



St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 1: 5th February 2026



Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai - Welcome back!

We have been excited to see the children back at school these last couple of weeks, and hear all about their holidays.

We warmly welcome Ella Booth to our teaching team this year in the Senior Room. We feel very privileged to be the school where Ella begins her teaching journey. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ella on being awarded a Professional Experience Excellence Award from the University of Otago College of Education last year. What an achievement! Well done Ella! Trina Steele also joins our team this year as a Mentor to Ella and Sports Coordinator.

Teaching Team for 2026:

Senior Room: Miss Ella Booth

Sharon Thompson - Teacher Aide

Mrs Rachel Gray on Thursdays

Middle Room: Mrs Elworthy - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Mrs Dowling - Thursday, Friday
Becky Bruhns - Teacher Aide

Junior Room: Mrs Susan Mulholland
Mrs Jayne Hazlett - Wednesday morning
Angela Francis - Teacher Aide

Literacy: Mrs Jayne Hazlett will continue to work on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings with individuals or groups.

Office: Mrs Fiona Weir will continue to work in the office - there is a slight change to her hours - She will work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 8:30am-12pm. If you have any inquiries or want to order uniform, she will be available before school.

Maniototo A & P Show

The Maniototo A and P Show is being held on **Wednesday 12th February**. Children will be dismissed from school at **12pm** on this day to enable them to attend the show with their parents.

Buses will collect any bus students from school at 12pm.

If you are unable to collect your child from school on this day and you need them to come home on the bus, please let the classroom teacher know. Thank you.

Swim Week

A massive thank you to all the parents who helped out last week at the pool or drove the van. This was a huge commitment - we really appreciate all your help, as we couldn't do this week without you.

Another massive thank you to Stringer Shearing for donating the van for the week. This was very generous - we are hugely appreciative of this!



Swimming

Our swim week went very well last week. We are lucky that our PTA pays for a private swimming teacher, Jo Blackie, for the week. She is fantastic and was very pleased with all the students' progress.

Thank you so much, PTA for providing this for us!

Class swimming will start next week. You will be advised by the teachers when the class swimming times will be.

A reminder that children need to bring their swimming gear in a bag that is easy to carry to the swimming pool.

Please ensure all uniform is named, otherwise it is easily mixed up.

Phone Messages

On the mornings that Fiona Weir works in the office (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), she will take all the phone calls and messages.

Please text in to school by 8:50am if your child is going to be absent and the reason for their absence. The teachers have to code the absences daily and they get sent to the Ministry of Education. If your child has too many unexplained absences, it could result in a notification being sent to the Attendance Office of the Ministry of Education.

In the afternoons, the cellphone is with the classroom teachers and is not always monitored, or we don't hear it. Please try to text or leave a message before 1:15pm if possible.

Digital Technology Use Agreements

Students have been asked to read and sign a Digital Technology Use Agreement with their parents this week if they are in Year 3-8. This is so they understand how to use the computers and the internet safely.

During the year, the staff take photos of individual students or groups at school, on camps or other outdoor activities. These are for use in our classrooms or in the school newsletter.

Sometimes we get asked for photos of what's happening in our school for other publications such as the Positively Maniatoto or Tiaki Maniototo. If you do not want your child's photo published in other publications please let us know by filling out the form in the back of this newsletter.

Stationery

All the children have received their new stationery at school. If you would like to cover your children's books, you are welcome to do so by taking them overnight and bringing them back the next day. This is not a requirement.

Stationery money is to be paid by **Friday 20th February** please.

Internet banking can be made to the following account number:

03 0951 0066195 00

Please remember when paying by internet, to put your name and 'School Stationery' as a reference.

Pie Warmer/Microwave/Sandwich Press

We have a pie warmer available for children to use to heat pies, savouries etc.

We also have a microwave and a sandwich press for the Middle and Senior children to use to heat basic food items.

Teacher Only Day

We will be having a teacher only day on **Friday 27th March** (in conjunction with Maniototo Area School) to work on the new NZ Maths Curriculum.

School will also be closed on **Monday 23rd March** for Otago Anniversary Day.

Up-to-date contact and medical details

We require each family to please fill in the contact form as we need up-to-date information to enable us to contact you or your emergency contact if required. Your emergency contact needs to be someone in the area that we are able to call if we are unable to get hold of the parents eg, if your child is sick, or if your child has had an accident.

Please make sure you fill out all of the form, including address, email and phone numbers.

Also, please fill in up-to-date medical information for children eg, any new allergies and ensure that your child's class teacher is given any up-to-date medication they may need at school.

A form for parents to fill in to enable us to update our files has been sent home today. Please fill in one for your family and return it as soon as possible.

Emailing Newsletter

Our newsletters are emailed to those families who have provided us with an email address. If you don't receive your newsletter by email please contact Fiona Weir at office@sjr.school.nz

Our newsletter comes out roughly every three weeks.

Scholastic Lucky Books

Please remember if you are ordering Scholastic Lucky Books for your children as presents and do not want them to see these, just write a note on the order or let us know and you will be text when the books arrive.

School Uniform

If you wish to order items of uniform, a reminder that you will be asked to pay full postage in the total cost. If you need a uniform order, you can print one off the school website under the 'Notices' tab - then "Class Notices".

