

St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Rd
Ranfurly
027 266 1758
office@sjr.school.nz

Issue 8 : 31st July 2026



Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai - Welcome back to Term 3!!

It's been so great to see all the children's smiling faces over the past couple of weeks as they've come back from their holidays.

There are quite a few bugs going around the district at the moment, so thank you for keeping your kids at home if they are really sick.

Lohi

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the Lohi Fashion Show during the holidays. We are also very grateful to the staff, students, parents, grandparents, and friends who modelled in the show — you were all fabulous!

Lohi generously donated \$1,475 from ticket sales to our school, which is an amazing gift. We would like to sincerely thank Tania and Russ for their generosity, for providing our students with a valuable learning experience around sustainable fashion, and for organising such a wonderful event.

Our Senior students selected clothing from the Op Shop and then designed new garments, which Tania made for them. They proudly modelled their creations at the show and were judged on the finished product. Jessie's team placed first and Victor's team placed second. Their prize was pizza and milkshakes at Lohi — what lucky students!



St John's School Procedures for picking up children

Thank you for picking up your children last Friday when the water pipe burst on Stafford St, if you were able to do so. This has highlighted the need for me to clarify school procedures for student pick-ups.

Please read through the procedures carefully so you are familiar with them, and don't hesitate to contact me if you would like anything clarified.

For the care and protection of St John's School students, children must be collected from school by:

- a parent or caregiver
- an emergency contact
- another adult who has been prearranged by the parent or caregiver
 - A parent or caregiver may prearrange for a student to be picked up by another adult eg, taking another child to sport.
 - In the event of an emergency closure, or if a student is left at school because a parent is running late or unavailable for pick-up, the school will first contact the parent or caregiver, and then the emergency contact. If no one can be contacted, the school will keep the child at school until contact is made with one of these people, or until the parent or caregiver arranges for another adult to collect the child as soon as possible.
 - Children cannot be released to an adult who has not been pre-approved by the parent or caregiver.
 - If arrangements change throughout the day, and a child is unaware, parents should text the school to let their child know.

Parents or caregivers should not take a child from the school gate of another family if it hasn't been prearranged by that child's parent or caregiver.

Snow Day Procedures

- Snow before School:
 - The Bus controller consults with the bus companies and drivers and then rings the Principals
 - If **all** buses are running an hour late, then school will open an hour late
 - If **all** buses are cancelled, school will likely be cancelled.
 - Parents and Caregivers will be notified by text
- Snow during school time:
 - The Bus controller consults with the bus companies and drivers and then rings the Principals
 - The school will advise parents and caregivers by text or phone call if a bus is leaving early due to bad road conditions.
 - The school will need to hear back from the parent before they can put their child on the bus.
 - If the school doesn't hear back from the parent before the bus leaves, then the child will have to stay at school until they are picked up.

Lockdown and Shelter in Place Procedures

In the event of an emergency, the school may need to go into lockdown. If this happens, parents and caregivers will be contacted by text from the school.

During a lockdown, it is important that parents and caregivers do not come onto school grounds. Please also avoid contacting your child by text or phone unless instructed by the school, as this helps keep everyone safe and allows staff and emergency services to manage the situation.

Rosie the Milking Cow

It's not every day you get a milking cow come to school! We were lucky to have Jackie Cameron and her wonderful mum Pamma come to school with Rosie for an afternoon of milking and butter making.

Every student got to have a turn at milking the cow and then trying some of the milk if they wanted to. This was such a wonderful experience for us all.

Unfortunately, it wasn't a warm day, and the cream just didn't want to turn into butter. But we were super grateful that Jackie and Pamma took all the cream home and turned it into butter for us to take home and try. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity, Jackie and Pamma!



Chinese Language Week

We were lucky enough to have Alina Cai come and read a Chinese book to us for Chinese Language week. Each year New Zealand puts out a book in English, Maori and Chinese. The Teacher's read the book to the classes in English first and then Alina comes and reads it in Chinese. It is so lovely listening to how she pronounces the words. Alex also came along to our session and the children enjoyed asking Alex and Alina about life in China and some facts. Thanks so much Cai's for coming into school and celebrating with us.

Hens have arrived

A huge thank you to Ryan and Geraldine Dowling for donating 7 fabulous laying hens to the school!

We currently have a roster of a Senior, Middle and Junior child each week collecting the eggs. We will be selling the eggs in the church for \$8 a dozen.

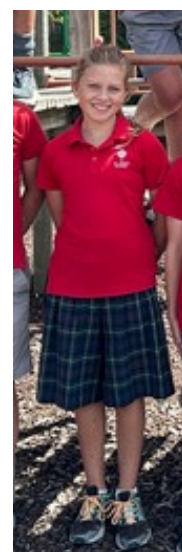
If anyone would like to donate a bag of mash to the school, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Congratulations Kaylah!

We are so excited to hear that Kaylah has been selected to attend a World Curling Academy Youth Training Junior Camp in Norway in a few weeks. This is an amazing opportunity for Kaylah to further develop her skills in Curling. While she is away, she will attend a range of activities including lectures and workshops, visiting Olympic venues, nutrition and physical training sessions, as well as team building.

We would like to wish Kaylah safe travels and all the very best for this fantastic opportunity.

We look forward to her coming back and feeding forward the skills she has learnt to help us in our curling. Have fun, Kaylah!



Book Week - 17th-21st August

We are going to hold a Book Week at St John's School. This is the date of the National Book Week in New Zealand.

During that time we will do some fun activities around books at school and we will hold a 'dress as a book character' day.

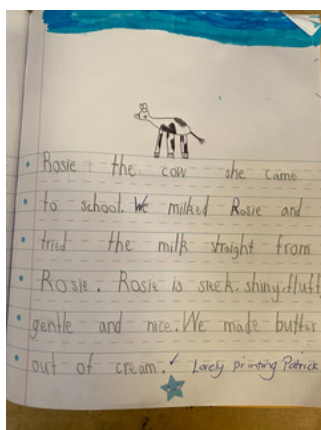
More information will come out closer to the time.

Welcome to Asher Smith who has started in the Junior Room this term.

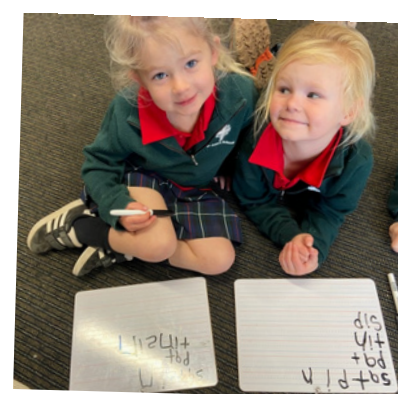




Writing Time: We have been learning about “Who” (subject) and “Do” (verb) phrases, and are now bringing our writing to life by adding adjectives and building compound sentences.



CODE and Stepsweb- Phonics



4

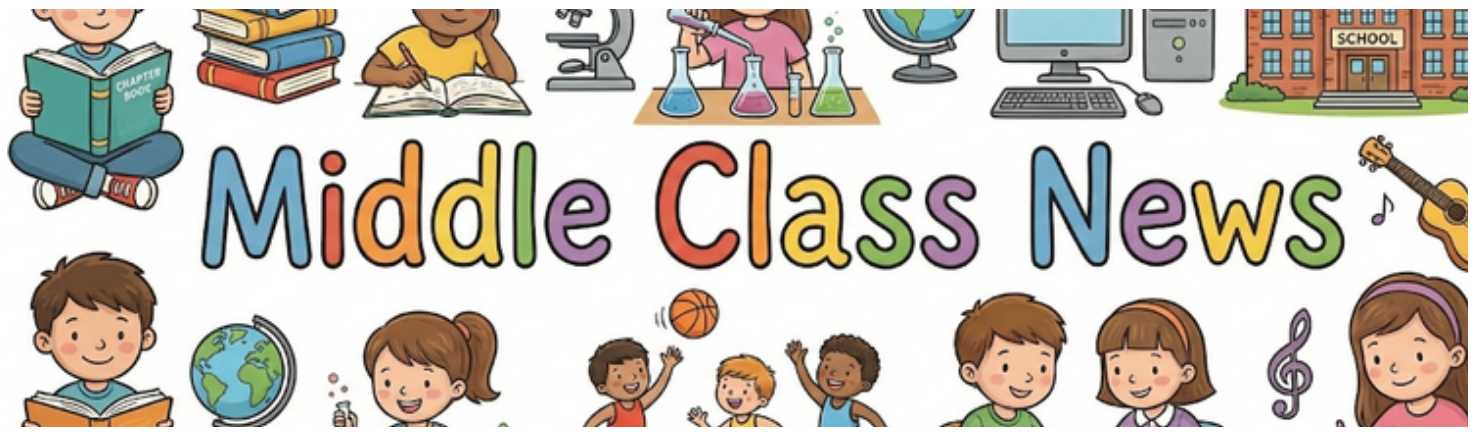
All families are special, who is in yours?

My whānau.

Dad Mum Maggie Harriet Me Ashby

I am in my family.





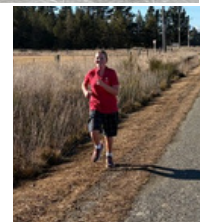
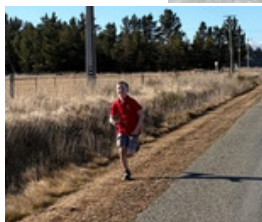
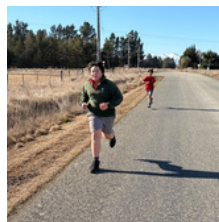
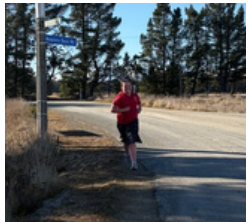
The Middle Room students have hit the ground running this term! They are busy training hard for the upcoming cross-country and working with incredible focus toward their personal goals. We are so impressed by their determined attitudes and perseverance. Alongside our cross-country training, we are continuing our day-to-day routines in Literacy and Numeracy. It's wonderful to see the children return so organised, positive, and ready to learn!





The Senior Room has had a great start to the term, and it has been good to see everyone settling back into school routines. It was awesome to see the wonderful effort our students showed in the Lohi Matariki fashion show during the holidays. They looked fantastic and did a great job creating their designs and modelling. A huge thank you to Tania and Russ for their support and help with this special event.

At the end of last term, we also enjoyed our whole-school ice skating experience. It was fantastic to see everyone giving it a go, supporting each other, and having so much fun on the ice. Cross-country practice has also begun, and the students have been showing great perseverance and determination as they prepare.



Another highlight has been our new school chickens. The children have loved helping care for them and collecting the eggs. We were also very lucky to have Rosie the milking cow visit us. It was very interesting to try fresh cow's milk and learn how cream and butter are made. It has been a positive and busy start to the term, and we are looking forward to all the learning and fun still to come.





Prayer Garden Opening/Matariki Mass

At the end of last term, we had a lovely opening for our Prayer Garden, where Father Pete officially opened and blessed it. Thank you to Jayne Hazlett for the inspiration and her husband James for doing all the hard work. Mrs Hazlett and Mrs Mulholland cut the ribbon and officially opened the Prayer Garden.

This is a place for reflection, and we hope to use it more as a class in summertime.

We also had a wonderful Matariki Mass celebration in our church. It was so lovely to see so many of our families come and celebrate with the church, all lit up with candles.



Board of Trustees: 19th August 7pm in the staffroom

Notices and Dates:

Week 2	Sunday 2 nd August	• Sunday Mass at 4pm • Altar Servers: Florence, Juliette & Arthur Dowling
Week 3	Sunday 9 th August	• Sunday Mass at 4pm • Altar Servers: Charlie Dowling & Victor Suazo
Week 4	Sunday 16 th August	• Sunday Mass at 4pm • Altar Servers: Zach Tomalon & Mack Mayo
Week 5	Sunday 23 rd August	• Book Week • Sunday Mass at 4pm • Altar Servers: Theo Dowling & Flynn McSkimming
Week 6	Monday 24 th August Sunday 30 th August	• Cross Country 1.00pm • Sunday Mass at 4pm • Altar Servers: Jack & Jimmy Jeffries