

# St John's School Newsletter

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## Issue 3: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai!

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for the term! It has absolutely flown by. A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our Arrowtown trip last week. We are hugely grateful for the time you take out of your busy lives to help us provide these experiences for the children. I was very impressed with how our students behaved on the trip and how they all got involved and made the most out of the day. It really helped our students to understand more about their learning of 'Gold'.

In Week 6, we had a visit from the Education Review Office (ERO). Our reviewer looked closely at our processes, teaching, and results, as well as meeting with our staff and Board of Trustees (BOT). Ryan Dowling and I have received the draft report and are very pleased with the findings. The reviewer commented to me and the BOT on the high standard of teaching and learning she saw throughout the school, the warm relationships with our students, and our strong data across all subjects. I feel very lucky to have such a dedicated teaching staff here at St John's. The effort they put in to ensure our students have the best possible opportunities—and the way they truly know each child—is wonderful to see. We are also privileged to have a committed BOT that ensure our teachers are well-equipped and supported to deliver the curriculum with our students at the heart of it all.

I would like to say a warm welcome to the Viduya family. Breianne is in Year 4, and she is a wonderful addition to the Middle Room. Welcome to St John's School!

I would lastly like to say that I hope you all have wonderful, restful holidays, and we look forward to seeing the children back next term.

## **Attendance**

There have been changes to how our Attendance is collected and monitored by the Ministry of Education. If your child is absent for over 5 days a term, it is flagged in our system and sent to the Ministry. I am then legally required by the Ministry to contact you and let you know. If a child misses 5 days a term, each term, that is 4 weeks a year, which is almost half a term. This can affect their learning. If your child misses over 9.5 days a term, then I am required to support you with making an attendance plan.

## **Honey**

Next Tuesday is honey extraction time!

Anna and Rob McSkimming will be leading this. Please could each child bring a small to medium jar, empty and clean, that we could put honey into for them to bring home.

We will then fill jars at school that will be available to buy through the school office next term. A massive thank you to Anna and Rob for helping us with this.

## **Teacher Only Day and Holidays**

Tomorrow is a Teacher Only Day. The teachers are heading to Roxburgh for a Maths professional learning day.

The holidays start next week on Good Friday, so the last day of term is Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.

## **Night at the Races Fundraiser**

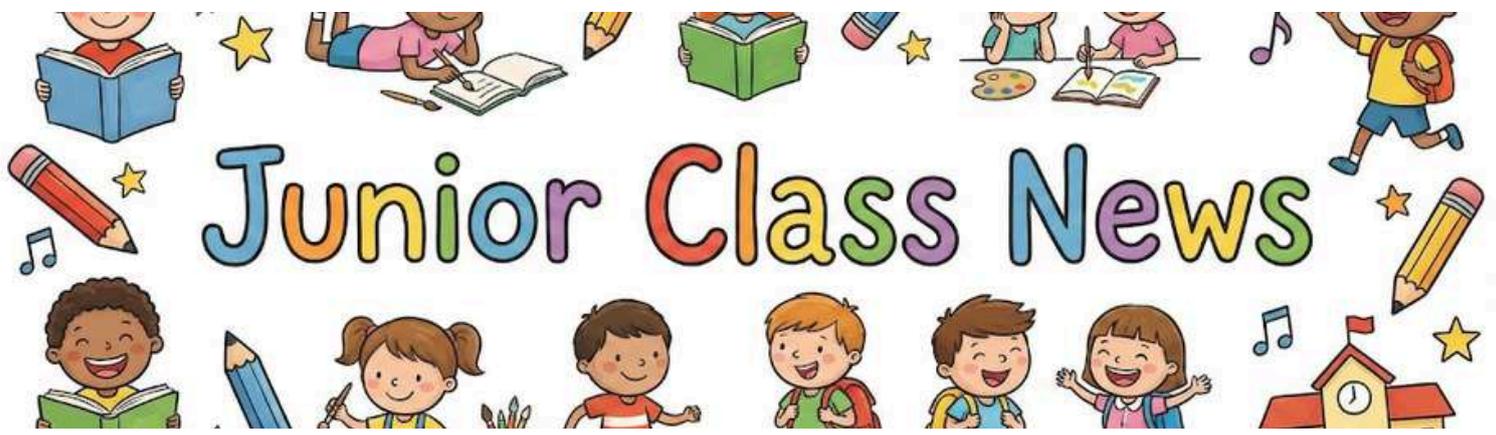
Thank you to the amazing committee that is currently busy organising this fundraiser for our school. We are very lucky to have such dedicated parents who put in such a huge effort to make sure this night runs smoothly.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help and have bought tickets or tables.

