



NEWSLETTER

**1st September
2026**

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

Kia ora whānau,

Happy first day of spring! As we step into Week 7 of Term 3, the changing season brings a welcome burst of sunshine, energy, and joy to our school grounds. Spring is a wonderful reminder of God's promise of new growth – not just in nature, but in the learning, confidence, and faith of our tamariki.

With just a few weeks remaining this term, there is still so much to look forward to and celebrate, starting with our Dance Showcase this Friday, Whānau Day next week, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, Social Justice Week and School photos among other things.



We are excited to announce that our School Whānau Day is almost here! It is a special afternoon where we get to invite our wonderful families to spend time with us right here at school. It is a chance for the children to show off the work they are most proud of and take a special moment to pray together as a family.

We invite you to meet your child/children in their classrooms from 1:30pm on Friday 11th September. For health and safety, we ask that you 'sign your child out' with their class teacher before leaving the room. To help you with ideas (and keep track of who has been collected by whānau), class teachers will hand each child a special booklet when they are collected by you. Once collected from the class teacher you are free to wander around the school... there is so much to explore!

You can tour your children's classrooms, head down to see what development has happened in the nature gully and see if you can find your class tree, check out the exhibition in the hall, visit the Book Fair in the Library or go on our school charism and history scavenger hunt!

If you want to play together as a family on the top court, you can challenge each other in handball, do some skipping or try our crazes of the week... some old favourites such as knuckle bones and elastics.

Once you have toured the school and shared all the things you want to share, you are free to take your child home. If you need to return your child to our care, please return them and their booklet to their class teacher in the classroom. This helps us keep track of who we need to account for.

Each child will be bringing home an invitation today in their school bags. We ask that the RSVP be returned to their class teacher by next Tuesday 8th September.



Reminder: PTFA meeting
Tonight, 1st September
7.00pm in the School Staff Room

CAR PARK AND DROP OFF REMINDER

We have noticed a few parents starting to use the front carpark to drop off children in the morning. Just a friendly reminder that for both health and safety and logistical reasons, the carpark outside the office, accessed off Penzance Road is for staff use only.

God bless, and thank you for your continued partnership, prayers, and support in guiding our young learners.

Marina Binns
Principal – Tumuaki

DANCE CURRICULUM

We are delighted to be welcoming Manny from Dance Curriculum once again this year as the children have greatly enjoyed learning from him in previous years. The cost of this has been added to all Kindo accounts and we would greatly appreciate payment as soon as possible, please visit www.mykindo.co.nz



Each year group will have a daily dance session, learning new moves and routines. We are so impressed with the energy and creativity we've already seen and can't wait to share their progress with you.

DANCE SHOWCASE

As with all performing arts, a big part of the experience is performing for an audience. On **Friday at 1:30pm**, we will have a special dance showcase in the school hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and see what the children have been learning. Please ensure you are seated by 1:30pm so we can begin on time. We look forward to seeing you there!

We ask that children come to school on Friday in their PE gear
(and leave their normal school uniform at home).



The school will share a video of the dance performances in due course.

Due to privacy reasons, we ask that you refrain from filming on the day and just enjoy the moment.

A Fin-tastic Afternoon: ESOL's Fish Cake Feast

I was privileged to be invited to share in a meal planned, prepared and hosted by our beautiful ESOL children. One of the learning objectives this term has been learning tricky and new vocabulary that we use in our everyday life. I tried my first fish cake and really enjoyed it, helped by the wonderful company and attractive environment. Some of the children have shared their experiences of the day. A huge thank you to Mrs Chandler, Mrs McFadzean and Mrs Atmadji for facilitating the experience for the children.

We set the table with a fork on the left, the knife on the right with the paper napkin under the knife. We decorated the table with flowers, shells and a table runner. We did this to make the table look beautiful, fancy and elegant for our teachers.

By Eliza and Elena on behalf of Year Five.

We served two condiments with our fish cakes and fries. They were Tartare Sauce which was made with diced pickles, red onion and mayonnaise. Tomato Sauce went with the fries. We also had time for a Scavenger Hunt. We had to find and learn the names of kitchen utensils. A new one we learnt was a 'colander'. This was used to drain the potatoes.

By Bella, Maxene, and Aviann on behalf of Year Four.

We enjoyed making the fish cakes because the egg was sticky and the flour was soft. I didn't want to eat the fish cake, but I forced myself to eat it. I felt proud that I did that. We learnt how to make fish cakes, dipping it in flour, egg and breadcrumbs. We seasoned it with salt, pepper and garlic powder. These are called seasonings.

By Aaron, Michael and Tony on behalf of Year Three.

