



5th May
2026

NEWSLETTER

Te Reo o te Kura o Hato Hoani
The voice of St John's School

Kia ora whānau,

Welcome to Week 3. It has been lovely watching the children playing in the sunshine over the last few days, enjoying the fine autumnal weather. I would like to thank Mr Ritson for the work he has been doing in the gully playground. He has lowered the high spinning bars, making them, while still challenging, more accessible for the children and has done some work on the log structures, giving them a new life as walking planks and seats.

COLOUR RUN



Only 10 days to go! Thank you to all the families who have signed up for our upcoming Colour Run. We have over 220 fundraisers signed up and have raised over \$13,000. This is a phenomenal effort. The team have been working hard in the background to plan a fantastic event for the children. Specific information will come out separately on what the children need for the day.

Congratulations to the large number of children who have received spot prizes over the last two assemblies. There is another draw this week as well as a final chance to choose a staff member to dress up for the day. To be in the draw, you need to have signed up as a fundraiser on Raiselt and have at least \$50 in donations. Next week we will be announcing the individual prize winners and the overall class prize winners. Check out the prizes on the [Fundraising Home Page](#).

UNIFORM

As we begin Week 3, we ask that all children are now in their full Winter uniform.

- For shoes, these are completely black leather-like lace up, velcro, buckle or T-bar school shoes with a heel height of no greater than 2.5cm. Black trainers are not considered school shoes. If you are unsure, please discuss with the school.
- There are no specific school socks, they just need to be black wool/elastine mix knee high socks.
- If your child prefers to wear short sleeves with the shorts or culottes, they can continue this over the Winter terms.

RIPPA RUGBY FESTIVAL

Last Thursday 52 of our Year 3-6 children headed over to the East Coast Bays Rugby Club fields to participate in a fun festival. The children had a lot of fun playing different schools over the day. Four of our boys joined with Browns Bay School to form a Tackle team. While it was a little odd seeing them in a different uniform, it was lovely seeing them representing the school in their sport.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who supported the children on the day. We couldn't have done it without you and hope you had as much fun as the children did.





MOTHER'S DAY



As we approach Mother's Day, our school community wants to extend a sincere "thank you" to all the mothers, grandmothers, and mother-figures among us.

We know that "mothering" is a complex role. It is a commitment to showing up, day after day, in whatever capacity life requires of you. We see you in the school car park, at our liturgies, assisting with trips and class activities and behind the scenes, providing the stability and love that allow our tamariki to thrive. Your influence is the quiet glue that holds our community together. You model for our children the values of compassion, resilience, and faith in action.

A Mother's Day Blessing

God of Grace,

We thank You for the women who nurture our community with such dedication.

We ask Your blessing on them today:

Give them strength for the tasks at hand, patience for the challenges that arise, and joy in the small, quiet moments with their children.

May they feel valued for who they are, not just for what they do. May Mary, our Mother, be their constant companion and a source of comfort.

We hold in our hearts those for whom this weekend is also a time of memory or longing.

May Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, be with them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

However you spend this Sunday – whether it's a quiet day at home or a busy family gathering – we hope you feel the deep appreciation of your children and this school community.

CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORT STAFF

Next week we celebrate our Support Staff Day. This day is a celebration of the valuable contributions made by the various support staff members in our school, including Learning Support and Language Assistants, Resource Management Staff, Administration Staff, and our Caretaker, Sport Co-ordinator and Librarian.

Our support staff often work with our most vulnerable of students as well as providing valuable assistance to the school in running programmes, events and managing our office and school site.

Loving God, we express our gratitude and offer a blessing for the dedicated individuals who form the foundation of our school's support staff.

We acknowledge their tireless efforts, their unwavering commitment, and their often unseen but essential work.

May your strength and guidance be with them as they navigate the challenges of their roles.

May they find joy in their work, and may their efforts bring positive outcomes for all.

*We thank you for their presence in our lives, and we pray for their well-being and success.
Amen.*

God bless,
Marina Binns

MOTHER'S DAY WRITING FROM ROOM 8

My Mum deserves the best mum award because she is 'Owlmazing' at cooking especially baking. She takes care of me when I'm feeling sad. She also tickles me and makes me feel really good. Her hair looks like shiny chocolate, and her eyes look like the twinkling stars in the far away space. Her heart is always like a blooming flower. Her skin feels like a blanket and her voice is soft as a pillow. She's sweet as cotton candy and her baking is yummy as sushi. She smells like nature. She's kind as a bunny because she's always proud of us even if we don't do well.

