

WHĀNAU MANAAKI

For Whānau, not for profit

Whānau Pānui # 5

September , 2025



Nau mai, haere mai.

**Welcome to our Whānau Manaaki
Parent & Whānau Pānui | Newsletter.**

This issue we talk about:

- **Reminder on Fees**
- **Moving to Full Year**
- **E Tū Kaha Campaign**
- **Learning Support**
- **High Quality ECE in Action**



visit us to find out more
www.wmkindergartens.org.nz

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome to Spring! We hope you are enjoying the longer daylight hours and the spring flowers and lambs, along with the unpredictable weather.

We have produced two Whānau Panui (Family Newsletters) this term as we want to remind you of the changes we are making in response to government funding decisions.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Whānau Manaaki



Featured image: On your marks, get set and go at Whanganui East Kindergarten.
Above image: Arohanui Kindergarten celebrating Cook Island Language Week.

Increases to Fees

From next term, Monday October 6, our fees in most of our kindergartens are going up by \$1 per hour. Remember if this makes things difficult for you, talk to your head teacher and we will see how we can support you.

From next year we will also need to charge fees during term breaks when kindergartens are open – see more details below.

If you pay your fees by automatic payment (AP) please remember to update your AP to take account of the fee increase.

Fee Statements

During September and October we will be issuing additional fee statements so that these do not contain a mix of fee rates. The timetable for statements issued over this period will be as follows:

Statement Date	Period Covered
Thursday, 18 September:	Statements Issued for 4 September - 17 September (old fee rates)
Friday, 03 October:	Statements Issued for 18 September - 30 September (old fee rates)
Thursday, 09 October:	Statements Issued for 01 October - 03 October (old fee rates)
Thursday, 16 October:	First Statements Issued with New Fee Rates 06 October - 10 October (new rates)

After this, you will receive regular fortnightly statements to keep you up-to-date on your fees.

Family Boost

Many families will be eligible for a 40 percent fee rebate through Family Boost, a government initiative managed by Inland Revenue. We will be sending out Quarterly FamilyBoost statements to support your FamilyBoost applications. Your first Quarterly FamilyBoost Statement will be emailed to you in mid October and will cover the quarter from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

If you have any questions about your Quarterly FamilyBoost Statement, please email: Familyboost@wmkindergartens.org.nz

You do need to be registered with MyIR to access your rebate.

How to Apply: Visit the Inland Revenue website FamilyBoost or contact Inland Revenue directly: 0800 767 287 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm). Ensure you're registered on the **MyIR portal** to receive the rebate. – Contact Inland Revenue directly on 0800 700 334.

If you need help email Familyboost@wmkindergartens.org.nz

Other Fee Changes

When kindergartens open on 12 January 2026, we will be charging weekly fees consistently throughout the year except when kindergarten is closed. This means fees will be charged during school term breaks and when children are absent due to illness or other non-attendance.

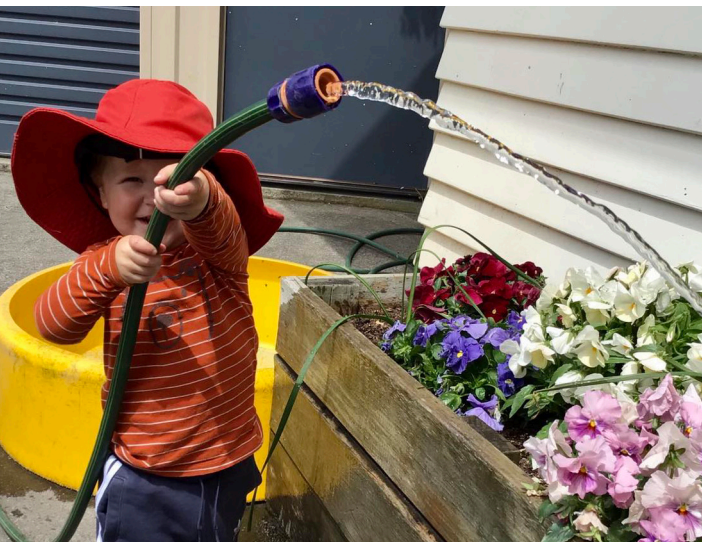
We know that this is a change, and we are really sorry we have to make this move. Unfortunately, our level of government funding means we need to make these changes.

Kindergartens Moving to Full Year

We are working through the processes to having the remaining 37 of our kindergartens move to full year i.e opening for approximately 49 weeks of the year. We have around 10 years experience of kindergartens transitioning to full year operation, and we are following our usual processes. Please be assured that our kindergarten teachers and support staff retain all their current entitlements such as leave when we do move to full year operation.



Top image: Sunshine Kindergarten in Karori
Bottom image: Pikopiko Clyde Quay Kindergarten, Mount Victoria, Wellington.



