



2<sup>nd</sup> June  
2026

# NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whānau,

I hope that you enjoyed the long weekend, and the chance for a little recharge midterm. It is lovely to welcome our newest members to St John's with the addition of eight new entrants beginning their primary school learning journey with us today.

### STAFFING UPDATE

We wish Mrs Bridges safe travels as she heads over to the UK at the end of next week to catch up with family, returning at the beginning of Term 3. Mrs Colleen Binns will be covering the front desk while she is away.



### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME



Best wishes to all the children who will be receiving the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this Friday.

This sacred milestone represents a beautiful deepening of their faith journey, as they are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and fully welcomed to the Lord's table. We extend our warmest congratulations and blessings to all our candidates; may you feel the profound love of Jesus in your hearts this Friday and always.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to the parents, godparents, sponsors, and sacramental programme leaders who have lovingly guided these children in their preparation. Please join us in keeping our young people in your prayers this week, asking that the Holy Spirit guides them to be shining lights of Christ's love in our world.

### TEACHER ONLY DAYS



Please be advised that school will be **closed for students on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August** for a Teacher-Only Day, allowing our staff dedicated time to undertake professional development around significant changes to the national curriculum.

We understand that these closures require you to make alternative childcare arrangements, and we do not take this disruption lightly; however, investing this time into our staff's professional development directly ensures your child receives the most relevant, modern, and impactful education possible, and we sincerely thank you for your ongoing partnership and understanding.



As we navigate the updates to the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, you will see some visual changes in our upcoming school reports. I want to share some important changes to how we measure and report on your child's learning journey, particularly in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

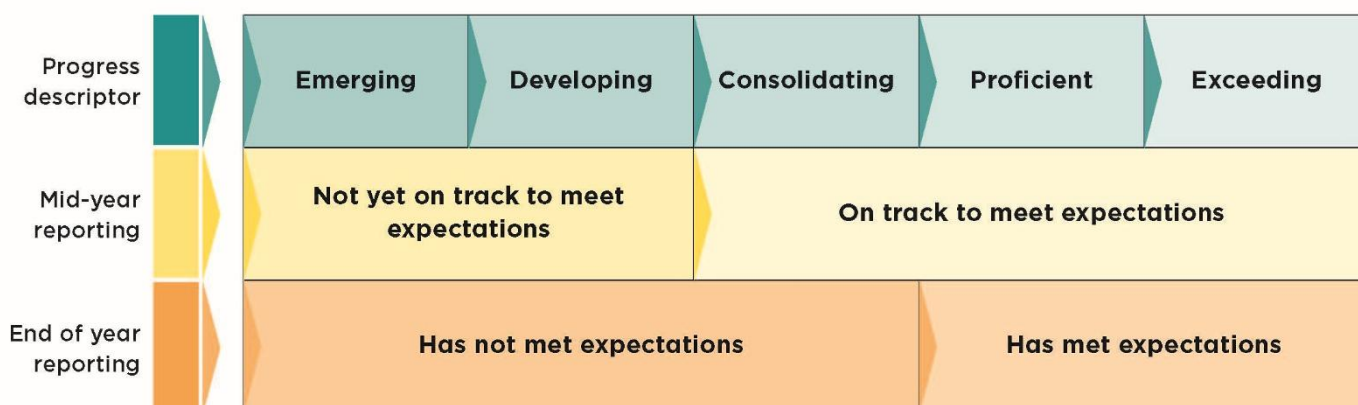
The Ministry of Education has introduced a new, nationwide reporting framework designed to give you a clearer picture of your child's progress.

To give you a holistic, well-rounded understanding of your child, our new look reports will feature;

1. **Progress Descriptors** for Reading, Writing, and Maths. Instead of the broader "Curriculum Levels" of the past which covered two years at school, student progress is now measured against specific, year-by-year benchmarks. Teachers will use five nationwide progress descriptors to show where your child is currently tracking against the expected standard for their specific year level:
  - **Emerging:** Your child is beginning to engage with the learning expected for their year level and is building confidence with new concepts with guidance.
  - **Developing:** Your child is making steady progress and beginning to build their skills, though they still require regular support to apply them independently.
  - **Consolidating:** Your child is meeting many of the expectations for their year level, gaining consistency, and growing in confidence.
  - **Proficient:** Your child has fully met the rigorous learning expectations for the end of their year level and is well-prepared for next year's challenges.
  - **Exceeding:** Your child is consistently performing above the expected curriculum benchmarks for their year level.
2. **Progress Comments:** A personalised teacher comment highlighting your child's progress, next steps, and providing some suggestions of some ways you can support their learning at home.
3. **A Visual Graph:** As your child moves through school, data will be added for each report to show your child's progress over time so you can track growth.
4. **An Attendance Record:** Highlighting their presence in class, which is so vital to their academic and social success.

