

Upcoming events:

March

Kolourcare Centre Photos -
26th March
Good Friday - 29th March
(Centre Closed)

April

Easter Monday - 1st April
(Centre Closed)
Anzac Day - 25th April
(Centre Closed)
Scarecrow Competition - 12th
April (Judging)

Birthdays:

February

5 - Charlie Potter - 14th
5 - Luka Eastup - 19th
4 - Phoenix Castle - 4th
4 - Kiara Iggo - 19th
3 - Sasha Fleming - 9th
3 - William Kerr - 26th
2 - Ihaia Mcnoe - 3rd
2 - Annabelle Welsh - 15th
2 - Eli Shore - 21st
1 - Myles Ward - 12th
1 - Mila Silva - 17th

March

5 - Huxley Richards - 19th
4 - Mei Huang - 19th
3 - Finn Blackham - 27th
2 - Arlo Campbell - 2nd
2 - Gwen Baker - 4th
1 - Brodi Powdrell - 12th

Te Reo phrase:

Kia pai tō rā - Have a nice
day

Sustainability:

Reduce food waste - New
Zealand homes throw
away more than 157,000
tonnes of food per year all
of which could have been eaten. Wasting this food costs the average household \$644 a year.

Kia ora and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024.

We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday break and enjoyed some restful and quality time with family and whānau.

Welcome to our new families at The Learning Barn. Last month we welcomed Kyla, Emrie and Mila to the Rāpeti Room and this month Violet and Madeleine join the tamariki in the Rāpeti Room. We also welcome Ziggy who starts with us in the Hipi Room. We welcome these children and their families as they start their journey with us at The Learning Barn.

This year we welcome back Kelly to The Learning Barn. Kelly began as a kaiako at The Learning Barn on our opening, followed by her role as Centre Manager before heading on maternity leave. Kelly now returns back to the team as a kaiako in the Rāpeti Room. We also welcome back Sue who returns to The Learning Barn following her hip surgery last year. It is great to have these two ladies back with us again in 2024.

As we begin the new year we say “Happy School Days” to our children who are moving on to school. Last month we said farewell to Heidi and Maggie who have left us to start at their new schools and this month we farewell Charlie and Luka as they head off to school. We also said goodbye to Isla and her family as they move to another centre. We wish these children all the very best as they begin this next chapter in their learning.

Our lovely kaiako Briar from the Rāpeti Room is excited to share that she will be expecting her first child in the middle of the year. Congratulations to Briar and her partner Jackson as they embark on this exciting journey to parenthood.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Kai and Kōrero evening. It was a lovely night and a great opportunity for children and families to meet and mingle with each other and The Learning Barn team.

Some friendly reminders:

*Please remember that all tamariki **must wear a hat for outside play**. If your child does not have a hat at the centre please bring one along for your child to wear. If your child does not have a hat they will be required to play indoors. Please ensure that your child's hat is clearly named. Hats can be left at the centre for everyday use.

Please remember that all children must have **sunscreen applied before arriving at the centre**. If you have forgotten to apply on arrival please use the sunscreen at reception. Please use the stamp provided to stamp your child's hand when they have had sunscreen applied, either at home or on arrival. This helps us to know that all children are protected from the sun before they begin their outside play. Your child will have sunscreen reapplied after lunch each day.

With warm days please remember to pack a **variety of suitable clothes** for your child's day. The weather can still be quite unpredictable so please pack clothes suitable for all occasions. It is a great idea to pack in your child's togs or rash vest for your child to wear during water play activities. Please also remember to pack a wet bag so that wet clothes can go home inside these.

*Bugs are unfortunately still circulating around the centre. **Please keep your child at home if they are unwell**. It is important to keep your child at home if they are not feeling 100%. Please refer to our traffic light system "is your child well enough to play today" to guide you as to whether your child is well enough to attend the centre. This can be found displayed in rooms within the centre.

*Please remember to **sign your child's attendance** each week on the desk at reception. Please do not let your children draw on this as it is a document requirement from the Ministry of Education.

*Please remember to **sign your child out if you are taking your child to an appointment**. Please sign your child out when you leave the centre and on return sign your child back in on the tablets. This helps us to know who is and who isn't in the centre in case of an emergency situation.

*Our black **pool fence gates now have self closing hinges**. This means they self shut once they are open. We ask that you do not let children help you open the gates or let children swing on them.

*Please remember at **drop off and pick up times siblings of children are the responsibility of the parent/caregiver**. Please make sure that they are being supervised while you are in the centre.

*Please remember the **speed limit in our driveway to The Learning Barn is 30ks per hour**. Please keep to this speed for the safety of others.

*Please **do not leave your vehicle's running in the car park** when dropping off or picking up your child. For the safety of others please turn your vehicle off before you enter the centre.

Are you entitled to a Childcare Subsidy?

From 1st April 2023, income thresholds for the Childcare Subsidy and Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Subsidy's increased. This means more people are able to get these payments.

Follow the link below to see if your family is able to apply for this.

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/childcare-subsidy.html>

Will your family be away over Easter or the April school holidays? If so please let us know as soon as possible so we can staff our centre accordingly.

Family Scarecrow Competition

Check out our Family Scarecrow Competition happening at The Learning Barn. If your family would like to enter please fill in an entry form from reception and pop it in the box before Friday 8th March 2024.

All Scarecrows welcome big or small.

Scarecrows can be made and delivered to The Barn by Monday 8th April for judging day on Friday 12th April.

This is a great activity for the whole family. Our last Scarecrow Competition was a huge success so get creative and have some family fun!

We look forward to seeing your creations. Happy Scarecrow making!!!

THE LEARNING BARN FAMILY SCARECROW COMPETITION

**CONTEST ENTRY IS OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES OF
THE LEARNING BARN**

**DESIGN AND
CREATE YOUR OWN
FAMILIES
SCARECROW AND
ENTER TO WIN A
PRIZE!**

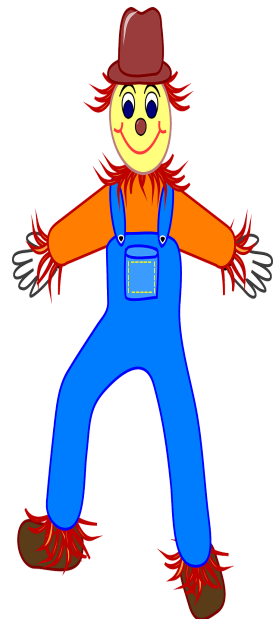
**ALL SCARECROWS MUST BE
COMPLETED AND DELIVERED
TO THE LEARNING BARN BY
MONDAY 8TH APRIL TO BE
DISPLAYED FOR JUDGING ON
FRIDAY 12TH APRIL**

**EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS OF YOUR FAMILY
WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE YOUR
FAMILIES SCARECROW TO KAREN AT
OFFICE@THELEARNINGBARN.CO.NZ so we
CAN DISPLAY THEM HERE AT THE BARN!**

**TO ENTER PLEASE FILL IN AN ENTRY FORM AT
RECEPTION AND LEAVE IN THE BOX PROVIDED.
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024.**

**LET'S HAVE SOME FUN
AND GET CREATIVE! ALL
SCARECROWES WELCOME
BIG OR SMALL.**

**WE WILL HAVE A SMALL
SUPPLY OF BARLEY STRAW FOR
ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO
TAKE A BAG FULL TO FILL THEIR
SCARECROWS.**



Rāpeti Room

January and February have been busy months in the Rāpeti Room. On our return to The Learning Barn we welcomed a number of new children to our room. It has been a wonderful time for new connections and relationships as we settle and welcome our new tamariki and kaiako to the environment. Tamariki have been enjoying making music with instruments and loose parts including pots and pans and dancing together to their favourite songs.

Ka tū tahi tātou ki te kohikohi i te mātauranga hei oranga tinana, hei oranga wairua kia tū tangata ai tātou
“We gather to learn, to nourish, to flourish. Here we stand together”



Hipi Room

As we return from our summer holidays, the tamariki have enjoyed getting back into the routine in the Hipi room and reconnecting with their friends. The tamariki have enjoyed a variety of experiences including waterplay, art activities, role play and construction setups. These opportunities encourage tamariki to be creative and expressive while also supporting their current interests. It is through these experiences that tamariki are able to connect their learning at the Centre to their home life experiences to support their interactions with others.



Kuri Room

As we settle back into our routines and kick-start 2024, the tamariki in the Kuri Room have enjoyed sharing stories of their summer holidays. Thank you for bringing in your child's holiday photos. Tamariki have loved being able to share these with their friends and kaiako.

With the addition of our new slackline in the outdoor environment and some beautiful weather, tamariki have loved being able to challenge their physical skills and persevere to balance and move their way along. Over the past 2 months the Kuri Room has also been home to some new pets! We welcomed a group of tadpoles into the room. This was a great learning opportunity and the tamariki have enjoyed learning about and watching the life cycle of a tadpole as they turn into a frog. Thank you to Ivy and her whanau for helping supply them! Once again, we have been out harvesting our summer crops and the tamariki have enjoyed taste testing all the delicious fruit and veggies from our very own gardens.



Whānau Aspiration:

We are currently looking into reviewing our philosophy and priorities and would love to get your feedback.

We would love it if you could fill the sheets in reception (attached below) so we can gain a better understanding on what your values and aspirations are for your child and how we can support these.

Don't feel pressured to fill in all of the questions, any feedback is greatly appreciated!

Thank you in advance.

Whānau Aspirations:

We would love if you could fill out the following to support our teaching and learning for your tamariki in 2024!

When you think of the future:

What do you dream for your child?
What do you hope they will achieve success in?

What qualities, strengths and values will they possess?

Why is The Learning Barn the right fit for your child and family?

Is there anything you would like us to provide or support your child or family with further?

Name (optional):