



Kia ora parents and whānau

Welcome back to another school year. We hope you have all had a wonderful break with your family and your children are rested and ready for an exciting year of learning here at St Mary's.

This newsletter is to inform you of important dates and information pertinent to our team and to give you an overview of the learning we will cover this term. Our school website is the most up to date place to find information, otherwise feel free to email your whanau teacher should you have any questions.

Learning Concepts

- Our big learning idea this term is Identity and Wellbeing. We will learn more about who we are, how we fit within the communities we belong to and share this learning with others. We will have a cultural celebration day on Tuesday 13th April. More information about this will be shared later in the term.
- In Maths we will focus on problem solving and establishing our individual numeracy learning goals.
- Swimming will be our main focus for PE. Please ensure your child has their named swim gear in a waterproof bag everyday this term.
- In Religious Education, we will learn about our School Charism and the important work of Caritas. Towards the end of the term we will learn about Lent and Easter.
- Once a week the children will visit our school library. Please note that the library is also open during lunchtimes for returning and issuing books.

Family Tree

In your child's Whanau class we are going to create a family tree. Please send a photo or small collage of photos of your child and the people and things that are special to them. This can be hard copy or emailed to your child's teacher. If possible, please can you have this to the teacher by the end of Week 2, Friday 12th February.

Hero

Hero is the student management system that we use at St Mary's. This will be used as the main form of contact with you for notices and learning stories throughout the year. If you have not already created a profile you will need to do this. If you need support, please contact your child's whānau teacher.

Seesaw

Seesaw is your child's online learning portfolio. Information regarding access to the portfolio will be shared with you early in the term. Please let your whānau teacher know if you require support in setting this up.

Home Learning

Your child will bring their book bag home everyday. There will be a variety of learning activities that you will be able to talk about and share with your child. This may be a learning game, a story or poem that they have read at school or a library book.

- Please note that your child may not bring a reader home everyday.
- Please encourage your child to manage their belongings and bring their book bag into class everyday independently.

Family Picnic

On Tuesday 23rd February (Week 4) there will be a Tika and Maramatanga family picnic from 5pm-6.30pm. You can bring your own picnic/takeaways for your family and eat on the field. Children will be able to play and the classrooms will be open for families to have a look around. Children are welcome to bring their bikes and will be able to ride on the tennis courts.

This is a great opportunity for you to meet other families from our community.

Play

"...play contributes positively to a child's sense of well-being. It enhances a child's natural capacity for intense and self-motivated learning. It helps build creative and critical thinkers, and lets children test social boundaries. Play produces curiosity, openness, optimism, resilience and concentration. It enhances a child's memory skills, develops their language skills, helps regulate their behaviour, advances their social skills and encourages academic learning to take place." - Stephanie Menzies

We welcome any 'loose parts' - things that may be no longer of use to you but could be a wonderful resource for our children. If you have any items we would be very grateful.

Brain Food

During the day the children will be encouraged to eat brain food to energise themselves and to promote their best learning. We would like the children to bring their brainfood in a small container or reusable bag, preferably avoiding any need for extra rubbish. Examples of appropriate brain food include a few slices of fruit/vegetables, crackers and cheese. Preferably no sweets or processed packaged foods. Thank you in advance for your support.

Daily Reminders:

- Togs and towel in named swim bag.
- Please ensure your child's named hat remains at school and is kept in their tote tray.
- Please also remind your child to bring a filled water bottle which they will have access to throughout the day.
- Children are asked to bring their book bag to school everyday and independently manage their belongings.

Dates for your diary

Week 1

Thursday 4th February - Rā Whānau Mai - meet with your child's whanau teacher
Friday 5th February - School starts

Week 2

Monday 8th February - Waitangi Day (Observed Holiday) - School closed

Week 3

Wednesday 17th February 10am - Ash Wednesday Liturgy 10am

Week 4

Tuesday 23rd February - Family Picnic 5.00-6.30pm
Friday 26th February - PTA Adventure Day (Postponement Date - Friday 5th March, Week 5)
Sunday 28th February - School Parish Mass 10.30am

Week 5

Tuesday 2nd March - Welcome to New Families Liturgy 10am
Wednesday 3rd March - Keeping Ourselves Safe Parents Information Meeting - 2pm in the BAMJC

Week 6

Week 7

Friday 19th March - Whole School Mass (9.30am at St Mary's Immaculate)

Week 8

Keeping Ourselves Safe Programme - from NZ Police
Thursday 25th March - Exposition / Benediction
Friday 26th March - Palm Sunday Liturgy 11am

Week 9

Monday - Thursday - Holy Week Liturgies 10am each day
Friday 2nd April - Good Friday - School Closed

Week 10

Monday 5th April - Easter Monday - School Closed
Tuesday 6th April - Easter Tuesday - School Closed

Week 11

Tuesday 13th April - Cultural Celebration Day
Friday 16th April - Term 1 ends

Please note that Term 2 begins on **Monday 3rd May**

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with you all.
Kindest regards

Tika - Erin Oates, Adele Mayall, Louisa Strange & Janine Goldsmith

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