

3rd July 2026

Session Overview

Matariki Celebration: Honouring Our First Term Together

Our final session of the term was a beautiful opportunity to slow down, celebrate Matariki and reflect on all that has grown within our little **Balance & Bloom** community over the past few months.

We began, as always, by gathering together in circle, singing our welcome songs and revisiting our much-loved problem-solving song, which the children have become wonderfully confident with over the term. It was also lovely to welcome some new and returning faces into our space.

The heart of our session centred around two special creative experiences...



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Mānawatia a Matariki!

🌟 Founding Family Stars

Each child decorated a wooden star ornament to take home as a keepsake of our very first term together. The stars sparkled with glitter, jewels and creativity, and each child chose a tassel colour to complete their decoration. These special stars honour the families who have helped shape and nurture the beginnings of our Balance & Bloom community.

🍪 Mini Cookie Canvas Experience

Inspired by one of Becki's Youthful Creatives workshops, children became little baking artists, decorating moon and star cookies with beautifully marbled fondant icing and a final flourish of edible glitter. As always, it was a joy to witness the individuality and creativity that emerged in each child's unique designs.

🌌 Matariki Nature Playdough

Our charcoal-infused night-sky playdough invited children to create their own sparkling constellations, sprinkling in star glitter and exploring the wonder and beauty of the night sky through sensory play.



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To close our time together, we gathered in a gratitude circle and reflected on our term together, sharing things we had loved, appreciated and remembered. We also explored the stars of Matariki and their meanings, before gathering our beautiful cookies in the centre for one final celebratory photo.

Each child also received a handmade bookmark, lovingly created with pressed flowers and a special message: "Thank you for helping our community bloom."

As we finished our very first full term together, we were reminded of one of the beautiful teachings of Matariki:



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Mānawatia a Matariki!



✨ to remember ✨ to give thanks ✨ to celebrate the present ✨ and to dream into the future.
Thank you to all of our founding families for helping this little community take root and bloom. We cannot wait to continue growing together next term.