She still makes us study because she comes to our flippaball games, and netball. Her smile is bright as the shining stars, and she always works hard for me and my brother. She gives us a roof to stand and sleep under; she teaches me a lot of things and always encourages me. Even when she gets no sleep, she always looks so great!

She cares for me in every way and she loves me in different ways. Sometimes she's in a good mood and sometimes she's in a rage because somebody didn't shut the freezer after they got the blueberries! She helps me grow even if I make mistakes, I give all my heart just for her even if she makes mistakes, but I can't think of one. She chases all my fears away and she buys me treats.

Written by Ella

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SOCIAL OUTREACH

This term we will be collecting donations of excellent quality pre-loved and new items; blankets, duvet inners and covers, sleeping bags, infant sleep sacks, NEW pillows, NEW hot water bottles, warm infant, child, teen and adult clothing; pyjamas, robes, socks, beanies, jumpers, track pants and hoodies to be distributed through the charitable organisation, Give a Kid a Blanket.



Items for donation can be brought into the office anytime in the week 29th June – 3rd July
(last week of Term 2).



DRS CONFERENCE

This past week, I joined Directors of Religious Studies from across the Diocese for our annual conference at Long Bay. Bathed in glorious sunshine, we gathered under the theme of Celebrating Creation during this significant Franciscan Jubilee year. A true highlight was our outdoor Mass celebrated by Monsignor Bernard and seminarian Bob.

We were blessed with two exceptional keynote speakers. Br. Phillip OFM led a morning retreat on St. Francis of Assisi, challenging us to bring a spirit of humility and "Care for our Common Home" into our schools. Michael Stewart from Fambirai then brought us into the 21st century, exploring Artificial Intelligence through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. His workshop emphasised that as technology evolves, human dignity and the "Common Good" must remain at the heart of our classrooms. I return feeling inspired to weave these themes of ecological stewardship and ethical innovation into our school life.

Did You Know?

- [Antiqua et Nova](#): This 2025 Vatican document by Pope Francis bridges "Ancient" faith with "New" technology. It provides a roadmap for using AI responsibly while ensuring it remains a servant to humanity and creation.
- [Magisterium AI](#): This is a specialised tool trained exclusively on official Church teachings. It allows us to find authentic answers rooted in the Catechism and Papal documents without the misinformation often found online.

Cara Mountjoy – Director of Religious Studies

YEAR THREE TRIP TO MOTAT



Last week Room 7 and 8 went to MOTAT. When we got there, Jasmine showed us where our meeting place was. Then we had morning tea. After morning tea Jasmine took us to a classroom. We learnt about forces and motion, gravity and Newton's Law. Then Jasmine let us play with the toys. I liked the air hockey it was my favourite thing in the little classroom.

After the class was over, we fed the energy balls. I was one of the people who fed the energy balls. After we fed the energy balls a couple of times next, we went to a pink building. The pink building was my favourite part because it had a VR in it! I did the VR Experience two times, it was like a dream. It was like you were sitting in an actual plane! Then we had lunch. I had some apple and Biscoff. Then Room 7 caught a tram ride on the way back we counted how many waves we got and then Mrs Little said, "I never knew that watching people wave could be so cute". After the tram ride, we went back to school and played some games.

Written by Jonty R7



Last week Room 8 and Room 7 went on a bus to MOTAT because we are learning about forces and motion. It was bumpy on the bus, and I sat next to Ayda and Santiago. When we arrived at MOTAT, first we went to the VR Experience. I was piloting the airplane, and I saw the city while I was flying and I also saw the sea. When it was finished, I landed on a landing pad. Next we went into a rainbow string maze. It was exciting and it was also not hard and not big, but it was easy. Then we went on slides and one was rough and one was smooth.

After that, we went to the playground and most of the children went on the seesaw to lift up Oscar's Dad. The children managed to lift Oscar's Dad. It was amazing! Maybe I could go back to MOTAT in the future.

Written by Seong Joo, R8

We're looking for a new before and after school care provider

Following the departure of our previous OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) provider at the end of Term 1, we want to acknowledge Carolina and Liz from Little Legends, who stepped up at short notice to provide care this term. We're very grateful for their support of our school community.

The Board is now running a formal process to appoint a provider from Term 3. To help us make the best decision for our community, we'd love to hear what matters most to your family. Please take 2 minutes to complete a short survey <https://forms.gle/USHL5Jm3NRtynKeb7>.



If you know of a provider who might be a great fit for our community, feel free to pass on this notice or send their details to presidingmember@sjmb.school.nz. Applications close Friday 22nd May.