## Describing progress for mid and end of year reporting using five descriptors

The progress descriptors describe student progress across the school year. A student who has achieved proficiency is prepared for the next year of learning.



## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES



Written progress reports will be coming home with your child(ren) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. These will be followed up with Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June between 1:00pm – 7:30pm. To provide the opportunity for all parents who wish to attend a conference to do so, **school will be finishing at 12:00pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.** You are asked to make arrangements to pick your child(ren) up promptly at this time. School buses will not be available.

**CONFERENCE FOCUS:** The purpose of the Term Two Parent Teacher Conferences is for parents and teachers to discuss how your child is progressing and their next steps in Reading, Writing and Mathematics as well as how parents can help at home. If time permits other curriculum areas may be covered during this time. Conferences will be 10 minutes in duration. If, after 10 minutes, you feel further time is required with the teacher than please arrange another appointment.

Bookings are now open for the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences and will close on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 12:00pm.

### TO BOOK A CONFERENCE TIME

- Use the QR code, use the [LINK](#), or visit the website [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter the code **dja65** (it is case sensitive)
- An email confirming the time of your conference(s) will be sent directly to the email address entered at the time of booking.
- If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office by phone: 09 478 7734 or via email on [office@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:office@sjmb.school.nz) and they can make a booking on your behalf.



## LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT WANTED

**Are you looking for a rewarding role where you can make a real difference in the lives of our tamariki? Do you want to give back to our wonderful school community?**

We are looking for a compassionate, dedicated, and enthusiastic Learning Support Assistant (Teacher Aide) to join our team for Term 3 and 4 this year, up to 25 hours per week, 8:50am - 2:50pm, Monday to Friday, school terms only. This is a fantastic opportunity for a current parent, caregiver, or community member who shares our values and wants to play an active role in nurturing our students' growth.

### The Role

In this role, you will work closely with our classroom teachers to support students who need a little extra helping hand. Your day-to-day will involve:

- **Learning Support:** Helping children grasp classroom concepts, guiding small groups, and boosting academic confidence.
- **Behaviour Guidance:** Encouraging positive choices, helping students stay focused, and offering a calming presence.
- **Engagement:** Finding creative ways to make school exciting and accessible for students who face unique challenges.

### Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for someone who naturally embodies the spirit of our school community. Our ideal candidate is:

- **Caring & Patient:** You understand that every child learns at their own pace and needs a safe, supportive environment to thrive.
- **An Excellent Communicator:** You can build quick rapport with children and collaborate with teaching staff.
- **Adaptable & Resilient:** No two days in a primary school are the same! You can roll with changes and keep a positive attitude.
- **Aligned with our Catholic Ethos:** You are willing to support and uphold the faith, values, and inclusive community spirit of our school.

*Previous experience or qualifications in education/childcare are a bonus, but a genuine love for helping children succeed is what matters most. We will provide plenty of support!*

**How to Apply:** If this sounds like the perfect fit for you, please reach out to Miss Marina Binns (Principal) ([marinab@sjmb.school.nz](mailto:marinab@sjmb.school.nz)).

***We look forward to welcoming a new heart and hand to our school team!***

God bless,  
Marina Binns, Principal – Tumuaki

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**



## GARDEN TO TABLE – BAKE SALE

Announcing the return of our annual bake sale for our senior classes!

**TOMORROW**, Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June during the morning tea break  
(10.30 – 10.50am).



Come and buy our baked goodies that the senior children have made with their own hands.

All items will be \$1.00.

Only children from Years 4 – 6 will be able to purchase items.

All money will go to our garden to table programme.  
See you there!

## THE CHICKS... YEAR ONE AND TWO

As part of their Science programme, Year 1 and 2 classes have been observing and caring for baby chicks. They arrived at school as eggs and over the last week have hatched. The children were keen to share their learning and writing.



