

MORNING OSCAR

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Tēnā koutou & Greetings,

Staff Changes

This term sees some staffing changes at the OSCAR House Kelson morning care programme as we farewelled our long-time supervisor, Thilini. Thank you for the years of dedication to our programme, Thilini, the children and staff will miss having you as a part of our whanau. Replacing Thilini is Kelly, the OSCAR House Korokoro after school care supervisor. Kelly already knows many of the children from holiday programme but has been really enjoying meeting the children she doesn't yet know.

Mat Time

Prior to the shift in COVID-19 alert levels, our programme was settling into some minor code of conduct tweaks to make the morning run more smoothly for everyone. These include considerate volume levels, taking care with our bodies so we don't cause accidents and treating our equipment gently. We've been working on establishing the morning environment as a positive frame for the day's mood – a happy and relaxed morning makes for a better day. We have been discussing how the tone of our voices colours the words that we speak and trying to make the mindful choice to be the children we'd like to be friends with. So far, so good and we look forward to continuing with this once we return to school.

Morning Munchies

Some children are keen to eat out of their lunchbox during the morning programme, which presumably means they are missing out on a morning tea or lunch portion. If mornings are busy at home, we are happy for the children eat their breakfast at the table at OSCAR, if you put their breakfast food in some plastic containers ready for them to open, or in a named larger container to be left in the cupboard at OSCAR. We aren't sure if some children are now eating just because other children are. We can send you a text in the morning to let you know if your child is wanting to eat from their lunchbox and we can take it from there on your advice.

Games & Activities

As we move into Spring and the weather improves, we look forward to getting outside in the mornings. So far this term we've had to stay rugged up inside and it can make some of our more active children a little restless. We do still try to play at least one active group game each morning to get our bodies moving and shake off the Winter cobwebs - we are very fortunate to have the hall for our programme space as this broadens our game selection significantly. We've also been feeding our artistic souls with drawing, colouring and some small paper crafts. Our programme plan is full of other excellent crafts we can't wait to get our hands on as the term progresses.

New Game: Ibble Dibble

So far this term we've learnt a couple of new games and played plenty of old favourites. A new favourite is Ibble Dibble which we've altered to play with masking tape rather than ink dots. Ibble Dibble requires a roll of masking tape, a marker and a sharp brain. Children sit in a circle, each with a piece of tape on their forehead displaying a number. This is their Ibble Dibble number. They take turns saying a tongue twister phrase as fast as they can, and as accurately as possible. If they get the phrase wrong, they are awarded another plain piece of tape to stick to their face. These pieces of tape are called Dibble Ibbles. The more mistakes, the more Dibble Ibbles the child will have. The phrase is as follows:

"This is number [your number] Ibble Dibble with [your number of Dibble Ibbles] Dibble Ibbles calling on number [Somebody else's number] Ibble Dibble with [their number of Dibble Ibbles] Dibble Ibbles."

We played this game with Dalena when she visited us this term and had a lot of fun!

MESSAGE FROM DALENA AND KELSEY

Kia ora to our OSCAR House whanau,

COVID has certainly made an impact in all of our lives once again.

We hope you are all healthy and safe and making the most of family time together.

As you are all no doubt aware, the fees have been refunded for the period of closure and will be reissued when we get back to Level 2.

It's sad for our staff that they don't get to have a great time with your children during OSCAR hours and we hope it won't be too long until we are able to restart.

Until then, stay safe, stay strong and love one another lots.

Nga mihi mahana,

Dalena & Kelsey

Overall, we've had an excellent beginning to the term, despite the disruption, and we hope to continue exploring, crafting and playing next term.

Ngā mihi nui,

The OSCAR House Kelson Morning Care Team,
Kelly, Caelin & Hunter