Expression of interest: before and after school care provider *St John's School, Mairangi Bay*

St John's School, Mairangi Bay, is seeking an experienced and passionate provider to operate a before and after school care (OSCAR) programme for our primary school of ~330 students.

We are looking for a provider who shares our commitment to high-quality, safe, and engaging care for tamariki. The programme will operate on school premises, before school (from 7:00am - 8:50am) and after school (2:50pm - 5:30pm), during school term weeks.

Preference will be given to providers who are currently approved, or able to obtain approval, under the Ministry of Social Development OSCAR Approval scheme.

We are looking for a provider who can demonstrate:

- Full compliance with the Education (Outside School Hours Care) Regulations 2022 and Ministry of Education licensing requirements
- A clear, age-appropriate programme and activities philosophy
- A proven approach to child safeguarding and behaviour management
- Sustainable, transparent fee structures for families
- Financial stability and sound governance
- A strong track record of employment compliance and staff wellbeing

To apply, please provide:

1. Organisation overview and ownership structure
2. Details of current or previous OSCAR operations, including references from other schools or similar operations
3. Staffing model, ratios, and recruitment approach
4. Programme philosophy and sample programme
5. Proposed fee structure
6. Evidence of current licences, insurance, and employment practices

Applications close Friday 22nd May. Please send your EOI to presidingmember@sjmb.school.nz with the subject line "OSCAR EOI - St John's Mairangi Bay".

Enquiries to Jamie Russell, Presiding Member, St John's School Board,
presidingmember@sjmb.school.nz.

FRIENDLY PARKING REMINDER

Some of our neighbours have shared their concerns about our parents blocking their driveways during afternoon pickup from the school carpark turning circle. **If the queue is right out to the entrance on East Coast Road, please consider looking for alternative parking elsewhere to minimize the blocking of traffic coming down the hill.**

We ask that you are mindful and do not block driveways as residents need access to and from their homes. There is teacher supervision at the turning circle until 3:10pm, and children can be collected from there until this time.

YOUNG OCEAN EXPLORERS

On Tuesday, April 28th, the senior school was treated to a captivating visit from Riley at Young Ocean Explorers. For over an hour, she took us on a deep dive into the wonders of our local marine life, sharing the inspiring story of how their mission began. Her passion was infectious as she educated us on the importance of protecting our oceans and the incredible creatures that call them home. It was an eye-opening session that left our students feeling like true guardians of the sea!

Congratulations to our prize winners; Xavier (Rm 5), Marcel (Rm 4) and Fady (Rm 2).



COMMUNITY CONGRATULATIONS



Three of our students from Room 1, Rio, Benjamin, and So-Eun, recently participated in a Taekwon-Do Regional Tournament held over the ANZAC weekend.

They achieved excellent results, all receiving placing medals in multiple categories, reflecting the effort they have put in over the past several months at their local club.

PTFA



DATE: TONIGHT, Tuesday 5th May

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: St John's School Staffroom

VIRTUAL LINK: Can be accessed from School Calendar



Did you know you can order your child's school lunch online?

With Ezlunch on the Kindo app, you pick from the menu and their lunch is delivered to school.
One day or the whole week, sorted in minutes.

This term, every Ezlunch order puts you in the draw to win.

📱 **Order & win!** Every Ezlunch order placed between 27th April & 22nd May goes in the draw to win 1 of 20 x \$50 Kindo credits.

📱 **Plus!** Order from the **tuckr menu** and you're also in the weekly draw to win 1 of 8 x \$250 fuel vouchers.

How it works:

- Order Ezlunch between 27th April & 22nd May 2026
 - Every order = one entry in the draw

We're announcing winners every week, so the more you order, the more chances to win!

[Place My Order/s](#)

2026 St John's Colour Run



RUN. WALK. GET COVERED IN COLOUR.

FRIDAY, 15 MAY 2026

**A FUN, NON-COMPETITIVE EVENT FOR
EVERYONE AT ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- ✦ Students will walk or run one or more laps
- ✦ Colour stations along the course
- ✦ Party atmosphere with music and energy
- ✦ All ages and abilities welcome
- ✦ Safe, non-toxic colour powder used

Raising funds for a Covered Learning Area (COLA) - a safe, shaded space where our tamariki can play, learn, and grow, rain or shine.

🎁 Spot Prizes Up for Grabs!

Raise funds and go in the draw to win

SPONSOR A STUDENT OR DONATE NOW

**Sign up via QR code or website
stjohnscolourrun.raiseit.co.nz**



**THIS IS MORE THAN
FUNDRAISING - IT'S
INVESTING IN OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
EVERY CONTRIBUTION
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**