We are lucky to have such a great PTA, and all the money raised benefits all our students.

Did you know that PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association? So each parent, teacher or staff member is automatically part of this association when they sign up to our school. The PTA raise funds for extras not covered by the school budget, such as equipment, school improvements, trips, or events.

Keep a look out for our PTA meeting next term.



Thank you

A huge thank you to those parents who helped with transport and supervision at Arrowtown last week. It was a great day out and the children really enjoyed all the activities.

Here are some stories they wrote about the trip with some photos.



**On Thursday we went to Arrowtown. My favourite part was the scavenger hunt. At Miss Gray's school she smacked George Love on his bottom 6 times. The last thing we did was gold panning. It was a great day.**

**George McKirdy**

Please note: George didn't really get his bottom smacked - it was just acting!

On Thursday we went to Arrowtown. I got a speck of gold. I liked everything, but my most favourite thing was gold panning. At Arrowtown we made rag rugs. When we made rag rugs we had to get a little piece of material and a type of chopstick. The chopstick made a hole in the brown square that we put the material through. It was a fun day.

Willow Eketone

**On Thursday we went to Arrowtown. I went gold panning. I got a speck of gold. I went to an old fashioned school. We had to write on a blackboard with a piece of slate. We had to wear aprons and bonnets. We went to the museum. We did a scavenger hunt. It was amazing.**

**Thea Huddleston**

On Thursday we went to Arrowtown. We went to the river and we went gold panning. I had a fun day.  
Cole Gloag

**On Thursday we went to Arrowtown. I went gold panning. I found a speck of gold. I went in Ollie's car. We talked about rugby and soccer. We went in Miss Gray's classroom. My Dad had to put his nose in the circle of the blackboard because he was talking. It was an excellent day.**  
**Harry McSkimming**

### The Magic Faraway Tree

We have been reading this chapter book in the Junior Class this term. The movie is coming out next week - please read the letter attached for Junior and Middle Class parents about a trip to Alexandra on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May to see the movie.

Here are some drawings of what we think the Faraway Tree looks like.

Ollie Kensington    George McKirdy.    Fergus Smith.    Thea Huddleston.    Cole Gloag



### **People who help us**

As part of our Health topic "What do we do when we have problems", earlier this term we wrote about people who help us. Here they are for you to read.

My Dad helps me when I fall off my motorbike  
Braxton Chalmers

**The police help us when a bad guy comes.**  
**Walter Dowling**

Police help us when we crash. They help us when we speed.  
Harry McSkimming

**My Mum and Dad help when I get hurt.**  
**Ollie Kensington**

Mum helps me brush my hair.  
Jess Cameron

**On Christmas Day, Harriet went in the rescue helicopter to Dunedin Hospital.**  
**Patrick O'Neill**

Mum and Dad help me when I fall over.  
Cole Gloag

**Mum and Dad help me when I fall off my motorbike.**  
**Fergus Smith**

### **Holidays**

I hope everyone has a happy and restful holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in Term 2.

