



# St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Road  
Ranfurly  
03 4449514  
[office@sjr.school.nz](mailto:office@sjr.school.nz)

Issue 1: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

### Welcome

Welcome back to everyone for 2025. We hope you all enjoyed a restful, relaxing holiday.

We welcome some new 5 year olds and their families to our school.

Welcome to Walter Dowling, Ollie Kensington, Oliver Crutchley and Miller Barnish who all turned 5 in the holidays!



### **Staff 2025**

This year I continue to teach the Junior Class; Years 0, 1 and 2, Mrs Heather Dowling teaches Years 3, 4 and 5 and Mrs Geraldine Duncan and Mrs Rachel Gray are job sharing the Senior Class; Years 6, 7 and 8. Mrs Duncan will teach on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Gray, on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Jayne Hazlett will continue to work three days (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) with individual students or groups of students in the area of literacy. Literacy includes reading, reading comprehension, writing spelling, alphabet activities and speech-language. Teachers have identified students with particular needs to work with Jayne.

Sharon Thompson will be working as a Teacher Aide in the Senior Class, Becky Bruhns in the Middle Class and Angela Francis in the Junior Class.

### **Maniototo A & P Show**

The Maniototo A & P Show is being held on **Wednesday 12th February.**

Children will be dismissed from school at **12p.m.** on this day to enable them to attend the show with their parents.

Buses will collect any bus students from school at 12p.m.

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

### **Swim Week Thank You**

A huge thank you to those parents who came along each day last week and drove the van and helped supervise and helped with dressing the younger children. We couldn't have done it without you!

Also thank you to Ryan and Geraldine Dowling for the use of their van for the week.

### **Mufti Day - Friday 14th February**

As many of you will already know, one of our ex-students, Jake Smith, who is in his final year at Maniototo Area School had an accident in the school holidays. This accident has left Jake with a broken spine and he is currently rehabilitating at the Burwood Spinal Unit in Christchurch. Jake is learning to use a wheelchair and he has a long journey ahead of him.

We would like to support Jake and his family by having a mufti day, in conjunction with Maniototo Area School.

This will be held on **Friday 14th February.**

Could families please bring along a financial contribution for this cause, thank you.

### **Stationery**

Children have been issued with new exercise books and a stationery account.

Exercise books can be covered as this protects them from many things, but this is not a requirement. If you would like to cover your children's books please ask your child to bring the books home one night to do this. Thank you.

Stationery money is to be paid by **Friday 21st 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.**

Thank you.

### **Swimming**

Last week we had our swim week which went really well. We are very lucky that our PTA pay for a private swimming teacher, Jo Blackie, for this week and we thank them for providing this for our students.

Individual class teachers will let you know when their class is swimming. There is no swimming in Week 2 as Maniototo Area School have their swim week.

A reminder that children need to bring their swimming gear in a bag of some sort that is easy to carry to swimming. It is also helpful if all children's uniform items have a name on them somewhere, for when clothing gets mixed up!

Thank you.

### **Phone messages**

A reminder please that we do not always look at the cellphone between 1.15 and 2.50pm as we are teaching and sometimes we do not hear the cellphone or we are outside. We discourage you from leaving a text or voice message after this time. It is better for us to get the messages prior to the end of lunchtime (ie before 1.15p.m.).

If your child/children are going to be absent from school, please ensure that the classroom teacher is aware of this by texting the school cell phone before 8.45am. We are obliged to follow up on any absences if we have not been notified of these. It is also helpful if you give a reason your child is absent as teachers have to code daily absences into a Ministry of Education management system and if we do not know why the child is away it is coded as "Unexplained". Too many "unexplained absences" can result in a notification being sent to the Attendance Office of the Ministry of Education.

### **Computer and Internet Use Agreement/Internet Safety**

Students are asked to read and sign a Computer and Internet Use Agreement. Parents are asked to go through this with their children so children understand the rules around the use of laptops and computers. As a staff, we put photos of children in our newsletter but at times we are asked for photos for other media, eg, Positively Maniatoto, Tiaki Maniototo. We try to choose photos where there are larger groups, and individuals are harder to identify but this isn't always the case.

If you do not want your child's photo put on other publications outside of school please fill in the form attached to this newsletter and return it to your class teacher. You need to do this again, if you did it last year so we clearly know expectations. Thank you.

### **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 children can use to heat basic food items at lunchtime. The Middle and Senior Class have a sandwich press they can use to toast sandwiches at lunchtime.

### **Teacher Only Day**

We will be having a teacher only day on **Friday 21st March** (in conjunction with Maniototo Area School) to work on the new NZ Maths curriculum which has been introduced this year.

School is also closed on **Monday 24th 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 parents, eg, if your child/children are sick, or if your child/children has had an accident.

Please make sure you fill out all of the form including address, email and phones, both landline (if you have one) and cellphones.

Also please fill in up to date medical information for children eg, any new allergies, asthma etc.

Attached to the paper newsletter is a form for parents to fill in to enable us to update our files. Please fill in one for your family and return it to school asap.

### **Office Hours**

A reminder that Fiona Weir's office hours are:

Monday 9 - 1p.m. Thursday 9 - 3p.m. Friday 9 - 12p.m.

If you have uniform enquiries it is preferable that you contact Fiona during her hours or email her at:

[office@sjr.school.nz](mailto:office@sjr.school.nz)

### **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](mailto:office@sjr.school.nz)

Our newsletter comes out every three weeks so you should receive a newsletter in weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10.

For anything else that comes up, eg, swim week, there will be a separate newsletter.

