



4th February
2025

NEWSLETTER

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

Kia ora whanāu, ngā mihi o te tau hou.

Welcome back to a new year to our staff, families and all our beautiful children, and if you are just joining our school... welcome to the family! I hope you all managed to have some time to enjoy being together as a family and recharge your batteries. It is a joy to see and hear the children around the school, brimming with enthusiasm for the year ahead.

We started off this morning with a beautiful pōwhiri to welcome our new families and students across the school and our new entrants in Rooms 11 and 12. It is always special when we gather as a school, and this morning our kaumatua spoke on how special it is to build our learning journey on shared values and what makes St John's a special place.

Things have been busy at school over the break with lots of property work happening around the site. As well as general grounds maintenance, our schedule of painting continued over the summer break with the exterior painting of the Pool shed and changing rooms and the interior painting of Room 13 and the student toilets. We anticipate the refurbishment of the floor in the student toilet block will happen later in the year as part of the Catholic Diocese maintenance programme.

Rooms 7, 8 and 9 and Room 14 were refurbished over the holidays with new carpet and lino, new acoustic wall linings, fresh painting and new lighting and heating. This work was mostly undertaken by the Catholic Diocese, with the School Board taking the opportunity to paint and relino the interior of Room 14. The rooms look absolutely lovely, you may want to pop your head in when you are onsite to check them out.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2025 and have planned a number of events where we can share experiences with the wider community. Please check the calendar on the school website for upcoming dates and events as we would love to see you if you are able to join us. If we need to change these dates for any reason the calendar will be updated and if needed, communication will come via email. Please consider downloading and linking the SJMB Community Calendar to keep up to date with events at the school. [Link to download calendar](#)

God bless you all for the year ahead, ngā mihi nui,
Marina Binns
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



SCHOOL CHARISM

In Religious Education during the first few weeks, the children will learn and understand our School Charism and what our values look like in action. The charism underpins all we do at school, it is woven into daily life and talked about with the children regularly. We embrace our special Catholic character with the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The children spend time learning about our motto: Prepare the way – Whakapaia te Huarahi. We follow in the footsteps of St. John the Baptist as he prepared the way of the Lord.

We hope the Josephite Charism becomes a part of our students' lives and that they take it with them when they leave our school.

KARAKIA - TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

*Te Atua of our journey,
your watchful presence is with us everyday.
Open our minds and hearts
to the wonderful ways you work in our land of Aotearoa.
Strengthen us as we struggle to put things right
so that we may all live with dignity and justice.
Lead us in ways which will honour our Tiriti covenant
so that we may see your loving presence alive in our land.
Amen*



THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR – A TIME OF GRACE AND RENEWAL

This year, the Catholic Church will celebrate the **Jubilee Year 2025**, a special time of grace, renewal, and pilgrimage. Jubilees are traditionally held every 25 years, and this one, proclaimed by Pope Francis, is themed "**Pilgrims of Hope.**"

The origins of the Jubilee go back to the Old Testament, when every 50 years was a time of rest, forgiveness, and restoration. The Church continues this tradition, inviting all Catholics to reflect, seek reconciliation, and deepen their faith. During a Jubilee, special indulgences are granted, and the Church encourages acts of charity, prayer, and pilgrimage.

For our Catholic school community in New Zealand, this is an opportunity to grow in faith together. Pope Francis calls us to be "**Pilgrims of Hope**" – trusting in God's love, caring for creation, and working for justice. In 2025, Catholic communities worldwide will gather in prayer, celebrate Mass, and reflect on God's mercy.

At St. John's School, we will mark the Jubilee with special prayers, activities, and learning about what it means to live as **people of hope**. May this Holy Year inspire us to walk together in faith, kindness, and love.

For more information feel free to check out this link
[The 2025 Jubilee Year – A Time of Grace and Renewal](#)

E te Atua e manaaki – May God bless us all.

MATHEMATICS PROGRAMME



This year we are using the Oxford Mathematics and Statistics for Aotearoa New Zealand programme in our school to develop students' numeracy skills and to support the teaching of Maths.