**Becky helped me when I broke my arm. She is an Ambulance person.**  
**Ruby Dodds**

Mum sent to the doctor because she hurt her shoulder.  
Lucy Gladstone

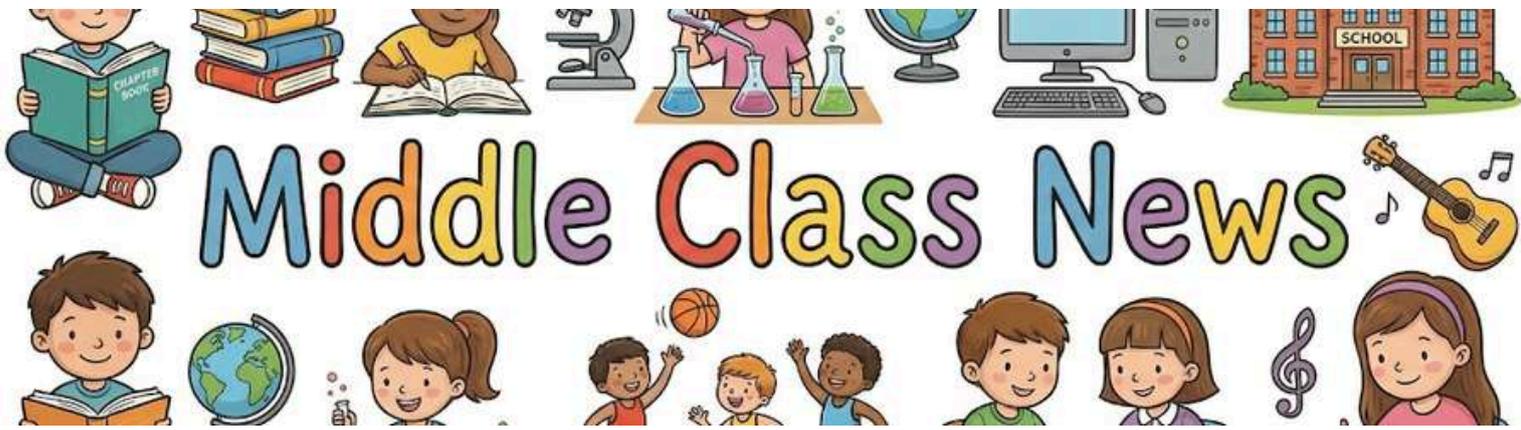
**My Mum is a doctor. She helps lots of people when they are sick.**  
**George McKirdy**

My Friends help me when I get hurt.  
Thea Huddleston

**My friends helped me when I fell off the monkey bars and lost my tooth.**  
**Willow Eketone**

I have to go to the tooth hospital because I didn't brush my teeth properly.  
Chester Weir

**My Dad helps me to shut the gate.**  
**Miller Barnish**

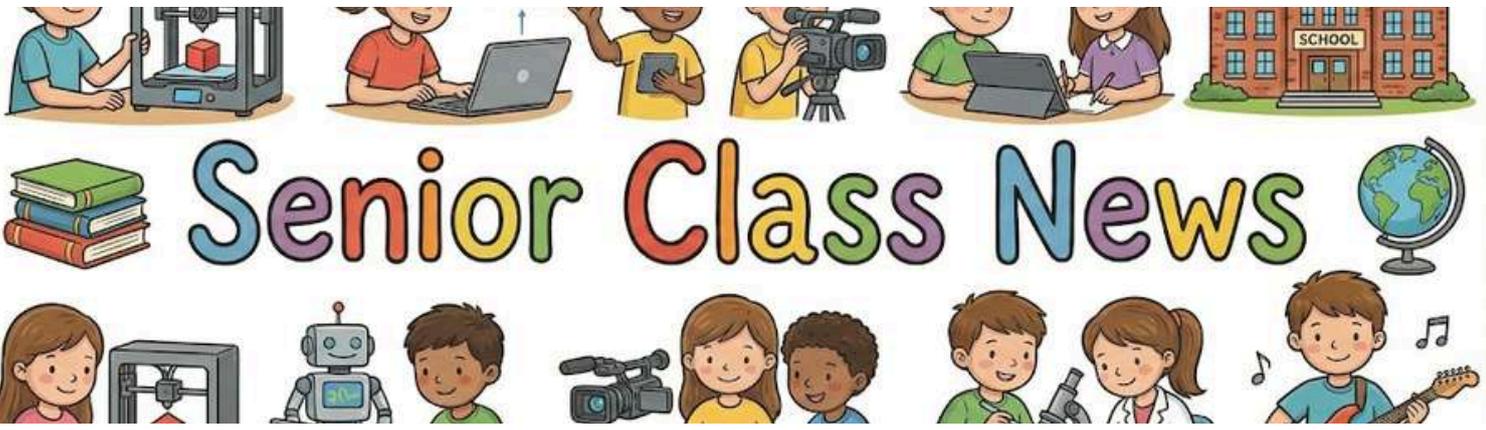


What a busy and exciting week we have had. Our camp to Arrowtown was a fantastic experience, beginning with an action-packed visit to the museum. It was a full day of learning about the gold rush and gaining insight into how the Chinese miners coped with coming to Central Otago in search of gold. There was very little downtime from start to finish, and we ended the day with a swim at Frankton.

