OAMARU KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION
34a Stuart Street, OAMARU 9400
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Tēna koutou katoa, Bula, Talofa lava, Malo e leilei, Hallo, હેલો, हॅलो, Hello from Holmes Kindergarten Kaiako.

After some chilly ❄ winter days lately we are looking forward to the arrival of Spring 🌸 Our blossom tree is looking fabulous at the moment- ready for the upcoming photo day.

Internal evaluation: Oral Language is the focus of our Internal evaluation this year. We have been focusing on providing a language rich environment here at Holmes kindergarten, using strategies from documents including Kōwhiti Whakapae, Te Kōrero and Te Whāriki. Through our Internal Evaluation process we are strengthening our understanding of how we can support tamariki in their development and use of oral language throughout the curriculum. We value your input so keep an eye out for a parent questionnaire coming soon.

Curriculum priorities: We are encouraging the tamariki to develop these attributes -Aroha, Māia, Pākiki and Manawanui - through providing equipment and activities to explore, allowing them to express their feelings in safe ways and using positive praise and guidance. We question and scaffold their ideas and wonderings and celebrate their successes with leaves on our Rakau Kaupapa Marautanga/Curriculum Priorities tree. These also link into our Treaty - developed with the tamariki- and guides the tikanga/ways of being here at Holmes Kindergarten.

Holmes Kindergarten Treaty:
We show Aroha by being kind and respectful to our taonga (treasures) just like Papatūanuku.
We listen, use kind words and gentle hands with our e hoa ma (friends), showing Aroha like Rongomātane.
We give things a go and celebrate our achievements with Pākiki, Māia, and Manawanui just like Tāne Māhuta.

Important Dates to remember for 2026:
Kindergarten Closed:
Professional Learning Days - 21st August
5th October
Labour Day - Monday 26th October
North Otago Hui Ako 11th November
Kindergarten photo's - Wed 19th August
NZSL 30 days of sign -throughout the month of August
George Burns Memorial Art Exhibition- 1st Aug - 27th Sept. Free admission
11th December - End of Year Celebration
Last day of year: Tuesday 22nd of December

Facebook: Did you know that we have an Association Facebook page? You can keep up to date with what is happening around the association and at our individual kindergartens by following this page https://www.facebook.com/oamaruka

StoryPark is our online portal that we use to share tamariki mahi, notices, and tamariki individual learning portfolios. This is a wonderful way to share tamariki learning and keeping up with what is happening. This is also a space that you can put your own stories in as well to share. If you are not receiving photos and notifications from Storypark please see Mel or Sam.

Thank you for all your support, your Kaiako team, Mel, Sam, Sonya, Katrina, Alyssa, and Lisa.

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If any of our wonderful parents or whānau would like to come in and share their skills with us, we would love to have you – please see Mel.

Emergency management

We engage in monthly emergency drills, these are Fire and Earthquake so that tamariki and kaiako are prepared if an event happens. For an Earthquake drill, kaiako will yell out 'EARTHQUAKE EARTHQUAKE'. At this call, tamariki and kaiako get under a table where possible or drop down to take up a safe position with hands covering the back of heads - kaiako then sing "twinkle twinkle little star". When finished tamariki are guided by kaiako to make their way to the back playground to sit in the open grassy space. We then take the roll to ensure all tamariki and kaiako are safe. This usually takes approx. 5 min. If you would like a copy of our Emergency Policy, please see kaiako.
Kaiako are currently working their way through our updated Processes and Procedures.
If you have any dietary or medicine changes for your child, please allow 5 minutes at drop off time to update the required paperwork.

Whānau Wall We are creating a new whānau wall and would love to add your whānau photo, please email these to ht.holmes@oamarukindergarten.co.nz

Healthy Heart Award: We are completing our Healthy Heart award for 2026 and the focus is around healthy eating habits and active movement. Tamariki love having the ability to choose from a healthy selection in their lunch boxes; just a couple of reminders that we have tamariki **allergic to nuts** so we **cannot have nuts, nut bars, nut biscuits, Nutella, peanut butter or nuts on bars.** We ask that you only send 2 packaged/treat items eg bars, fruit strings, chips etc and only WATER in your child's drink bottle. We love seeing sandwiches, fruit, vegies, hummus, cheese, yoghurt, baking, salads, cold leftovers, cheese rolls, bacon and egg pie. If you would like these heated, we are happy to do so, pop a name on any containers and leave on the bench with yoghurts. This sets your child up for a great day of learning and provides nourishing brain food and refreshment at kai time.

