



Cambridge Early Learning Centre

December 2024

Kia Ora & Welcome!

Yay Summer has arrived ... the festive season is on the way with lots of fun to be had on the way to the main event, Christmas.

- ♦ **Wednesday 4th December**—Last day for Cookie Time cookie bucket orders
- ♦ **Friday 6th December**—Children's Christmas Party
- ♦ **Tuesday 24th December**—The Centre opens at 8.00am and closes for the year at 2.00pm, Merry Christmas to all of our families.
- ♦ **Wednesday 25th December**—Christmas Day, have fun with your loved ones 😊
- ♦ **Thursday 26th December**—Boxing Day, rest & recover or enjoy the sales at the shops 😊
- ♦ **Tuesday 31st December**—New Year's Eve, 2025 is not too far away.
- ♦ **ADVANCED NOTICE:**
- ♦ **Wednesday 8th January 2025**—The Centre re-opens at 7.30am ... Happy New Year 😊

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STAFF NEWS:

- Welcome to Brooke M, who has started at the Centre as our cleaner. As part of her role, Brooke will also be helping out with the children when needed. It's great to have you join the team.

THANK YOU:

- Thank you so much to Vege Fresh, Cambridge who have again sponsored our bread and onions for Friday night's Children's Christmas Party. 
- Thank you to all of the Pagoda families that supported the Pagoda's cookie dough and croissant fundraiser. We have raised a total of \$451.50 towards the Pagoda kai table to date, with a few more products left to sell. 😊
- A HUGE thank you to all of our Centre Grandparents that came in to spend time with their grandchild(ren). So much fun was had by all, the children really enjoy sharing their daycare life with you. 😊

GRASSROOTS TRUST GRANT:

We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Grassroots Trust for their approval of \$5,000.00 partial funding from our application for replacement of the Toddler sandpit decking and boardwalk. We are very grateful for their support to make large jobs like this possible, and we look forward to seeing this work completed in the New Year. We will need to make application for assistance with the remainder of the project costs first. 😊

CHRISTMAS HOURS:

Thank you to all of our families for returning your holiday notice. We have had a review of our hours for Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th December), and with child numbers much lower than a 'normal' day our hours of operation on Christmas Eve will now be 8.00am to 2.00pm.

The Centre will re-open as planned on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30am.

Our staff are looking forward to a well deserved break with their families, and we are all looking forward to welcoming you back in 2025. 😊

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS



PARTY:

Friday 6th December between
6.00—7.30pm at The Castle



We are looking forward to hosting another amazing Christmas party for our children and their parents.

Could you please bring a wrapped, named present for Centre children only to the office by Thursday 5th December. Santa will be giving these out to the children, starting with the Nursery aged children first (siblings will be included at this time).

There will be a sausage sizzle, Pete the Pirate helping everyone get their dancing feet going, novelty balloons and a lot of fun!!

RSVP's are on both The Castle and The Pagoda sign in counters. Please note: there is a limit of 2 adults per family.

Could each family please bring a gold coin donation for the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade who are bringing 'Flick' and taking the children on rides

Please note: this is an alcohol free event.

CHILDREN'S BOOKINGS 2025:



2025 Bookings: we have been fortunate to enrol many new children in our Nursery during the early months of 2025. We look forward to welcoming new siblings, and we would like to say a big thank you to the parents who have been recommending your friends and family to come and join us. 😊

With transition groups sorted from Nursery to Toddlers and Toddlers to Pagoda for the first few months of 2025, we are now very heavily booked across the Centre. We have a lengthy waiting list of families wishing to enrol which means 2025 is off to a great start.

We will continue to do our best to assist you with any changes that may be required, but please be aware that this is becoming increasingly difficult.



The Nursery

0-18 months



Kia Ora Nursery whanau,

*Farewell— We say haere raa to our friends Margaux, Millie, Charlie and Fleur who have now joined the Toddler room. We wish you and your whanau all the very best on this next adventure.

