



**13th October
2026**

Kia ora whānau,

WELCOME BACK



Welcome back to Term 4! We hope all our students and whānau enjoyed a restful break and precious time together.

A very warm welcome to our newest learners in Room 10 as they begin their journey at St John's. Term 4 always brings a vibrant energy as we continue our learning journey together and prepare to celebrate a year of incredible growth – from our newest entrants to our senior students preparing for their next big step. This term offers countless opportunities to learn, grow, and love, all while celebrating our unique Special Catholic Character.

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2027

As teachers and Senior Leadership begin planning for next year's class placements, we invite parents to share any information they believe is important for us to consider regarding their child's needs. If you wish to share information about any learning or social/emotional needs that may impact your child's learning, please feel free to complete [the form](#) by the end of Friday 16th October.



Please note that while we make every effort to consider all requests, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be met due to the complex balancing of factors that goes into creating our class lists. In addition to considerations for individual students, the criteria we consider when making class placements are:

- A balance of boys and girls.
- A balance of academic diversity in learning styles and capabilities.
- A balance of ethnic diversity and cultural backgrounds.
- Socially balanced groups to minimise peer conflicts and promote positive interactions, and,
- a balance between current classes, so new friendships can be formed.

While we value your input, please understand that as professionals, we will make final decisions based on a holistic view of each child's academic, social, and emotional well-being. Our goal is to create the best possible learning environment for all students, and we appreciate your trust in this process.

Confirmed placements for 2027 will be included in your child's end of year school report.

THE POWER OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We are blessed with an outstanding team of Learning Support Assistants who bring our Catholic values to life every day through their care for our students. Ministry of Education funding covers only a portion of our support staff costs, leaving a significant shortfall. The Board adds to this funding to ensure that our Tamariki do not lose out of learning support – a commitment that is made possible through our termly parent contributions.

We extend our deep gratitude to our support staff for their dedicated service, and to our parents and whānau whose financial contributions make this support possible. Thank you for your continued generosity and partnership in our shared mission.

LOST AND FOUND ON WHANĀU DAY

An Apple air tag and some cash were handed in on Whanaū Day last term. If you believe either of these might be yours, please pop into the office.



NEW ZEALAND SHAKE OUT

Next week we will be participating in New Zealand ShakeOut, our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi. This year's Shake Out day is 21 October.

All of New Zealand is at risk of earthquakes. We can't predict when one will happen, but we can protect ourselves and our whānau.

Get ready before an earthquake

Work out what supplies you might need and make a plan together.

Practise Drop, Cover and Hold at least twice a year. You can do this when the clocks change and by taking part in [New Zealand ShakeOut](#). It's important to practise the right action to take so that when a real earthquake happens, you know what to do.

Identify safe spaces to [Drop, Cover and Hold](#) within your home and other places you often visit.

- Somewhere close to you, no more than a few steps away, to avoid injury from flying debris.
- Under a strong table. Hold on to the table legs to keep it from moving away from you.
- Away from windows that can shatter and cause injury. And from tall furniture that can fall on you. Protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Not in a doorway. In most homes, doorways are not stronger than any other part of a house and a swinging door can cause more injury.

Marina Binns
Principal – Tumuaki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION FAIR

This Friday, 16th October, the children will gather and participate in social outreach through our annual Mission Fair. Contribution to the Mission Fair is paid through Kindo. Please refer to the email from Mrs Mountjoy that you received at the end of last term (September 15th) for more details.

Mission Fair Day 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.



This year we will be supporting Caritas and their work in Nepal following the recent floods, expanding food distributions, delivering shelter and household supplies, and preparing longer-term support for children and families after one of the country's worst recent disasters.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY



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 following Labour Day, from Week 3, Tuesday 27th 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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

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



TERM 4

unIFORM SALE

WEDNESDAY
14TH OCTOBER
2:30pm
SCHOOL HALL

ANY PRELOVED UNIFORMS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

We have an exciting term ahead for all the children and would like to remind all parents to login into their [Kindo](#) account as soon as possible as each year group has an upcoming trip for which giving permission is part of the payment process.



Our office administrative team is also preparing for our end of year accounting processes, and we would therefore appreciate payment for various charges that are now overdue: Life Education, Dance Curriculum, Garden to Table, Literacy, Maths & R.E. e-learning resources.

CONGRATULATIONS

SPLASHTASTIC SUCCESS FOR OUR WATER POLO TEAMS!

Our Year 3 Kingfish team played for 1st and 2nd place and finished 2nd in their grade. A fantastic achievement for the team after a great season.

Our Year 5 & 6 Stingrays also made it through to the 1st and 2nd place final. Unfortunately, their game was cancelled due to the pool closure, so they didn't get the chance to compete in the final. However, we received the news that they were awarded 1st place based on their achievements over the season.

A sincere thank you to our coaches, team managers, and supportive whānau for giving up their time to guide, transport, and cheer on the players each week. Well done to both teams on a great season!



Y3 Kingfish: Aaron, Ella, Ellie, Elliot, Laon, Louie, Oscar, Sophie, and Tony.



Y5&6 Stingrays: Ava, Dom, Jason, Jude, Lachie, Lily, Noah, Serena, and Thomas.

CHEERING HER WAY TO TRANS-TASMAN SILVER!



Last term, Sadie flew to the Gold Coast to compete in the Australasian Majors for cheerleading.

A huge congratulation to Sadie and her team on winning a silver medal!



**FOOTBALL
LUNCH TIME PROGRAMME**

KIWI KICK STARS

St John's school

**FUN FOOTBALL SESSIONS FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS!!**

TERM 4

Our awesome programme gets kids exercising through super fun activities based around football and storytelling. Kids build confidence while improving their motor skills and coordination, learning how to play with others, focus on problem solving. Our friendly, experienced coaches have a hands-on, relatable approach and a passion for fun!

Everyone's a winner at Kiwi Kick Stars!

Where: St John's Astroturf

When: Thursdays, (starting Thursday 15th October)

Time: Lunchtime

Cost: \$ 135 per term 9 weeks

Second child discount of 10% applies!

TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.KIWIKICKSTARS.COM

FREE FAMILY EVENT: TAONGA TĀKARO AT BROWNS BAY BEACH



Looking for something fun to do with the family next Sunday?

Join us for **Taonga Tākaro – traditional Māori games and play** at Browns Bay Beach!

 Sunday 18 October

 2 pm – 6 pm

 Browns Bay Beach

 Free entry – everyone welcome!

Bring the whānau along for an afternoon of play, laughter, connection and cultural discovery. It's a chance for tamariki and adults alike to enjoy traditional Māori games, spend time outdoors and celebrate the joy of playing together. No experience needed – just come along and join the fun!

FROM THE PARISH

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PREFERENCE FORMS

Fr Carlo will be available to sign the forms on Wednesdays, 10.30am – 12.00pm.

Please make an appointment through: office@ecbcatholic.org.nz

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS

3rd Sunday: 8.00 am Mass St. John's Church. Contact Lindy lindy@willplan.co.nz



PARISH CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 2026!

Are you aged 6 years 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(acting) of the Nativity story during the mass.

Practices will take place on **Sunday afternoons from 3:00-5.00 pm at St Francis Church, Torbay beginning November 8th**. You will need be able to **commit to all of these practices during the months of November and December**. Boys and girls both welcome.

To register your child please follow the link below, scan the QR code and complete the Registration form- <https://eastcoastbayscatholic.org.nz/2026/09/24/childrens-christmas-eve-mass/>

For more information 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](#)

