



# Cambridge Early Learning Centre

January to March 2026

## Kia Ora & Welcome!

Welcome back to 2026 ... we hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing and fun break over the festive season. We are excited about spending 2026 with your Tamariki.

### Inside this issue:

- ♦ **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**—the Centre re-opens at 7.30am. Our new fee schedule takes effect from today.
- ♦ **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January**—Anniversary Day, the Centre will be closed
- ♦ **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**—Waitangi Day, the Centre will be closed
- ♦ **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**—Valentine's Day
- ♦ **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**—Children's Day
- ♦ **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**—St Patrick's Day, we will be celebrating in the Centre with a **GREEN** day.

Happenings 2

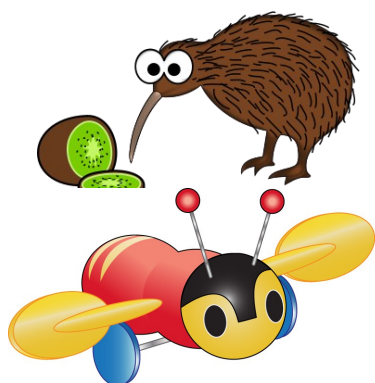
More 3

Happenings ...

Nursery  
News... 4

Toddlers  
News... 5

Pagoda News 6

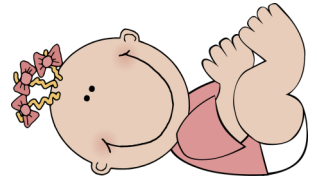


Keryn's  
Corner 7

Finally... 8

## **STAFF NEWS:**

- Welcome back to Jenny who is returning to us in February after being away on maternity leave. We look forward to having you and Heidi in the centre.
- Congratulations to Emily and Rob who are expecting their little one in May. We are looking forward to snuggles. 😊
- Congratulations to Carla, Marcus and Emmy on the arrival of their daughter and little sister, Marley. We look forward to meeting your newest wee treasure. 😊



## **THANK YOU:**

- Thank you to all of our families who attended the Children's Christmas party last year. This is always a well attended evening and we thoroughly enjoy our time with you.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY THANK YOU's:**

- A BIG THANK YOU to Service Foods for donating the yummy sausages that you all enjoyed from the BBQ. We are very grateful for your support. 😊
- A BIG THANK YOU to Vege Fresh for donating the bread and onions —we really appreciate your ongoing support each year. 😊
- HUGE THANKS to the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade for bringing 'Flick' the fire engine. So much fun was had going for rides. 😊
- Last but not least ... THANK YOU SANTA!! We so appreciate you taking time to visit us each year. 😊



## **TODDLERS PLAYGROUND:**

As you may have noticed, our Toddlers playground is undergoing a re-vamp. We are super grateful to Visionscapes and Asset Group Ltd for working together to bring this project to reality.

There will be a new boardwalk / bike track around a bigger sandpit, new cushion fall in our swing and climbing equipment areas, and then in April we will see some hardy Ready Lawn laid along the fence line and up to the board walk.

Thank you to our Trust Board for making sure this project can go ahead.

# **REMINDERS FOR PARENTS:**

At the beginning of a new year we like to take the opportunity to remind our Centre families of our policy around absences, fees and booked times.

## **ABSENCES:**

**Castle children under 2 years**—each child is entitled to 20 days per calendar year for illness or holiday absence. Two of your child's weeks can be charged at 30% of fees as long as one week's notice of your intention to use this retainer is given to the office.

**Castle children aged 2-3 years** — each child is entitled to 15 days per calendar year for illness or holiday absence. Two of your child's weeks can be charged at 30% of fees, as long as one week's notice of your intention to use this retainer is given to the office.

**Castle and Pagoda children aged 3+ years that receive 20 hours ECE**— each child is entitled to 15 days per calendar year at 50% of fees to cover holiday and illness absences.

## **Points to note:**

- ♦ For all absences (illness or holiday) as long as we receive notice prior to 8.30am on the day, fees will be reduced by 50%. Notification after 8.30am means that full fees will be charged.
- ♦ Absences exceeding 21 days (three continuous weeks) will be at full charge as we no longer receive Ministry funding. We may also pass on the amount of funding that we lose as part of your child's extended absence.
- ♦ Any absences after the 15 or 20 days entitlement have been used will be at full charge.
- ♦ We will be keeping track of your child's absent days on their record so please feel free to check in if you have lost track.

Any queries please see the office. 😊

**CHILDREN'S BOOKED TIMES:** It is imperative that drop off and pick up times are adhered to as this can affect our staffing and Ministry of Education ratios. Please see the office if you need to make any changes. An early drop off or late pick up fee will be added to your child's account if this occurs and is 5 minutes or more.

**FEES:** our new fee schedule takes effect from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and this is available on our website should you wish to have a look.

Our Centre policy is for **weekly** payment of fees. Please ensure that your account is kept up to date, invoices are emailed at the beginning of the week for the week prior. We are a not-for-profit Centre and our aim is to keep our fees as low as possible, in return we expect timely payment of your child(ren)'s account. Thank you 😊



# **The Nursery**

## **0-18 months**



Ngaa mihi o te tau hau,  
Welcome back to all our nursery whaanau we hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break!

January— We are back in full swing of nursery life having all our tamariki and kaiako now returned and we are excited for a new year! Just a reminder that our centre is closed on all public holidays, Jules puts the upcoming dates for these in the beginning of the newsletter.