You can also order uniforms yourself, online at <http://stjohns.uniformz.com>

We have high expectations for all children to be dressed in the correct uniform. This is a policy set by the school Board of Trustees. Please ensure your child has correct uniform each day as the class teachers will be enforcing this.

Boys - Summer

Red polo shirt

Grey shorts

School polar fleece or jersey

Grey or black socks

Sneakers

Girls - Summer

Red polo shirt

Skort

School polar fleece or jersey

Black socks

Sneakers

If your child has long hair, it should be tied back off their face.

School Day Times

A reminder that the school does not open until **8:30am** each morning. Please do not send children to school before this time.

The school bell rings at **8:50am**, and it is important that the children are at school at least 5 minutes before this as they need that time to get organised for the day. If the children arrive at school late, it is disruptive for the class and they may have missed leading class activities.

Sometimes we have to leave school promptly to get to meetings in Alexandra, so it is important for us to know if parents are running late.

The school day finishes at **2:50pm**.

Lunchtime is **12:30-1:15pm**.

School Buses

Each year, we are asked by the Ministry of Education transport advisor to reiterate to parents and caregivers the following points:

- It is the responsibility of the caregivers to get bus children to pick-up locations and to collect them from drop-off locations.
- It is recommended that caregivers and children arrive at the bus stop location at least 5 minutes prior to the time advised by the bus provider.
- Caregivers should stay with their children while they are waiting for their school transport in the morning and meet them in the afternoon as they get off the bus.

Information Evening

We are holding an information evening on **Wednesday 25th February** in each classroom. This is a time to come and meet your child's class teacher and find out what is being taught in class and what the expectations are for learning within each classroom. We would love to see you there.

6:30pm Junior Room

7:00pm Middle Room

7:30pm Senior Room

You only need to attend the class/es that your child/children are in; however, you are welcome to attend any of the class sessions.



Welcome

We welcome new 5 year old,
Chester Weir, to St John's
School.



Week 1

Last Thursday the Junior class read the story "Bubbles". After this we had fun blowing bubbles both inside and outside.



Then on Friday we read a book called "The Giant's Ice Cream" and we enjoyed eating a lemonade iceblock afterwards.



This week we have started our normal reading programme again. Children are generally quite slow at reading after the long holiday so some children may have a book 2 nights in a row to build up fluency again. Please ensure you hear your child read the book they bring home each night - if it is slow going, I suggest you read a page and your child reads a page. Children with word tins need to read each word every night to build up instant recognition of these words. Thank you for your help with this.
Spelling and tables will start after swim week for older children in the class. Spelling words also need to be heard by a parent please.



What a neat bunch of kids who are settling well into our routines and showing a great attitude to learning. The children have enjoyed swim week, and although cold at times, they have still come back with a smile on their face.

Homework will start next week, Please ensure you test them on their basic facts, listen to their reading and sign each night.





We've had a great start to the year, spending time getting to know one another and settling into our classroom routines. The students worked together to create our Class Treaty, sharing ideas about how we want to learn, treat each other, and the expectations we have of one another this year.

Swim Week has made classroom life very busy, but we still managed to fit in a hands-on science activity where students designed and tested egg parachutes, showing excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.





Waitangi Day

On Friday we have a public holiday to commemorate Waitangi Day. Although recognised as a significant day since its signing in 1840 it did not become a national holiday until the 1970s. The Waitangi Day Act 1960 declared that 6th February would be known as Waitangi Day and would be observed throughout the country as 'a national day of thanksgiving in commemoration of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi'. The call for the 6th of February to be a nationwide public holiday continued from the early promises made in 1957. Prime Minister Norman Kirk announced that from 1974 it would be a national holiday.

Wednesday 18th February is Ash Wednesday.

We will be celebrating the beginning of the year school Mass and Ash Wednesday on this day at **9a.m.** in our parish Church. Everyone is welcome to join us for this.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Church season of Lent, which is 40 days of preparation for Easter.

Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and Lent were times of fasting and abstinence. But now we are encouraged to put God first in our daily lives and do more to help others. We all receive a cross of ash on our foreheads at our Ash Wednesday Mass to remind us to live like Jesus did.

Board of Trustees:

Our first meeting for 2026 is on **Wednesday, 11th February.**

Notices and Dates:

Week 2	Sunday 8 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday Mass at 5pm• Altar Servers: Jack & Jimmy Jeffries
Week 3	Tuesday 10th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Becks Smith is visiting to talk about the Calves.• Class Swimming this week.
	Sunday 15 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday Mass at 5pm• Altar Servers: Ben & Olivia Scott
Week 4	Wednesday 18 th Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ash Wednesday Mass in the Church 9am• A and P Show - School closed 12pm
	Sunday 22 nd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday Mass at 5pm• Altar Servers: Kaylah McAuley & Archie Weir
Week 5	Wednesday 25 th and Thursday 26 th Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life Education Bus
	Sunday 1 st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday Mass at 5pm• Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Evie Steele
Week 6	Monday 2 nd - Wednesday 4th March Thursday 5 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Review Office visiting• Swimming Sports
Week 8	Thursday 19 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Arrowtown visit and the Middle Room's overnight stay