Session times. These are between 8:30am and 2:30pm, if your child is here outside of these hours, they must be with a trusted adult of your family member over 14yrs of age. This is a Ministry of Education licensing requirement. Our non-contact time out of these hours is precious and is filled with all our administration mahi. This year we have introduced a late fee so please be aware of this.

Extra Days: If you are thinking of increasing your child's days next year - please let Mel know as spaces will be limited.

Frequent Absences: Kaiako will be speaking with you if your child is frequently away or not attending the hours booked. If you do not need those days or hours please let us know as we lose funding, which we rely on to keep kindergarten free for over 3's.

Please let us know your child's finishing date at kindergarten as these dates are very important as they do affect our roles and wait lists.

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A great big THANK YOU to our friends from The Brydone – who supply food for our Morena kai and "The Natural Dairy" who provide us with our Milk for the week, we really appreciate these donations.

Fundraising

A big thank you for our Spider Man movie fundraiser - we raised over $200 which has enable us to put money towards an outdoor water collection system. Special thanks to the Riviera Cinema for hosting us and to Crombie and Price for the spot prizes on the night. Start gathering your favourite recipes for the next fundraiser - a Recipe Book.

Parking- Please remember when picking up and dropping off not to park over the driveway and on the yellow painted lines. This allows safe access for our van tamariki to be dropped off and picked up safely.

Please Remember,

1. Please send your child with clothing for all weather including a NAMED jacket, as we do not limit outdoor play even in the rain- gumboots are a wonderful idea to provide as well.
2. Please ensure children have NAMED spare clothes as we often engage in sensory and messy play. As we support children to be responsible for their belongings it is easier if these items are NAMED.
3. Please regularly check the lost property, we seem to gather a lot of unnamed clothing. We donate this property to charity after 3mth of not being claimed.
4. We are plastic free; can you please send with your child their reusable wet clothing bags for wet clothing to go home in. If you do not have one, please ask and we will provide you with one.

For sale large rabbit cage

please see Mel.

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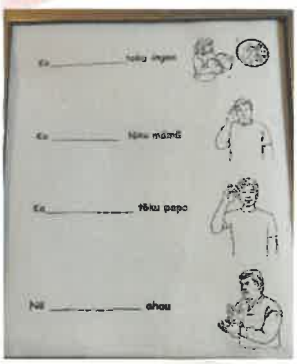
Washing roster: We have a washing roster. This will allow every whānau to contribute to the wellbeing of the kindergarten community. All this means is once a year you will be asked to take home the towels to wash and dry them. There will be a roster up on Storypark and on the window by the sign in sheet.

Washing Roster

Date	Whānau
10th – 14th August	Louie
17th – 20th August	Mahi
24th -28th August	Nate/Tilly
31st – 4th September	Nikau
7th – 11th September	Odette
14th-18th September	Parker B
21st-25th September	Revan/Zaiden
28th – 2nd October	Romie
6th-9th October	Sophia
12th-16th October	Spencer
19th-23rd October	Theo B
27th -30th October	Tova
2nd -6th November	Tyson
9th-13th November	Violet
16th-20th November	Ardie
23rd – 27th November	Aroha-Orawha
30th Nov- 4th December	Asaira/Naomi
7th- 11th December	Cooper/Parker
14th -18th December	Alex

We are beautifying our carpentry area and Mel has been painting the Atua for us. If anyone has any board that can be painted on we would really appreciate it -so we can add more Atua to the wall. The board measurements are max - 500mm length and max 420mm width.

We are currently going through a process of introducing tamariki to basic pepeha. A pepeha is an introductory '*speech*' – based on whakapapa/genealogy. If there is anything you would like us to add please get in touch.



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