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Newsletter 9th February 2026

From the Principal

Welcome back and a very warm welcome to our new families. A mixed bag of weather this summer but still a great time to spend with family, whanau and friends.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Room 11 (located by the entrance to the Day Care)

This room has been totally renovated and will be the new Art Room for our specialist Art teacher this year, Mrs. Jade Wyeth

School Library Toilets

These have also been upgraded and look and smell great

Mural

The large mural at the back gate designed by our Year 6 Students last year has been completed. It looks fantastic.

Hall Sound System Upgrade

The old system was over 20 years old and was starting to be unreliable so we have upgraded the whole system.

Thank you.

Thank you to Mr Simon Fraser our caretaker and his assistant during the holidays Mr. Levi Dyer-Bruce for ensuring the school looks attractive, clean, tidy and safe. Mr Fraser takes great pride in what he does, and this is evident in the lovely school environment he maintains for the community.

Thank you to our office staff of Kristina and Ariane who have been working hard to ensure a smooth start to the school year. If you have any questions regarding stationery, uniforms or payments please see our friendly team.

STUDENT SUPPORT

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, the classroom teacher is your first point of contact. If you are still concerned, please see the team leader or Mrs Claire Stretch, our Learning Support Co-ordinator whose responsibilities include behaviour and learning needs.

If you have any concerns regarding health, custody issues, special needs, or require support with attendance or behaviour issues, please make an appointment with Mrs Claire Stretch. For questions on the curriculum or assessment, please make an appointment with Mrs Sue Kandasamy or Mr. Vinnie McLellan.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is a legal requirement in New Zealand, crucial for student success, impacting wellbeing and academic achievement with no "safe" level of absence. The government is implementing the stepped [attendance](#) response (STAR) framework,

making attendance management plans mandatory for schools by Term 1 2026, supported by new services and funding to address varied causes of absenteeism, from socioeconomic factors to lack of motivation, with parents/caregivers responsible for ensuring attendance unless a child is genuinely sick.

Why Attendance Matters

- **Wellbeing** & Achievement: Regular attendance links to better mental health (less anxiety, bullying) and higher academic outcomes, even missing just 5-10% (2 days a term) impacts progress and achievements.
- **Legal Duty:** Parents must ensure their child attends school once enrolled, generally from age 6 to 16, unless unwell.

CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

All state schools are now required to implement a no phone rule that has student phones 'away for the day'. For new families just a reminder if your child has a phone they must hand it into the office and then collect it at the end of the day

SUNSMART

School sun hats are compulsory during Term 1 if the children are playing outside. Students without hats can play under the numerous sunshade areas. The school provides free sunscreen in all classes.

SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that all students wear the correct school uniform. This includes school hats, trousers etc. Thank you for your support.

KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE

Keeping Ourselves Safe (KOS) is a comprehensive child abuse prevention programme for students that is widely taught in schools across New Zealand by teachers in partnership with the New Zealand Police.

It's purpose is to:

- teach students a range of safe practices that they can use when interacting with other people, both online and face to face
- teach students how to recognise the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and encourage students who have been or are being abused to seek help

- prevent abuse by making parents and teachers more aware of their responsibilities to help students avoid abuse.

As part of this, the Police facilitator is holding a meeting after school in Week 2 this Term on Monday 16th February in Room 18 at 3.15 pm for any parents who would like to know more about the programme and/or ask any questions etc.

TEACHER ONLY DAYS - Monday March 9th and Friday May 8th

New Assessment Tools and Requirements

The 2026 school year marks the first year of nationally consistent assessment and reporting in primary and intermediate schools, with a focus on literacy and mathematics (reading, writing, maths, pānui, tuhituhi, and pāngarau).

Government-Approved Teacher-Only Days

The government has approved specific teacher-only days for professional learning and development related to the new curriculum and assessment changes.

The purpose of these days are specifically for professional learning and planning related to the implementation of the new English and Mathematics curricula and assessment tools, not general administration.

Why Can't We Do It During The Holidays?

We had two teachers only days before school started this year. Schools must choose from a Ministry of Education approved list of facilitators and with all the curriculum and assessment changes they are in high demand across all primary schools. The result being we have to go along whatever contracted days they are available.

We have negotiated with our facilitators days that we hope will be least disruptive to our families. Monday March 9th and Friday May 8th school will be closed.

TERM DATES 2026

Monday 9 February and ends Thursday 2 April 2026

Term 2

Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July 2026.

Public holidays: Anzac Day – Saturday 25 April (Anzac Day observed on Monday 27 April) and King's Birthday – Monday 1 June.

Term 3

Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September 2026

Term 4

Monday 12 October to Friday 18 December 2026

Public holiday: Labour Day – Monday 26 October.

Fintan, Sue and Vinnie

Non Uniform Day Food Collection - Salvation Army

It is humbling so see our community once again pull together to donate so generously. Salvation Army were thrilled with the donation from our school.