Needless to say, it did not take long for the children to fall asleep that evening. We were incredibly fortunate with the weather on both days, which certainly made the experience even more enjoyable. Arrowtown is such a beautiful place to visit, and we appreciated a short stroll along the river's edge the following morning before heading to the gold mining site in the Kawarau Gorge. While we will not be giving up our day jobs anytime soon — as not an ounce of gold was found — there was certainly plenty of enthusiasm and fun along the way.

With another two short weeks ahead, we have plenty of learning to fit in, and I know the children are more than ready for the challenge. Enjoy having your children home for the holidays before we begin the busy and exciting work of Term 2.





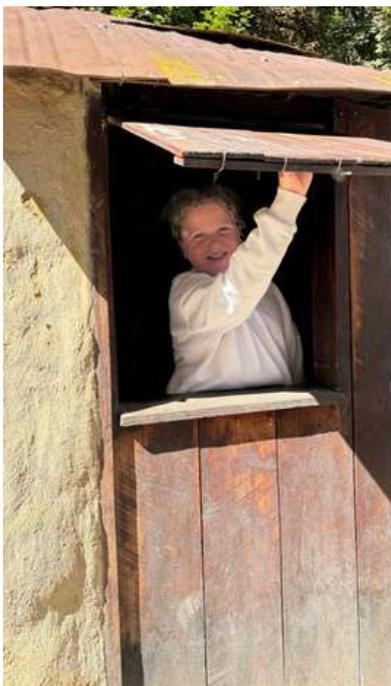
# Senior Class News

Last week we travelled to Arrowtown for our school trip to learn all about gold. The students explored the old buildings, discovered what life was like for miners, and even learned how people searched for gold in the rivers. It was amazing to see their curiosity and the thoughtful questions they asked.



In Religious Education, we have been learning about Easter. We've talked about the important events that lead up to Easter. The students have shown great respect during our discussions and have been making meaningful connections in their learning.

To celebrate Palm Sunday, the seniors used balloons as their palm branches and made a guard of honour for the junior room to walk through as if they were Jesus. It was lovely to see the older students showing leadership and kindness.





\*Father Jaewoo will be moving to Oamaru during the school holidays and we wish him all the best with his new job in the Oamaru Parish.

We will be having a school farewell for Fr Jaewoo on Monday 30th March at 2.15p.m. in the school hall.

We have an experienced Marist priest who is coming to live in Ranfurly next term. His name is Father Peter Roe. We look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

\*Holy Week is the special week before Easter that tells the story of Jesus' last days, including his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his special last supper on Holy Thursday, his crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

\*Children will be participating in the "Stations of the Cross" ceremony next Thursday afternoon in our hall.

The Stations of the Cross use 14 visual images to depict Jesus' steps on the day he died. At each visual image we stop and look. We listen to the short story about the image and we pray. This is a traditional Holy Week ceremony in our Catholic Faith.

In Religious Education lessons over the next week children will be learning about the Holy Week stories.

\*Happy Easter.

## Board of Trustees:

**Next Meeting** : Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 7pm

## Notices and Dates:

<b>Week 9</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher Only Day</li><li>• Altar Servers: Jessie and Izzy</li></ul>
<b>Week 10</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Last day of Term</li><li>• Altar Servers: Florence, Juliette and Walter</li></ul>
<b>Holidays</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Altar Servers: Charlie and Victor</li></ul>
<b>Holidays</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Altar Servers: Zach and Mack</li></ul>



**Saliva Superpower**

**Did you know...**

- Saliva is a real superhero for our teeth and gums! We make less saliva at night so it's important to always brush our teeth before bed
- Saliva helps carry the minerals to our teeth needed for repair, to keep them healthy and strong
- Eating crunchy fruit & veges (celery, apples, carrots), dairy foods (cheese, yoghurt) and almonds can all help to increase our saliva
- Drinking plenty of water each day helps us to make enough saliva
- A superpower of saliva is helping to wash away bits of left-over food from our teeth

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral  
Health Service

 Talkteeth Southern