

Country kids

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH
2026

Leaping into 2026 with a grin!



PikoPiko

Settling back in and building relationships

Over recent weeks, tamariki in the Pikopiko ruma (Infants and Toddlers room) have been settling back into the familiarity and comfortability of Country Kids! It is always hard coming back from a wonderful summer holiday with family, but having predictable routines, caring and engaging kaiako and fun learning opportunities, makes this transition much smoother.

We are seeing trusting relationships develop with our new kaiako, Erica, as children seek her out for comfort, share play experiences, and invite her into their learning. Peer connections are also strengthening, with tamariki engaging in parallel play, sharing resources, and building early social skills.

We look forward to our Whānau Morning at the end of March as an opportunity to further strengthen relationships between tamariki, whānau, and kaiako.



Ngā whetū Settling, Belonging, and Growing Friendships

Over the past few weeks, our tamariki have been settling confidently back into the rhythm of our days. Familiar rituals and routines are supporting our children to feel secure and to understand what comes next. These predictable experiences are strengthening their sense of belonging within our learning community.

We are noticing friendships continuing to blossom as children seek one another out for play, work alongside each other in parallel and cooperative experiences, and begin to use more language to express their ideas and needs. Tamariki are learning to take turns, share resources, and include others in their play.

Children are also becoming more aware of group expectations. With gentle reminders, they are practising “gentle hands,” using kind words, and beginning to follow simple rules that help keep everyone safe.

It is wonderful to see the confidence and connection our tamariki are building as they settle, strengthen relationships, and embrace their place in our centre whānau.



Just 4 Kids Rhyming fun with Dr Seuss

Over the past few weeks, our Just 4 Kids room have been exploring the playful world of Dr. Seuss, discovering the joy of rhythm, rhyme, and silly sound combinations. Through shared stories, word play, and group discussions, tamariki have been experimenting with creating their own rhyming words, noticing patterns in language, and developing early phonological awareness skills.

We've heard lots of giggles as children invent nonsense rhymes, clap out syllables, and confidently join in with repetitive phrases. These experiences are strengthening early literacy foundations while fostering creativity and confidence with language.

Because rhyming and word play often happen in the moment — through conversation, laughter, and spontaneous storytelling — it can be tricky to capture in photographs. So instead, you'll see photos of tamariki loving life at Country Kids, enjoying friendships, outdoor adventures, and the joy of learning together.

