looking at Matariki, the Māori New Year. Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises just once a year, in mid-winter – late May or early June.

For many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year. Matariki translates as mata riki which means tiny eyes, or Mata Ariki which means eyes of God.

People spent time with whānau (family), reflect on the year that had been, and made plans for the future. It was a time for wānanga (deeper learning) and coming together to pass on mātauranga (knowledge). It

was also a time for leisure and entertainment. We have chosen to recognise and celebrate Matariki by explaining to the children that it is the Māori New Year and that there are seven special stars that come out in the sky and that it is a time for whānau (family), kai (food) and waiata (songs). The children have made their own Matariki constellation that is in

the classroom and we have been reading books about Matariki and getting excited for our Matariki afternoon tea.



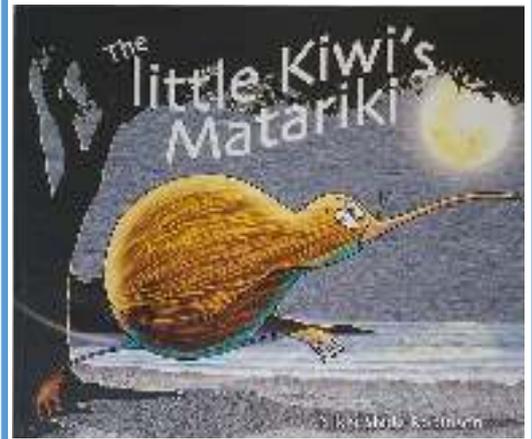
### Welcome's and Farewell's

We'd like to say a warm welcome to Ruby, Ryker and Juna who have transitioned from the Infants room and to Aaron who is new to the Zig Zag Zoo family. We are all so excited to get to know you and your whānau.

Mila M and Sol have completed their transition to the Kindy room this month, it has been fantastic watching you learn and grow during your time with us we are so proud of you and have loved getting to know you and your families! We wish you all the best in the Kindy room!

We are sad to have to say goodbye to Zion who has moved to Alexandra with his family and to Sophie A who is spending some time at home with Mum and Dad awaiting the arrival of their baby. It is also time for us to say goodbye to Mila F, Maia, Frankie and Jacob who are all off to new centres. From all the teachers in the Toddler room we wish you and your wonderful families all the best for the future!

### Book of the Month:



"The Little Kiwi's Matariki" by Nikki Slade Robins.

Can you feel it coming? The little Kiwi know a special time of year is almost here. But will she wake up her friends in time? A fantastic book to introduce the concept of Matariki with some useful Te Reo Māori and some of New Zealand's favourite native creatures.

### Upcoming dates:

**Matariki Afternoon Tea**—Friday 23rd June  
from 3-4pm

\*if your child is not in on this day please feel free to come along with them and join us for afternoon tea. See toddlers teachers for more information if you would like to join us.

### Centre Disco!

Wednesday 28th June 5-6:30pm. Please bring a plate of food to share for dinner. Please no nuts as we are a nut free centre. Retro dress up optional. See you there for a night of fun and dancing!!!

### Exciting News!

On Monday 19th June we welcome Serena to the toddler room teaching team. Serena comes to us from Henry Street and has a Bachelor of Education. We are all really excited to work with her and welcome her to our teaching team.

Please help us to welcome her to our fantastic classroom.