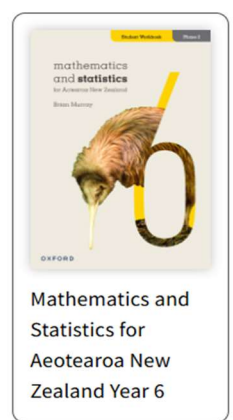
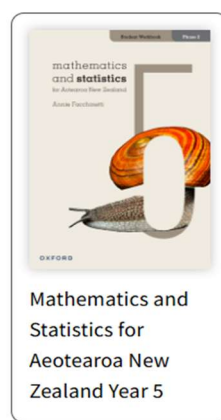
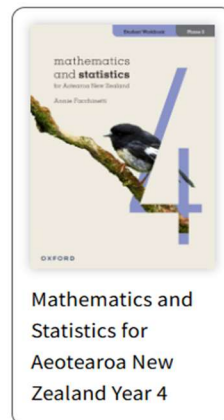
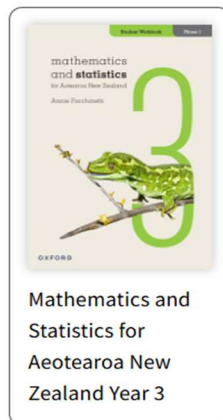
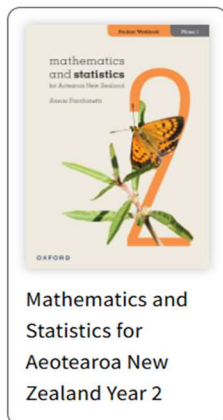
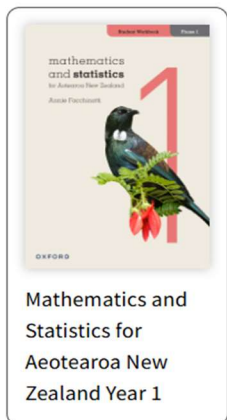
The course for each year level contains a number of units and has been designed to cover the objectives of the New Zealand curriculum. Each unit is structured as a sequence of smaller topics with clear objectives, sequenced from less to more complex. Most of these topics are around a week long and begin with a short assessment to see what the students know already. This helps the teachers really target the programme for each student. At the end of each topic there is a short assessment to see what the students now know.

The program has three parts, explained below.

Teacher Dashboard: This online component of the programme is designed to support teachers. The dashboard contains a variety of resources such as lesson plans, assessment tasks, extension activities, mastery tasks and interactive activities, as well as the Student Book pages for front-of-class use.

Student Book: Unlike other textbooks, it is not intended that all students will complete every page of the Student Book. Each topic in this textbook offers differentiated learning paths with 'Guided', 'Independent' and 'Extended' practice activities to suit students working on the same concept at different levels. Following the pre-test, students are taught the content of each topic through hands-on activities. They are then able to access the appropriate textbook page at their own level to support their understanding. Of course, the teacher will support students in reading questions where necessary. These textbooks are designed to be used in line with the delivery and pace of the class teaching programme and not as home learning follow up.

Student Dashboard: This online component of the programme is designed to support students with digital resources, such as pre-tests and post-tests, as well as the Student Book pages, Activity Sheets and Blackline Masters. Please do not allow students to access tests at home.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication is very important in the daily life of the school by allowing us to **pass on information and share some of our experiences and needs as well as helping us connect with our community**. There are a variety of communication avenues used by the school community and it can be a bit overwhelming, particularly if you have more than one child.

Official whole school communication comes through the fortnightly newsletter, whole school emails via our school management software, eTap, the school calendar and the school website. Team, class and sport communication also come directly from the teachers or sport co-ordinator through email. Please read the piece later in the newsletter for more information.

BUDDY CLASSES

Our school buddy system sees our younger children buddied up with older children. Buddy classes meet to attend Mass together and for socialisation and interclass activities. It is a tradition that has been greatly valued by the students.

Buddy classes are as follows:

- Room 5 Year 6 and Room 11 Year 1
- Room 6 Year 6 and Room 12 Year 1 (and Room 10 later in the year)
- Room 3 Year 5 and Room 7 Year 3
- Room 4 Year 5 and Room 8 Year 3
- Room 1 Year 4 and Room 9 Year 2
- Room 2 Year 4 and Room 13 Year 2



WELCOME BACK TO BOOK CLUB!

Our first Issue of the year is going to be a great Issue!

We are kicking things off with LOTS of value:

- Families can earn FREE BOOKS by spending over \$25 this Issue
- Families can earn a \$5 promo code with any LOOP order on this Issue, to be redeemed on Issue 2
- Kids can enter our competition to WIN a family pass to see the new DOG MAN movie
- Learn about our National Family Reading Month, register for the 31-Day Challenge and WIN prizes along the way



HELPERS NEEDED

Do you love covering books? The school library needs volunteers!



This relaxing task can be done at home or at school. Help keep our books in great condition – please reach out to get involved!

If you would like to help, please contact Mrs Chantelle Dunn in the library ChantelleD@sjmb.school.nz

PTFA FAMILY PICNIC



Please pop **Friday, 28th February** into your diary.

This picnic, held in the early evening, is a wonderful informal gathering of our school community where you are invited to bring a picnic, chairs, rugs and beverages and the children have the option of bringing their togs for a swim in the school pool (under your parental supervision of course!).