Are you following us?

Facebook [whānaumanaakikindergartens](#)

Instagram [whānaumanaaki](#)

Tik tok [whānaumanaaki](#)



E Tū Kaha is a Whānau Manaaki campaign that encourages our staff and kaiako to advocate for early childhood education (ECE) as a public good and a right for all tamariki in Aotearoa.

E Tū Kaha is our campaign that encourages our staff, kaiako and the community to advocate for early childhood education (ECE) as a public good and a right for all tamariki in Aotearoa New Zealand. We advocate for funding and policy including regulations to keep early childhood education affordable and high quality. Our service is currently at risk because of government funding and moves to reduce standards that would water down the educational focus of our services.

Support the E Tū Kaha campaign!

We encourage whānau and community members who are interested to get involved in the E Tū Kaha campaign.

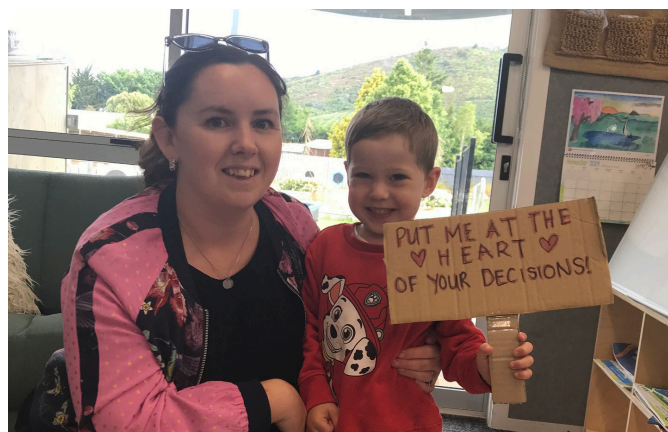
Want to support the campaign?

- Please contact us by emailing campaigns@wmkindergartens.org.nz with the subject line 'campaign'.
- Include your name, phone number and which Kindergarten you're connected to.

Happy to speak with the media?

We are also looking for whānau members who would be willing to speak to the media in support of high-quality early childhood education as a public good. We can support people to do this. If this sounds like you, please email: campaigns@wmkindergartens.org.nz with the subject line 'Media'.

Please include your name, phone number, which Kindergarten you're connected to and a little bit about you.



Top to bottom: Pouputunoa Kindergarten, putting tamariki at the heart of everything they do.

Bottom image: Tamariki at Paremata Creche

Teaching & Learning

Co-Regulation – Supporting Ourselves and Our Tamariki

Co-regulation is the process of regulating your child's emotions through connection and sharing your calm presence. Children learn to manage big feelings over time and with lots of practice, through the safe, steady support of trusted adults. Before children can regulate on their own, they need us to help them.

Step 1: Tune in to yourself

Being aware is the first step. It's natural to feel activated when children show big emotions – notice if you are feeling flushed, a racing heart, clenched jaw, tense shoulders, or have a sharp voice.

Step 2: Regulate yourself

Simple strategies like sipping cold water, purposefully releasing tension in your body, taking 3 slow breaths, or quietly reminding yourself 'they are not giving me a hard time, they are having a hard time' can help reset body and mind. Pausing helps us to respond rather than react. When you feel calm, your child feels it too. They notice your steady rhythm, your gentler voice, your relaxed shoulders, your slow breaths. By showing them what regulation looks like, you invite them to do the same.

Step 3: Notice and respond to your child

Now you can tune in to child's needs. Are they hungry, thirsty, need a nappy change or are they tired? Consider if they need downregulation (a story, a weighted blanket, quiet time?) Or do they need up-regulation (a run outside, dancing to music or bouncing on the trampoline). Every child is different, and it may take trial and error.

Sometimes co-regulation involves cuddling on the couch, other times it might be energetic play together.

The key is to slow down, connect, and respond to their cues. By regulating ourselves first, we show tamariki that emotions are safe and manageable. Co-regulation isn't about 'fixing' emotions or stopping the tears, it's about being alongside your child, so they feel safe while their storm passes. With your support, tamariki slowly learn that emotions come and go, and that they can find their way back to balance.



High Quality Education (ECE) In Action

Milton Kindergarten

Connect with the wider natural environment and materials drawn from nature.



Taitoko Kindergarten

‘Haunui-a-Nanaia the tekoteko’ is standing strong in the mara. High quality ECE includes a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and creating spaces where tamariki can be grounded in te ao Māori.



Kimbolton Kindergarten

Tamariki are developing social skills that teach them how to establish and maintain friendships.



Brooklyn Kindergarten

Carpentry teaches skills to handle new challenges, including the ability, coordination and confidence to take risks.