Mrs Harper came to the hall to eat our super delicious meal of fries and fish cakes. There were two sauces to go with our tasty meal. Mrs Harper had tears because the table looked so fancy.

From Jiho, Claire and Olivia on behalf of Year Two.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photolife are coming once again to take our school photos. Class, individual and sibling photos are scheduled for **Wednesday 23rd September** with Sports team photos the following day on **Thursday 24th September**.

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

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 23rd September. 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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Keep up to date with school events through downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar.
[Link to download calendar](#)

SOCIAL OUTREACH

CANS FOR CHRISTMAS 2026 – COLLECTION IS THIS WEEK!

Cans for Christmas was established in 2015 as a community-building project between Catholic schools around New Zealand to donate cans of food to their local St. Vincent de Paul or Foodbank. Over the years, this wonderful initiative has grown significantly, bringing together dozens of schools across the country to collect tens of thousands of cans for those in need.



Once again, St. John's School is proud to be taking part in this project, and we encourage all of our families to donate at least one can of food. Challenge yourself to go a little beyond that sad old can of baked beans at the back of your cupboard! Think about what cans of food you actually enjoy eating – there are so many great options to choose from that are healthy, nutritious, and a yummy part of your favourite recipes.

Donated cans can be dropped off directly to classrooms this week.

Remember that we are proud of our Catholic values, and that means thinking about others and doing good deeds. So, let's do some good! When you go shopping, put an extra can or two in your trolley and send them along to school. Thank you for your wonderful support!



Our school community has once again demonstrated the true spirit of generosity and compassion through your incredible support for Daffodil Day. The funds raised will make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by cancer, providing much-needed care and hope.

Your contributions are a testament to the values we hold dear as a Catholic community – love, kindness, and a commitment to serving others. Thank you for embodying these values and for making a positive impact on our wider community. Through your generous efforts we raised more than **\$711.88**.

PROCLAIMING OF THE WORD

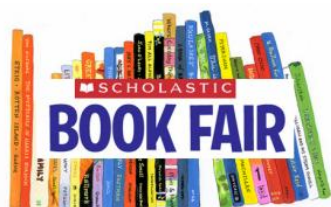
The Auckland Catholic Primary Schools' "Proclaiming the Word" competition is an annual event where Catholic primary school students showcase excellence in scripture reading. Participants are judged on their ability to deliver biblical texts with clarity, deep reverence, and expressive storytelling, ensuring the Word of God resonates deeply with all who listen.

We want to thank Oscar for representing our school at this year's competition. Standing up to proclaim the scripture takes immense courage and grace. Thank you for your dedication and for being such a fantastic ambassador for our school community!

Cara Mountjoy
Director of Religious Studies



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Next week (7th – 11th September) will see the Scholastic Book Fair taking place in the School Library. Book Fairs build the excitement and fun of reading in a pop-up bookshop style event at school to celebrate reading and raise funds for books and resources for the school. All tamariki will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their class to 'window shop'.

The Book Fair will be open for parents & caregivers for purchases during the following times. Please remember to bring a shopping bag!

Every book that is purchased earns our school reward points that we can redeem on books and resources for the library. **PAYMENT VIA EFTPOS, CREDIT CARD ALL ACCEPTED.**

Monday 7 th September	11.00am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 8 th September	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 9 th September	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Thursday 10 th September	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Friday 11 th September	1.00pm – 3.00pm

HEARING AND VISION TESTING



The National Public Health Service - Northern Region Vision and Hearing Screening team will be visiting our school this Friday, 4 September 2026.

This screening is for **Years 0 – 2 students** who have **not yet completed** their B4 School Check, or any required **follow-up rescreen**. (Further information: [B4 School Check – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)).

If you **do not want your child** to take part in the vision and hearing screening, please let the school know **before the visit** by emailing office@sjmb.school.nz so we have a written record of your wishes.

Your child's screening **results will be sent home** with your child. These results may also be shared with the school, including your child's teacher to support their learning and wellbeing.

ABSENTEE REMINDER

A friendly reminder around notifying the school if your child is away from school. This is a matter of health and safety as it allows us to efficiently account for all children at the beginning of the day.

If your child is away sick, has an appointment or is needing to be absent for any reason, we ask that you notify the school office for each day they are away. You may know in advance that they will be away for more than one day, if not, please contact the school each day.

This can be done by;

- Emailing Mrs Bridges directly at office@sjmb.school.nz
- Phoning the school office absentee line 09 478 7734 and leaving a message (OPTION 1) with your child's name, room number and the reason for their absence
- Submitting an absentee form using the button on the front page of the [school website](#)

CONGRATULATIONS



With the completion of the North Harbour Winter Hockey League last Monday, we would like to congratulate our Year 6 Boys team. Not only did they finish first in the league, but they also won their finals game 2-1. Well done boys!

