

Dear Parents and Whanau

Welcome to a New Year at The Village! It is wonderful to see our families returning from holiday and our new families who are just starting out as members of The Village community. As the new school term starts, it is also time to say good-bye to some of our Preschool children who are beginning the wonderful adventure that is school. We know you will start school with confidence and an amazing range of skills and interests from your time at The Village. Our love and very best wishes go with you.

Staffing News

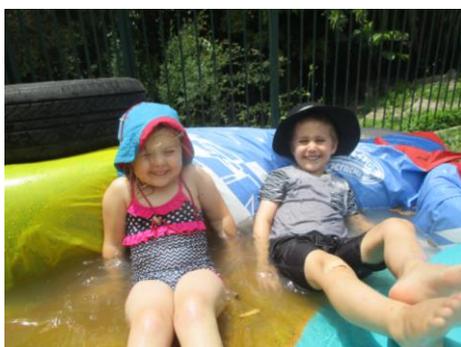
We are delighted to welcome Natalie Orme back from maternity leave with her daughter Ella. Natalie will be resuming her position in Preschool from 31st of January, initially working three days per week.



New Study Initiative

It is wonderful news that from 1 January 2018, tertiary education will be fees free for eligible first time tertiary students. Broadly, if you're a New Zealander who finished school in 2017, or if you will finish school during 2018, you qualify for a year of fees-free provider-based tertiary education or two years of industry training in 2018. If you're not a recent school leaver, and you've done less than half a year of education or training (including tertiary study in any other country), you also qualify. Adults who are in study are entitled to subsidised childcare co if you are thinking of returning to study your child will be able to attend for the hours of your course.

www.feesfree.govt.nz



Sun Safety

The Village is an accredited Sun Smart Centre, with the Cancer Society. This means our environment, Policies and Procedures provide sun safety for children in our care. We ask parents to sun-block their child before they attend The Village in the morning, then sunblock is applied at regular intervals during the day to ensure protection. If you would like your child to wear an alternative sunblock to what is provided, please ensure you pack a named sunblock with your child each day. We also provide wide brimmed hats, but please feel free to pack a suitable hat for your child. At this time of

the year we spend a lot of time outside enjoying messy or water play. Please make sure you provide a rash-shirt or spare clothes for your child to wear during water play.

Self -Review

Every year we choose an aspect of the programme to examine and evaluate. With the introduction of the new Te Whariki (New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum) and the new standards for Registered Teachers we are looking to review our Policy on Teaching and Learning. As with all reviews we welcome your comment and suggestions on this topic.

Public Holiday Swap

There are two public holidays approaching – Auckland Anniversary Monday 29th January and Waitangi Day Tuesday 6th February. Please touch base with the teachers in your room if you would like to attend an alternative day.

Open Gate Days

Our Open Gate Days will come to an end on Friday 12th of January. From the 15th each room will resume its normal operating hours. It has been lovely to have a smaller group of children all together in the Explorers Room, lots of fun was had with the older children taking a lead role in supporting and encouraging the younger children. Open Gate Days will continue through the new term as Preschool and Explorers join together for group singing.



Claire Topping & the Team at the Village