February—Term one officially starts so that means Storypark documentation is back up and running. You may receive notes sent from kaiako about 'parent aspirations' so please feel free to share your thoughts & feelings around these. We will also see new tamariki join our nursery whaanau from now so please be mindful of the busyness of our room around drop off and pick up times.

March— Just to update you all on our kaiako Maria—she continues to make amazing progress in her recovery and we have loved her being able to come in and visit. She will continue to stay on extended leave and we wish her recovery journey to stay smooth sailing.

While we are still enjoying the warmer weather please continue to send extra named clothing for your child and please apply sunscreen to them in the morning if you wish. Our sunscreen times are after morning tea and again before afternoon tea. If you have any questions or queries regarding your child please feel free to reach out to anyone from the nursery team. All other information and/or reminders will be communicated through Storypark.

Ngaa mihi'  
Nursery team



# **The Toddlers**

## **18 months-3 Years**



**Welcome to 2026!!**

**Firstly welcome back to all our Toddler room families as well as our new families that have recently joined us.**

**A big congratulations to Carla and whanau who welcomed a beautiful healthy baby girl, Marley on 29th December 2025.**

**Whilst Carla is away on maternity leave, Stacey is the Toddlers Acting Team Leader. Stacey is loving the challenge of this new role.**

**We are very excited to see our new playground underway and we're sure all the tamariki will enjoy watching it transform over the next few weeks.**

**Over the month of February we will see lots of our 3 year olds heading to the Pagoda and some new faces from the nursery coming our way. We farewell all those wonderful families and welcome all the new families to the Toddlers.**

**Please remember to pack lots of named changes of clothing or togs at this time of year, we have lots of water play happening throughout the day, with this wonderful hot weather!**

**We are looking forward to a fabulous year ahead supporting your tamariki as they grow and learn!**

**Toddler Team**



# ***The Pagoda 3-5 years***



## **Welcome Back Everyone,**

It's been great to see all of your wonderful summer holiday pictures that you've been sending through. You'll find these displayed on the outside window. The children have been enjoying finding their pictures and sharing them with their Pagoda friends. It looks like everyone has been busy with lots of swimming and family time.

We will be celebrating the **Luna New Year**.

This will start from 17th February – 23rd February. You'll notice lots of preparation going up around the Pagoda to celebrate. You'll notice lots of colour red around the Pagoda, red is a significant colour as it symbolizes good fortune, luck, celebration, and prosperity. Red lanterns are hung on doors to ward against evil spirits and bad luck.

This year is the Year of the Horse.

We will be celebrating Luna New Year by creating a dragon for our dragon dance along with our restaurant day. On the menu is fried rice and dumplings. In Chinese tradition, as the dumplings are full, when you eat them you'll become well fortunate.

We are fortunate to have Juju within our team who has been teaching us more about these Chinese customs and traditions. We have learnt lots all ready.

## **HAPPY SCHOOL DAYS**

Georgia, Leo, Hope, Maya, Lorenzo, Hudson, Jack and Ciera.

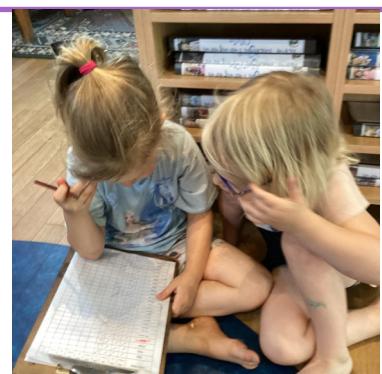
We wish them all the very best for their school adventures, we will miss them greatly.

## **WELCOME TO THE PAGODA**

Jude, Jasper, Olly, Annie, Millie, Felix, Kauariki and Ryan. We look forward to getting to know you and your families over the next coming weeks.

## **Teachers News**

We will be welcoming Jenny back to the Pagoda team. We can't wait to have Jenny back.



# Keryn's Corner

## COURGETTE & CHICKEN FRITTERS

**Prep time: 10 mins   Cook: 15 mins   Serves: 4**

### Ingredients:

**2 large courgettes, ends chopped off**

**300gm canned corn kernels, drained**

**1 cup cooked chicken, shredded**

**2 spring onions, thinly sliced**

**1 cup wholemeal flour**

**1 1/2 tsp baking powder**

**2 eggs, whisked**

**1/4 cup lite milk**

**1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated**

**1/3 cup parmesan cheese, grated**

**2 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves, chopped**

**Pepper & salt, to season**

**Olive oil spray**

**Tomato chutney, to serve**

### Method:

- ♦ **Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan-forced). Line a large baking tray with baking paper.**
- ♦ **Roughly grate the courgettes. Transfer to a paper towel or tea towel and squeeze out as much liquid as possible.**
- ♦ **In a large bowl, place the grated courgettes, corn, chicken, spring onion, flour, baking powder, eggs, milk, cheddar, parmesan and thyme. Stir until well combined. Season with salt and pepper.**
- ♦ **Form fritters from 1/3 cup of the mixture and place onto the prepared baking tray. Spray with olive oil and bake for 10 minutes. Turn and cook for a further 5 minutes or until golden and cooked through. Serve with tomato chutney and a green salad.**

**ENJOY 😊**







# Finally...

**We hope you are all enjoying your time with us.**

**We are certainly enjoying having your children at the  
Centre and getting to know you all.**