Team: Oscar, Carter, Lachie, Dan, Salva, Aaron & Cody.



Contact: Alysha Osborne
Phone: 021314 062
Email: sjmb@kellyclub.co.nz
Website: kellyclub.co.nz/{sjmb}



KELLY CLUB ST JOHNS MAIRANGI BAY UPDATE

What's been happening...

We have had so much fun this last week with our Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Theme. We loved making animals and robots out of recyclable materials and of course making the yummy green smoothies. This week is our Kelly Club Rocks theme and we look forward to baking rock cakes, adventuring through the party obstacle course and being Kelly Club Stars.



KELLY CLUB

KIDS RAVE ABOUT KELLY CLUB!

FEEDBACK FROM KIDS

"We have lots of fun!"
 "You get to hang out with your friends longer."

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

What's happening next week! Get Ready for Kids Choice!

KELLY CLUB THEME: Kids Choice! Term 3 Week 6, 24th August 2026 Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St John's Mairangi Bay					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Lego Competition & Structured Free Time	Friendship Bracelets & Structured Free Time	Colouring Competition & Structured Free Time	Cookie Decorating & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Fruit Salad	Game: Duck Duck Goose	Game: Crab Soccer	Game: Red, Green Light	
2:50 - 3:00 pm	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Fairy Bread & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Noodles & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Pizza Wraps & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Pancakes & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Dodgeball	Game: Musical Statues	Game: Football	Game: All In Tag	
3:45 - 4:30 pm	CRAFT Colourful Lanterns	COOKING Rainbow Popcorn	SPORT Golden Child	DISCOVERY Fluffy Slime	
4:30 - 4:35 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:35 - 4:50 pm	Snack Time Muffins	Snack Time Rainbow Popcorn	Snack Time Vege Chips	Snack Time Dried Fruit	
4:50 - 5:15 pm	Playground or Game	Playground or Game	Playground or Game	Playground or Game	
5:15 - 6:00 pm	Quiet Time & Projects	Quiet Time & Projects	Quiet Time & Projects	Quiet Time & Projects	
E:sjmb@kellyclub.co.nz kellyclub.co.nz/sjmb P: 021 314 062					



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

FROM THE DIOCESE

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT WANTED

Marriage & Family Life Ministry is seeking a part-time Administration Assistant (16 hours per week) to support its work serving marriage and family life. Based at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. For details and to apply, visit: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies.

Applications close Friday 4 September.

FROM THE PARISH

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

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](#).

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY: PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS



At our school, we are proud to support the **Passionist Family Group Movement**—a fantastic parish initiative designed to bring families together and build a strong, supportive community. Guided by the motto "*A Family for All*," these groups offer a warm, extended family atmosphere where parishioners and school families of all ages can connect, support one another, and share in Christian life.

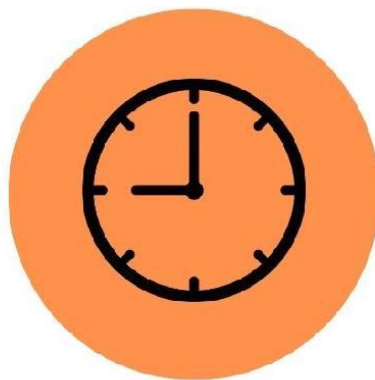
Groups usually gather once a month for simple, low-cost, family-friendly social activities—like potlucks, park outings, or shared lunches. It's a wonderful way for our tamariki to see faith in action, forge lasting friendships, and feel a true sense of belonging in our wider parish whānau. Whether you are new to our school community or have been here for years, everyone is welcome—married, single, young, or old. **Interested in joining or learning more?**

Please contact our Parish Coordinators Shelley & Graham Ward, gandsward@xtra.co.nz or Tel: 027 388 6114 to get connected. We'd love to welcome you!

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, or [visit](#)





CHANGE OF MASS TIMES

From 05/06 September on:



Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm, St John's Church

Sunday Mass: 8.00am, St John's Church

Sunday Mass: 10.00am, St Francis Church



Times of Weekday Mass/Service remain the same:

Mon, 9.15am: Liturgy of the Word with Communion, St John's Church

Tue, 10am: Liturgy of the Word with Communion, St Francis Church

Wednesdays, 9.15am: Mass, St John's Church

Thursdays, 10am: Mass, St Francis Church

Fridays, 9.15am: Mass, St John's Church

Saturdays, 9am: Mass, St Francis Church



St. John & St. Francis

—+ **EAST COAST BAYS** +—
CATHOLIC PARISH

**Are you a rostered
Minister during Mass?
Please get in touch -
if possible online or use
the QR Code:**



www.eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz