



St John's School Newsletter

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

Issue 11: 23rd October 2026



Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai - Welcome back!

New Sunhats

A huge thank you to the PTA for our wonderful new bucket hats. We will look fabulous while staying sun-smart at school. Thank you to Jackie Cameron for organising the sunhats and her helpers for ironing on all the labels.

Athletics Sports

The children have been busy practising for the Athletic Sports, which are held at the Maniototo Stadium on the 6th November. More information will come home about this next week. Thank you to all the parent helpers who have come on a Tuesday afternoon and to Tania Murray for helping the students with their practising. We really appreciate your support.

School Concert

We have started our singing practice for the school concert. Next week we will start to allocate parts and start practising in our school hall.

The concert date is Thursday 3rd December at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Lots of dates for the Diary:

There are a lot of school events happening in the last term, so please put these dates on your calendar:

26th October	Labour Day - No School
2nd November	Caritas Walking Challenge - information out next week
6th November	Athletics Sports
13th November	Teacher Only Day - No School
17th November	Otago Sports - for students that qualify
20th November	Pet Day 1pm
24th-27th November	Senior Class Camp to Dunedin
3rd December	School Concert 7pm in Town Hall
7th December	Whole School Mass 1:30pm
9th December	Year 8 Graduation 1:30pm
10th December	Crazy Hair Day
11th December	Last Day of School for 2026



Koru Classroom

Mrs Hazlett spent a lot of the holidays setting up a new classroom in the hall which she has named 'Koru Classroom'.

The Year 2,5 and 6 students use this classroom for their Literacy learning.

Thank you to Garrad Eketone and the Board of Trustees for making this happen.



Welcome

We welcome two new five year olds and their families to St John's School.

Welcome to Monty Miller and Marthina Untalan who both started school at the beginning of this term.



Mrs Wishy Washy

Last Friday the 16th October the Junior Class read the story "Mrs Wishy Washy". We completed some reading and writing activities about the story. Here are Marthina and Asher dressed up as Mrs Wishy Washy.

Thank you

A big thank you to the PTA for giving us some new bucket sunhats.

Also thank you to Jackie Cameron for organising these and to Jackie's family helpers for ironing all the name tags on these! The children have been enjoying wearing these on the warmer, sunny days

Here is a photo of the Junior class wearing their new hats.



Holiday Stories

In the holidays I rode my motorbike. We went down to the shed to plant some potatoes.

By Demi Huddleston

In the holidays I went to Blakely's Dam. We got some snails in a container.

By Robbie O'Neill

In the holidays I went to the beach and I went diving but we didn't catch any fish so we went rock hopping. We got pauas. We had puaa patties for tea.

By Cole Gloag

In the holidays I helped Mum feed the 56 calves. My job was to help mix the milk.

By Asher Smith



Welcome back to Term 4 - Lovely to see everyone back with a positive attitude. We have talked about this term when we walk into the classroom "Putting our best foot forward" - ask the children about this.

A huge congratulations to Evelyn Cai for winning a colouring competition related to Oral Health - The children had the opportunity to do this from home if they chose to and Evelyn was a lucky winner!!

We have been so lucky with the weather while practising for the upcoming Athletics - long may this continue! Also a big Thank you to our Year 3 and 4 children who helped me fill up the vegetable gardens with top soil.





Welcome back to Term 4! We have a very exciting and busy term ahead of us. I've attached the notice that went home in Week 1 as a reminder of what's coming up.



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 4 in the Senior Room. We have a busy, exciting term ahead, with plenty of learning, sporting opportunities, and special events.

Homework

Homework will continue this term and will include:

- **Reading:** Students will bring home a book they have read at school. Please encourage your child to read the book aloud to a parent or caregiver each night. This helps to develop fluency, expression and confidence.
- **Mathematics:** Students will bring home mathematics worksheets to complete.
- **Spelling:** Students will bring home their spelling words to practise. Please support your child by listening to them read and spell the words.
- **Mathletics:** Students have their Mathletics username and password recorded in their homework books. They are welcome to practise their mathematics skills at home using Mathletics.

Please check and sign the homework sheet each week. Thank you for your support with your child's learning at home.

Health and Physical Education

This term, students will be learning about puberty as part of our Health and Physical Education programme. The learning will be age-appropriate, respectful and inclusive. Students will explore the physical, emotional and social changes that can happen during puberty, as well as personal hygiene, body safety, managing emotions and identifying trusted adults who can provide support.

We encourage you to talk with your child about what they learn at home. Please contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything we should be aware of to support your child.

Athletics

Students will take part in athletics practices on Tuesday afternoons throughout the term. They will practise skills such as running, jumping and throwing in preparation for our school athletics event.

The athletics day will be held on Friday 6 November.

Important Dates:

Every Tuesday Weeks 1-4: Athletics Practices 1:30pm

Monday 26th October: Labour Day — school closed

Monday 2nd November: Young Vinnies Caritas Walking Challenge

Friday 6th November: Athletics Day

Friday 13th November: Teacher Only Day — school closed

Friday 20th November: Pet Day

Tuesday 24th – Friday 27th

November: Senior Room Class Camp

Tuesday 1st December: Whole School Swimming

Thursday 3rd December: Prize Giving and School Concert 7pm

Friday 4th December: Reports and Portfolios Home

Monday 7th December: Year 8 Mass 1:30pm

Wednesday 9th December: Year 8 Graduation 1:30pm

Friday 11 December: Whole School Swimming & Last day of school

Class Camp

Our Senior Room class camp will take place from Tuesday 24 November to Friday 27 November in Dunedin.

More information about the camp, including equipment lists and other details, will be sent home separately. Thank you to all who have offered to help on this trip.

Contacting Me

Email: ella@sjr.school.nz

School Cellphone: 0272661758

It has been a successful year for Young Vinnies. The students have collected pinecones for our parishioners, visited the chalet to sing songs and share their country reports, and are organising a walking challenge to raise money for Caritas. Later this term, we're looking forward to making Christmas cards for the Chalet and doing some baking for our parishioners. We're also super excited for Athletics in Week 4! A big thank you to Mrs Steele for organising athletics practice here at St John's and to MAS for providing afternoon practices.





*Sunday, 18th October was "Mission Sunday". It is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of this day.

We often associate "Missionaries" with Mission Sunday - people who work in poor and remote areas around the world but we too can be missionaries in our own communities.

At Faith Focus time this week we discussed how we could be missionaries at St John's School and here are some of the ideas children came up with:

- using kind words when speaking to others
- being happy and cheerful
- being peacemakers in our playground
- showing respect to others
- praying for others
- treating others like Jesus would
- working hard
- supporting people in other countries who do not have what we have
- picking up rubbish
- include people in our games and activities

*In the last week of term on **Thursday 10th December** we will have a MissioNZ fundraiser "Crazy Hair Day" where children can wear mufti and wear their hair in any crazy, wild, wacky style they like! They can bring a gold coin donation and we will send these to MissioNZ who are giving donations in 2026 to support projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Board of Trustees: 18th November 26 at 7.00pm

Notices and Dates:

Week 2	Sunday 25 th October	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Sophia & Henry Crutchley
Week 3	Monday 26 th October	• Labour Day (No School)
	Sunday 1 st November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Isla & Oscar Jeffries
Week 4	Friday 6 th November	• Athletics Sports
	Sunday 8 th November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Maggie & Harriet O'Neill
Week 5	Friday 13 th November	• Teacher Only Day (No School)
	Sunday 15 th November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Caleb & Evelyn Cai
Week 6	Friday 20 th November	• Pet Day 1.00pm
	Sunday 22 nd November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Jessie Greer & Izzy Eketone