*We have very delicate chicks in our classroom. I think there are five boys and four girls. The girls have brown orangey stripes on their backs and there is a bit of yellow on them also. The boys are fully yellow. It is light yellow. It is very bright. The chicks are small. Their feet have sharp claws. We need to be really quiet and gentle with them. If we are too loud, the chicks will be scared. They shake their bodies when they're cold or scared. Chicks are very cute. They are so, so, so fluffy and soft. I loved our baby chicks. By Ruby B, Year 2.*



*We got 10 eggs in the incubator. Tiny chicks are growing inside the eggs. There was a little hole in the egg so that the chicks can breathe. They looked like they were stuck as they tried to come out. I can hear lots and lots of chirping. I think there are 5 boy chicks and 5 girl chicks. By Thea G, Year 1.*

*There is a little crack in one of the eggs. The chick is hatching from the egg. They were wet and tired. I can hear lots and lots of chirping. By Asher Y, Year 1.*



*Last week Room 11 got 10 chicken eggs. I held a chick. It was fluffy. By Ryan W, Year 1.*

*In Room 11 we got 10 eggs. The eggs were in the incubator. After 2 days the eggs hatched. The chicks were wet. They stayed in the incubator until they were fluffy. By Rudy V, Year 1.*

*Last week Room 11 got 10 eggs. The eggs hatched and 10 chicks popped out. The chicks are fluffy and they cheep a lot. By Ben A, Year 1.*

*We have baby chicks in Room 11. The chicks are fluffy. The brown ones are girls. The boys are yellow. I like holding the chicks. By Piper B, Year 1.*

## INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL

Our Yr 5/6 St John's Lakers Basketball team recently competed in the Super Cluster Interschool basketball tournament held at the EventFinda Stadium. After two good wins against Pinehill and Mairangi Bay the team had a loss to Browns Bay in the final game of the round robin pool play. The pool play results put them up against Campbells Bay in the semi-final, which the Lakers comfortably won; progressing them to the final play-offs for 1st and 2nd place, against Browns Bay. During the final the Lakers displayed brilliant teamwork and a "never give up" attitude from the first whistle to the last, with Browns Bay ending up as the eventual winners of the day.

It was a successful day for our Lakers basketball team, securing the runners-up spot in the tournament!

Beyond the fantastic results, they represented St John's with absolute pride and outstanding sportsmanship.

Thank you to our team coaches Marco Alexander, Shelley Thornton, and Simon Ward, for your constant dedication, time, and effort in making today's success possible. Thank you also to our team manager Lara Gunn, for your support and behind the scenes organisation.

Congratulations to Connor B, Aayan F, Carter G, Bernard H, San K, Daniel S, Cody T and Joshua W.







# SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Build confidence, creativity and academic excellence

- ✓ Creating videos using AI
- ✓ Develop Games with Roblox
- ✓ Let's learn Makey Makey
- ✓ Introduction to Developing Websites
- ✓ Learn to Code in Python
- ✓ Learn to code using Scratch
- ✓ Let us Learn 3D Printing
- ✓ Minecraft - Develop your own Mods
- ✓ Building Games with Gamemaker
- ✓ Code that Robot using Edison
- ✓ Minecraft Modding Junior
- ✓ Let Us Code
- ✓ Code that Robot using Mbot
- ✓ Machine Learning for Kids



Discover the joy of coding and the world of technology!

**JULY 6TH - 17TH 2026**

28 William Pickering Drive, Albany, Auckland



(021) 337 472



info.albany@scratchpad.co.nz



www.scratchpad.co.nz

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays. Please make an appointment through: [office@ecbcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@ecbcatholic.org.nz)

### MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

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

### NEWSLETTER

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



### Annual General Meeting 2026

**Sunday, 21 June, 12.30pm**  
St John's School Hall. The PPC and the Finance Committee will present their work from the past year. Also the new PPC members will be elected. See [more here](#).

*Why not consider being part of the new PPC? Come and join us.*

### New Dawn Counselling

Counselling for all ages now available at St John's Church, if you would like to know more or arrange an appointment, please contact the [office](#), Rand at [randpetros@gmail.com](mailto:randpetros@gmail.com), or [visit](#)