NGĀ KĀKAHU O TE KURA – SCHOOL UNIFORM



We expect all children to wear full and correct school uniform at all times. Please refer to the school website for [uniform expectations](#). Just a reminder that school sandals must be worn when arriving at and leaving school.

As part of our commitment to being SunSmart, children are required to wear the school hat when playing outside in Terms 1 and 4. These hats should stay at school during the term to ensure they are able to enjoy their playtimes. The children's health and safety is important to us and therefore, if a child does not have a hat, they will need to play in the shaded area outside the library. Hats can be purchased from [NZ Uniforms](#).

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



Fortnightly Newsletter: The fortnightly newsletter will be emailed to all current families as well as being put on our school website. This newsletter will contain important reminders and share some of the happenings around the school. It will be emailed on Tuesdays (or Wednesday following a public holiday). Past newsletters can also be accessed via the newsletter link on the school website.

Whole school emails: These will be sent from school management, the school office, the sport co-ordinator and the PTFA as needed, and we strive to keep these succinct and to a minimum.

School calendar: Important dates will be added and updated on a St John's School Google calendar. This can be viewed on our school website. You are also welcome (and encouraged) to link this calendar to your own if you use Google calendars. [Link to download calendar](#)

School website: This contains a wealth of information about the school.

Team and class emails: These will be sent directly from team leaders or class teachers with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the class or year level in the subject line of the email (please forgive us if we occasionally forget).

Sport information emails: These will be sent directly from the school sport co-ordinator or from parent co-ordinators with information pertaining to specific year levels or classes. We endeavour to identify the sport and the class or year level in the subject line of the email.

St John's School Community Facebook Page: This is a more informal avenue for sharing information with, and by, the school community. All parents are welcome to become members of the group, as well as any extended family members.

Permission slips and payments: Wherever possible these will be processed through your Kindo account. There may be exceptions where a Google form is emailed or a paper permission slip comes home, but these will be rare.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Contacting the school: Parents are welcome to contact school staff directly by email or by phoning the school office. We ask that all communication comes through these channels rather than student emails.

We recognise that email is a valuable and efficient communication tool that is widely used across our society. Staff members are provided with a school email address which can also be found on our school website (first name and initial of surname eg. John Smith is johns@sjmb.school.nz).

The staff member may not have a chance to open their email messages by the end of the school day (2:50pm). **For vital or urgent messages please phone the school office.** Teachers check their emails daily, however, during the day, the teacher's priority is the children in their class and therefore, cannot respond immediately to emails or answer external phone calls. During the week your emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Please remember that your child's teacher holds your child's well-being and your concerns with the utmost care and respect. Please ensure all correspondence with your child's teacher reflects your own care and respect. I ask that emails are used for sharing information and making appointments, rather than addressing issues.

Parent concerns: From time-to-time things occur at school which lead to parents seeking clarification. If you have concerns about your children's progress or you wish to seek clarification about something that has happened at school, **the classroom teacher is the first point of contact** to answer the concerns or enquiries of parents about their children. Generally, matters are resolved at this level.

Teachers often have appointments before and after school and it is not appropriate to discuss your child in front of other children or parents. If your inquiry is more than a 'quick question' we ask that you speak to or email the teacher directly, or phone the office, to make an appointment to ensure that the teacher will be available to discuss your concerns, giving you their full attention.

If after meeting with the classroom teachers there is further concern or dissatisfaction parents should then seek an appointment to meet with the Team Leader in an attempt to resolve the matter of concern. Thereafter to the Principal.

There are specific avenues for enquiring about information about the school or commenting on school policies, property, and procedures. **Please contact the office who can help you address the right person to talk to.**

KINDO



St John's is using the online 'shop' Kindo for additional charges for trips, stationery items, online learning subscriptions etc.

FAMILIES NEW TO ST JOHN'S

If you have not already set up an account with Kindo please visit www.mykindo.co.nz as soon as possible to sign your children up. You may have more than one child per account.

It is vital that the email address used for your Kindo account is exactly the same as the one the school has listed on our database for your child's first caregiver (in most cases this is usually Mum). If your email address does **not** match the one we have recorded in our student database then you will see an error message. You then have the option to either update your account details on Kindo or to email Michele Nash on MicheleN@sjmb.school.nz to request a change on the school database.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact Anneliese Bridges in the school office or if you have difficulties with the Kindo website their helpdesk is but a phone call away (Freephone 0508 454 636).

TERMLY SCHOOL FEES are dealt with separately by Mrs Michele Nash, michelen@sjmb.school.nz and should be paid either via bank transfer (12-3042-0320348-00) referenced with your child's name and 'Fees', or via EFTPOS at the school office. Any families paying in instalments do not need to make any changes to arrangements already in place.