



7th October
2025

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo ō te Kura ō Hato Hoāni
The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whānau,

WELCOME BACK

It is wonderful to welcome everyone back for what promises to be an incredibly rewarding and memorable Term 4! The holidays were certainly a well-deserved break, and we hope all our students and whānau managed to rest, recharge, and enjoy some quality time together. A special welcome to the new students in Room 10 who are just beginning their St John's learning journey.

As we enter this final leg of the school year, we're keenly aware of the busy, joyful energy that always defines Term 4. We'll be celebrating the amazing progress our students have made throughout the year, from the youngest children starting their school journey to our senior students preparing for their next steps. This term offers countless opportunities to learn, grow, and love, all while celebrating our unique Special Catholic Character.

KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE PROGRAMME

This term the school will be taking part in the Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme. This is a personal safety programme, designed by New Zealand Police - Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa which aims to:

- teach students a range of safe practices that they can use when interacting with other people, both online and face to face.
- teach students how to recognise the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and encourage students who have been or are being abused to seek help.
- prevent abuse by making parents and teachers more aware of their responsibilities to help students avoid abuse.

We invite parents to a meeting with our school Community Officer to find out more about Keeping Ourselves Safe.

The meeting will be held in the School Hall on Tuesday, October 14th at 9:00am.

More information about the programme can also be found on the [NZ Police website](#).



USING THE CHURCH CAR PARK

We have been informed that a small number of parents have been seen using the Presbytery driveway which is accessed off the slip road on East Coast Rd. This is a private driveway, and we ask that you do not use it.

Vehicle access to the church car park is from Hastings Road only.



MISSION FAIR

On Friday, Week 2, the children will gather and participate in social outreach through our annual Mission Fair. Following the success of last year's new format where funds were contributed through Kindo, we will be using this format again this year. Please refer to the email from Mrs Mountjoy that you received at the end of last term (September 16th) for more details.

This is a NON-UNIFORM DAY; however, children are still required to wear a hat for sun safety. This does not need to be the uniform hat.



The beneficiary this year is Caritas NZ for their support of the crisis in the Holy Land. When disasters and conflict cause suffering across the globe, Caritas is there to help.

Currently in Gaza entire neighbourhoods lie in rubble. Water, food, electricity and medical care are severely restricted. Entire communities are cut off from essential supplies due to a blockade. Children are dying from hunger. Caritas NZ is partnering with Caritas Jerusalem, allowing their support to be got to those who need it the most.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The school is generally a no dog site, however, for school families we make exceptions during pick up and drop off. For this to continue, we need to ensure that our school is safe for everyone, including our furry friends.

Please remember that for the safety of our students and staff, any dog brought onto school grounds must always be on a short lead and **under the control and direct supervision of an adult, i.e. the adult is holding the lead at all times**. We also ask that they stay outside the classrooms. If you wish to go into the classroom, we ask that your dog stays at home or in the car. Thank you for your co-operation.



NEAREST AND DEAREST

Last term, we shared our intention to reschedule our 'Nearest and Dearest' Day to sometime this term. Whilst we have selected a tentative date in Week 6, we are cognisant that the school calendar this term is already incredibly full. With a number of upcoming school events, including a Teacher Only Day, and the possibility of a strike day (which we are awaiting further information on), we are very conscious that we are asking a lot from family members who wish to share in these events in terms of taking time off work to attend or to look after their children while the school is closed.

We want to respect your time and not place an excessive burden on families. Therefore, we are seeking your input on how to proceed:

Would you prefer to:

1. **Hold 'Nearest and Dearest' Day this term** (Tuesday 11th November from 8:50am - 11:00am)
2. **Postpone 'Nearest and Dearest' Day until next year.**

Please let us know your preference by completing a [short online poll](#) by this Friday 10th October. Your feedback will help us make the best decision for our whole school community (looking at the majority response). Thank you for your understanding and continuous support.

SCHOOL PHOTOS



Photolife are coming once again to take our school photos. Sports photos are scheduled for **Tuesday 21st October**, with class, individual and sibling photos the following day on **Wednesday 22nd October**.

All children will be photographed for a class photo and an individual photo. We ask that children are in tidy and correct full Summer uniform for class and individual photos.

SPORTS PHOTOS: All teams will be photographed in their PE gear, with the exception of Netball and Basketball, which will be photographed in the uniform they play in.