*Summer time - We will continue to sunblock tamariki twice a day so if you want them wearing it first thing in the morning you will need to apply this at home. We recommend sending plenty of spare clothes and a wet-bag with your child everyday.

*Christmas - It's that wonderful time of year! We will be decorating, singing carols and all the fun Christmas activities that go along with it. Make sure to save the date of our Christmas party on the calendar.

*Wanted - Scoops, e.g. From formula tins, protein powder, washing powder etc.

Lastly, we are really looking forward to a fun, jam packed December

Ngaa mihi'

Nursery team.



The Toddlers

18 months-3 Years



The lead up to Christmas is finally here

- Our room is decorated and the tree is up and ready to go, with help from the wonderful children.
- We have the Centre Christmas Party - Friday 6th December. As we are moving the outdoor playground for the party lets have a wheels day during Friday 6th as well. Please bring a bike/ scooter/ helmet etc for Friday drop off .
- During the month of December some of us will be walking up to the Town Hall for the children to see the Christmas Festival.
- For the end of year, please remember to check the lost property as this will be cleared out over the Christmas period. Also please remember to take home your child's art work located under lost property.
- We would love to see or hear about how your family celebrate this time of year and your family traditions. We would also love to hear about what families get up to over the Christmas break. Feel free to post on your child's Story park as we use these photos as displays in the room, and for the children to talk about at mat times. It's a lovely way to weave home and Centre life together.

Lastly we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe, have fun and see you in 2025!!

Carla, Kristi, Charlie, Michele, Maddi, Katy, Emily and Stacey



The Pagoda 3-5 years



A big **THANK YOU** to all that helped with our cookie and croissant fundraiser, raising funds for our new Kai table. We will be processing the orders and distributing them on Thursday 12th December.

Trips: Thank you to all the parents who helped us on our big bus trip out to Maungatautari last week, and to all who have their names down to help with our Berry Farm trip the following week. We wouldn't be able to do these trips without your support.



Shared Morning Tea: On Wednesday 18th December, The Pagoda will be having a shared lunch to celebrate the end of the year. Please bring a plate of food to share for the day. Please refer to the list of foods we cannot accept on our community link via Storypark.

Sunblock Reminder: Please ensure that your child arrives at the Centre wearing sunblock.

Togs and Rash shirts: We do lots of water play during the summer months, please remember to name your children's togs and rash shirts, as well as providing a wet bag for them to return home in.

Christmas Hours: Our opening hours for Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December are
8am–2pm.

Wishing you all a very Merry and safe Christmas and New Year spent with your loved ones.

The Pagoda teachers are looking forward to a summer break and welcoming you all back in 2025. We can't wait to hear all about your wonderful summer adventures.

Keryn's Corner

STRAWBERRY & CHICKEN SALAD with STRAWBERRY DRESSING

Prep time: 10 mins Cook: 15 mins Serves: 4

Ingredients:

Olive oil—1 Tbsp

Chicken Breast—400 g

Strawberries, tops removed—250g

Baby cos lettuce, roughly shredded—1

Mint leaves—1/4 cup

Garlic, sliced thinly—2 cloves

Cajun seasoning—2 tsp

White wine vinegar—1 Tbsp

Avocado, sliced—1

Walnuts, toasted—1/2 cup

Method:

- ◆ Heat the oil in a large frying pan to medium heat. Add the sliced garlic, cooking for 2-3 minutes until golden. Spoon the garlic out of the pan and set aside.
- ◆ Season the chicken breast with the Cajun and add to the pan, cooking for 7 minutes each side or until cooked through. Remove from the pan and let it rest before cutting into slices.
- ◆ For the dressing, blitz or mash 5 strawberries with the vinegar. Cut the remaining strawberries into quarters.
- ◆ To assemble the salad, into a large bowl, place the separated cos leaves, chicken, fried garlic, avocado, and strawberries. Sprinkle over the mint leaves and toasted walnuts, and drizzle the dressing before tossing well.



Credit to: Woolworths Recipes NZ



Finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our centre families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back in 2025.



Merry
Christmas
everyone

