OAMARU KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

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Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau,

It is hard to believe that we are heading into Term 3 already and that we are officially halfway through the coldest season, bring on Spring!

Mānawatia a Matariki!

This year's Matariki theme, **Matariki Herenga Waka – For Everyone**, resonates strongly with our kindergarten kaupapa. It reflects our commitment to creating a welcoming place where tamariki, whānau, and kaiako come together, share knowledge, celebrate diversity, and strengthen a sense of belonging.

Our tamariki continue to enhance this learning across a range of learning pathways. Tamariki have been guided and supported in this mahi by Kaiako and whānau and we love being able to support our tamariki to grow in confidence to share their ideas, participate in group experiences, and build positive relationships. It's through this learning and development of connections, relationships, contribution and collaboration that enhance our whanaungatanga here at Kindergarten and fuel our Te Ana a Raki Kaupapa.

We just want to say a big kā mihi to all our whānau that braved the weather to come and celebrated this much treasured time with us.

Transition to school: This term we worked alongside Te Pākihi o Maru new entrance Kaiako Jennifer Streat, to support our tamariki heading off to Kura soon. We joined Ms Streat every second Friday morning in her classroom with a group of four tamariki. Our tamariki have really enjoyed this extra transition time and this Kaupapa has been hugely supportive of our tamariki school readiness. We are pleased to be offering this Kaupapa again for term 3.

Internal Evaluation: This year the Kaiako are unpacking, extending and enhancing their own learning around the following: *"How effective are our Oral Language Strategies in supporting communication, confidence and social connection for tamariki?"*

We are currently gathering and sharing our information through a range of specific teaching strategies that are used in support of this learning with tamariki. Through this evidence gathering we have found some interesting trends and further areas of exploration. We will keep you posted of our findings.

Paint the town purple: This year we will be hosting a 'Purple Day' here at Te Ana a Raki where we encourage everyone to come along dressed in purple and have a fun filled day of purple themed activities and maybe even some purple kai! We are hosting this day in support of Woman's Refuge and all the mahi they do to support families across Aotearoa.

Healthy Heart: We have successfully been awarded our healthy heart award!! We would like to give a big Kā mihi nui to our Kaiako Karen H and Rebecca that have lead the charge of this mahi. We will have 'Hearty' come and present us with our new award on August the 17th.

Tongan Week: This year we will be celebrating our Pasifika fāmili and connections with another cultural week between the 16-22nd of August and to be confirmed a specific day for cultural dress up and shared kai.

Wood For Carpentry: Our tamariki have been super busy in the carpentry shed and we are running low on wood. Does anyone have some suitable wood off cuts that they would be willing to donate?

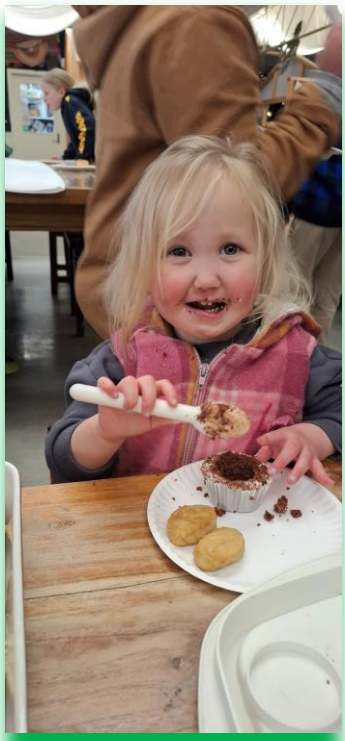
Special Items from Home: We seem to have a lot more special items from home coming into kindergarten with our tamariki. Where possible we ask that these special items either stay at home or in the car so they are kept safe and don't get lost.

Cubbies and lost property: At pick up time, please make sure you collect all of your child's belongings from within their cubby. We will be clearing out and donating any left over lost property early into term 3. Please check and make sure you have taken your items home. Thank you for your help with this.

Session Times: Just a friendly reminder that our session times are 8.45am – 2.45pm. If your tamaiti is at kindergarten outside of these hours, they must be with a trusted adult or whanau member over 14 years of age. This is a Ministry of Education Licensing requirement. Our non-contact time outside of these hours is precious and is filled with all of our administrative mahi.

Illness: As there are still a few illnesses lingering, we appreciate you keeping your tamaiti home if they are unwell – this helps minimise the spread of illness and the impact it may have on other tamariki and Kaiako. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Clothing: As we continue to have a variety of weather, please make sure you have spare clothing in your tamaiti's bag so they are ready for both warm and cold weather. We have an open-door policy so tamariki are able to go inside and outside as they wish. We continue to have spare jackets here at kindergarten for tamariki to use if they don't bring one from home.

Washing Roster: We have a termly washing roster. Each Friday a family is asked to take home and wash the kindergarten towels and any other washing that has been popped into the bag. Please speak with a Kaiako if you have any questions or if you are rostered on but it doesn't work for you, please let us know so we can organise someone else.

Kā Manaakitanga,
Te Ana a Raki Team