Coaches and Managers are very welcome to join their teams for their photographs; however, we are unable to provide a specific running order or indication of what time of day specific teams will have their photograph taken. If you would like to attend and have some flexibility, please email Karen Dorrington at sports@sjmb.school.nz who may be able to give more guidance on timing closer to the date.

SIBLING PHOTOS: If you wish for your children to have a sibling photograph where they are photographed together **Photolife require a completed request form**, these should be returned to the school office as soon as possible and before 22nd October. No family will be photographed without this form. These will be coming home with your eldest child this week. Extra or replacement copies are available in the school office. Sibling photograph packs can be ordered and paid for, in due course, in the same way as the individual and class photos.

ORDERING PHOTOS: The ordering of Class, Individual and Sports Team photographs is online. This system works on a specific link to your child's name. After we have approved the proofs Photolife will email caregivers directly with a 'shoot key' code which you use to view and order your children's photographs online. The shoot key is unique to your child and gives a high level of security; students cannot access other student's photographs, and the system ensures images cannot be 'grabbed' off the internet and printed or posted to social media sites.

YUMMY APPLES – coming to a close

Just a reminder that we are collecting stickers from Yummy apples. We are nearly at the end of the promotion.

Can all sheets and stickers be handed into the office by the end of this week, including incomplete sheets. New charts also available from the office if needed.



POTENTIAL NATIONWIDE TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF STRIKE – 23rd OCTOBER

You will have seen in the media that there is a potential strike day that may affect our school operations on Thursday, October 23rd. This may mean that, for the health and safety of our children, the school may need to close.

We understand that this possibility raises questions, and we are committed to providing you with clear and timely information. The Board is meeting later this week. Please be assured that as soon as the board has met and a decision is reached or more details are available, we will communicate the outcome to you directly **via email**.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this situation. Please keep an eye on your inbox for our next update following the board meeting.

God bless,
Marina Binns - Principal/Tumuaki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



October is the Month of the Rosary, a time to pause and reflect with Mary, the Mother of God. Across the school, all classes are encouraged to pray part of the Rosary daily. Classes will focus on their year-level Mysteries (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, or Luminous), praying one Mystery each day, journeying through the life of Jesus with Mary.

The *Hail Mary* combines the Angel Gabriel's and Elizabeth's greetings with the Church's centuries-old petition for Mary's intercession. At this conflicted time in our human history, the Rosary can provide calm and connection to God through reflecting on the stories of Mary and Jesus.

Follow the link [How to Pray the Rosary for Kids](#) for all you need to know to lead your family this October.

Arohanui,
Cara Mountjoy – DRS

SCHOOL UNIFORM

CHANGEOVER TO THE SUMMER UNIFORM

Term 4 marks the changeover to our Summer uniform. For more information on the uniform, please see the uniform page on the [school website](#).

Due to the fluctuating weather, there is a two-week period at the beginning of the Term where students can wear either uniform. We ask that the full Summer OR Winter uniform is worn and they are not mixed.

All students are required to be in full Summer uniform from Week 3, Monday 20th October.

Summer

Dress:	Blue check dress with white collar and red tie
Culottes:	Navy with school name
Shorts:	Navy with school name
Shirt:	Freight blue monogrammed short sleeve polo
Fleece:	Navy zip front monogrammed polar fleece
Ribbons:	Red, navy, blue or white
Shoes:	Leather sandals plain, flat black Roman sandal style
Hat:	Navy monogrammed bucket hat – Term 1 & 4

SUN SMART

As we move into the warmer months, it is important for all students to wear hats during outdoor activities to protect against the strong UV rays in New Zealand. Sun safety is a priority, and wearing hats helps ensure we stay safe and healthy while enjoying time outdoors.

All children are required to wear the school hat when playing outside in Term 4. This starts at the beginning of the term, irrespective of what uniform the children are wearing. If they do not have their hat, they will need to play in the shade. Hats can be purchased from [NZ Uniform](#).

Please ensure that ALL items that your child/ren bring to school are clearly named.

We also ask that they bring their full P.E. uniform to school on Monday morning and that it is left at school then returned home on Friday if it needs washing.

PTFA

NEXT PTFA MEETING: TONIGHT **Tuesday 7th October**, 7:00pm in the school staff room.

