

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has enrolled in Nature’s Den forest & farm school programme. I am writing to ask your permission for her/him to attend once a week on a Wednesday/Thursday/Friday during the term at our Brookby/Drury Hills/Pukekohe site.

**What is Nature’s Den?**

We offer a one-day a week forest & farm school programme for tamariki between 4-13 years old.

We are an independent non-for-profit organisation. We are not required to register through MOE, as we are not a school. However, our programme is run by qualified and New Zealand registered teachers.

The Ministry have advised us that our programme falls under the New Zealand Education Act section 25B Release from school: *The principal of a State school may, if satisfied that a student will receive outside the school tuition acceptable to the principal, release the student from attendance at the school, for a period or periods agreed with a parent of that student, to receive the tuition.*

Schools determine how to mark the children who will be attending EOTC at Nature’s Den. Most schools who we work alongside mark the students as ‘Justified absence’ or ‘Learning offsite’. We are happy to inform the school of any days that the student is absent at Nature’s Den for recording purposes.

We have stringent health and safety policies in place to protect all children attending, that the BOT/School is welcome to look through upon request.

We are responsible for the children's health and safety while they attend Nature's Den at all times. However, by the school approving a child's attendance, they are also retaining the primary duty for the child's health and wellbeing according to the Act.

If the student is involved in any accidents/incidents while they are attending Nature's Den, we take full responsibility, not the child's school.

Our outdoor classroom is surrounded by nature, with open spaces for children to learn and grow through exploration.

Our curriculum is supported by the key competencies of the Early Childhood Curriculum (Te Whāriki) and the New Zealand School Curriculum.

We work in partnership with your school and aim to show how we can complement what you already do to benefit the child.

The child’s holistic development (social, emotional, spiritual, physical and cognitive) is nurtured through enriching free play experiences that foster their curiosity, confidence, innovation, resilience and imagination.

Our tamariki will learn how to problem-solve and take risks in a safe environment, and they will learn how to care for and respect the environment as well as others.

They will learn through real authentic experiences, such as learning how to build huts, tie ropes, cooking food on a campfire, collecting loose parts, discovering who lives in our native bush, protecting the streams, and working out theories together to problem-solve.

You are more than welcome to contact me at alex@naturesden.co.nz for more information.

**Ngā mihi,**

**Alex Sherie – Director/Lead Educator**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to attend Nature’s Den forest & farm school programme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_