St. John's PTFA



BEATS BY



BINGO



With DJ Disco Dad



Friday 17th October
7pm-11pm

BYO food/drink

St. John's School Hall
\$27 per person

 **Tickets and more
information available on Kindo**

Beats by Bingo – Adults only Social Night!

Get ready for a night of music, laughter, and a touch of disco magic!

Join us in the **School Hall** for a high-energy **Beats by Bingo** show hosted by the one and only **Disco Dad** — a professional entertainer who knows how to turn bingo into a full-blown party! 

 Check him out here: rattlethecage.co.nz/beatsbybingo

 **Doors open: 7:00pm**

 **Show starts: 8:00pm – 10:00pm**

Disco Dad's DJ set: 10:00pm – 11:00pm

 Stay and dance the night away!

Expect **music, games, laughs, and surprises** — plus **awesome prizes** up for grabs throughout the night! 

 **BYO food and drinks** — bring your favourite platter and tipples to enjoy.

 **Come with friends or come solo** — no need to book a table! We'll have open seating and a friendly atmosphere, so it's a great chance to mix, mingle, and meet new people.

Don't miss it — grab your friends and get your tickets before they're gone!

ST JOHN'S DADS – JOIN THE CREW



Hey dads 🤝

We've started a new WhatsApp group just for us at St John's. A place to connect, lend a hand when we can, and back up our kids and school in fun, practical ways.

Think of it as dads showing up together — sometimes to help out, sometimes just to hang out (yes, pub trips are on the cards 🍺).

We thought a fun first project could be flipping a few burgers at the Twilight Fun Fair — Dad's Burger Shack 🍔

The mums do such an awesome job — now let's add some dad muscle 💪 and make a difference.

If you are interested, please contact the class CLP to join.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

This term's calendar is jam-packed, so please make sure to keep a close eye on the dates being added to the Google calendar.

We look forward to sharing time with you through many events over the next ten weeks. We understand that family life is busy and full of commitments, and we want to assure you, while you are always welcome, there is absolutely no expectation that you attend every school event; please simply choose the activities that work best for your whānau.

With so many things scheduled, I thought I would highlight some team and whole school events (there are more events in the calendar).

Week 1; Friday 10 th October	PTFA Children's Magic Show
Week 2; Tuesday 14 th October	Parent Information Session- Keeping Ourselves Safe (9:00am)
Week 2; Friday 17 th October	Mission Fair
Week 2; Friday 17 th October	PTFA Parents Social - Beats by Bingo
Week 3; Tuesday 21 st October	Photolife Sport Photos
Week 3; Wednesday 22 nd October	Photolife Class, Individual and Sibling Photos
Week 3; Thursday 23 rd October	Potential Strike Day
Week 4; Monday 27 th October	Labour Day (school closed for public holiday)
Week 4; Wednesday 29 th October	Waitemata Athletics Day (Year 4-6)
Week 5; Tuesday 4 th November	PTFA monthly meeting
Week 5; Friday 7 th November	Staff Only Day (school closed)
Week 7; Wednesday 19 th November	Rangitoto Run, Jump, Throw Day (Year 0-3)
Week 7; Friday 21 st November	PTFA Twilight Fun Fair
Week 9; Friday 5 th December	End of Year Mass and Year 6 celebration
Week 10; Friday 12 th December	Rangitoto Christmas Show
Week 11; Tuesday 16 th December	School finishes for the year (12:00pm)

Keep up to date with school events through downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar.

[Link to download calendar](#)

FROM THE PARISH

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays, 10:30am – 12.00 noon for a 10-minute slot. Please make an appointment through: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

3rd Sunday: 9.00 am Mass St. John's Church. Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz

NEWSLETTER - For more information from the Parish, please see [their regular newsletter](#).

PARISH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 2025!



Are you aged 7 or older, love to sing (this is very important) and would like to have a special role in our Parish Children's Christmas Eve Mass at St Francis Church on December 24th?

Come along and learn the songs to lead this special celebration and be part of the dramatization of the Nativity story during the mass.

Practices will take place on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30pm at St Francis Church, Torbay beginning Sunday 2nd November.

You will need to be able to commit to all of these practices during the months of November and December.

Boys and girls both welcome.

For Enquiries and to register your child email – lindy@willplan.co.nz