Remember to also check our website:

[www.sjr.school.nz](http://www.sjr.school.nz)

### **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 texted when the books arrive.

### **School Uniforms**

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

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

We do expect children to be dressed in correct uniform please:

#### **Boys - Summer**

Red polo shirt

Grey shorts

School polar fleece or jersey

Grey socks or black socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals

#### **Girls - Summer**

Red polo shirt

Skort

School polar fleece or jersey

Black socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals.

We ask that children who have long hair, have this tied up with brown, red, green, black or white hair ties.

Thank you.

#### **Lost Property**

Here is a photo of lost property that has been in the box in the school corridor for some time. None of it is named. If you think any of it belongs to your family please come in and collect it, thank you.

1 woollen jersey (size has worn off)

1 school polar fleece size 14

2 red polo shirts, one size 8 and one size 14

1 grey shorts, size 8

Black and grey fleece jacket, size 8



### **School Day Times**

A reminder that school does not open until 8.30 a.m. each morning.

School begins at **8.50 a.m.** and it is important children are at school before this time to enable them to get their belongings sorted for the beginning of the day.

School finishes at **2.50 p.m.** Please let us know if you are going to be late collecting your child/children. Sometimes we have to leave school promptly after school to get to meetings so it is important we know if a parent is going to be late.

Lunchtime is **12.30 - 1.15 p.m.**

### **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 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.

Later this week, each bus student will receive a "Bus Transport Code of Conduct, which is to be read, discussed and signed by both the student and parents, then returned to school. Thank you.

Ngā Mihi

Susan Mulholland

## **Special Character:**

On Thursday 6th February we had a holiday for **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.

## **Junior Class News:**

We begin 2025 with 17 children and one more to start soon.

All Junior Class children should have brought home a notice last week with a lot of information about what is happening in the Junior Class in Term 1.

This notice had a reading helper form attached to it. If you can help with reading please fill in the form and return it to school asap, if you haven't already done so. Thank you.



## Middle Class News:



Welcome Back!

It was so wonderful seeing all the happy smiling faces arrive in the Middle Room last week. I loved catching up on all the children's holidays and seeing how much they had all grown. We look forward to welcoming back Evelyn today from her big trip to China.

Last week was hectic!! The children were so fantastic at getting ready for their swimming times amongst getting their show art done. We had children across 7 of the swimming groups and they coped so well with all the comings and goings.

Thank you so much to the parents who helped drive the van and organise the children at the pool - you did a fabulous job of getting the students to their lessons on time.

Jo the swim teacher reported back that all the children made great progress and I look forward to seeing them swim this week.

We will go to the pool on Tuesday this week.

You should have received a letter home from me last week outlining our first term.

I look forward to starting our routines this week in class and getting some learning underway.

This week I will order boxes of chocolate for our fundraising for camp. Last year this fundraiser made us \$1200 so it is worth doing and keeps the cost of our camp down along with a generous donation from the PTA.



Ngā mihi,

Heather Dowling

## Senior Class News:

**"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."—Dr. Seuss**

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the 2025 school year. The Senior Room has 25 children this year. We warmly welcome the six year 6 children. We are boy-heavy with a 19:6 gender split!

### **Communication**

Read the Senior Room section of the school newsletter each time it comes home on the school website or email. It will include information specific to our class.

You will also get separate notices when we need to share additional information regarding a class activity. These notices will come home in a clear file pocket that is named with your child's name and also says 'Return to School' so that it is ready for the following information drop.

**Photo of your child** - We are going to make a display of the children. Please send it in (so we can photocopy it) or email us a photo of your child. Help them choose one that they are happy to have on display on our classroom wall. If emailing, send the picture to [geraldine@sjr.school.nz](mailto:geraldine@sjr.school.nz)

### **Stationery**

We don't require the children's books to be covered, but if you wish to, just ask your child to bring them home for the weekend or night and go for it.

### **Year 7 and 8 Technology**

The year 7 and 8 children will go to the Maniototo Area School on a Wednesday from 11.05 - 1.05pm for Technology learning. This learning costs \$40 and is on the 'Stationery List'. You pay us, and we will pass this on to MAS.

### **Homework**

We have a routine around our homework expectations. As a parent, you need to sign the homework Monday to Thursday. Homework will start in week 3.

**Reading:** Each night, your child needs to do some personal reading from a book of their choice. Make this a minimum of 10 minutes, which will help improve their reading mileage, vocabulary, and understanding. This is an essential primary school habit to develop as reading is in all parts of the curriculum.

**Mathletics:** All children will have a Mathletics login to an online learning component, where they are expected to get 1000 plus points per week. If your child cannot access a computer at home, they can use the time before school and at playtime/class to get these points. They have a unique login, which we will glue into their homework books. The points roll over every Sunday evening, and we check them as a class on Monday. This generates points that link to our online banking platform Banqer.

**Spelling:** Most children will have words to learn each week, with a spelling quiz at school on Monday morning.

## **Student Responsible Use Agreement**

We must seek your permission for your child to use the online facilities at school. This form came home last Tuesday. Please read through with your child and sign in the appropriate places. Return this by the Friday of week 2.

Each child has a school-owned laptop and a Google classroom account that they use throughout the year. They are not to access other children's Google accounts.

## **Swimming**

Our classroom swimming slots are on

Week 2: 10-15th February -Tuesday 9-10am, Thursday 1.30-2pm.

Week 3: no swimming as it is the MAS swim week

Week 4: 24-28th Feb - Wednesday 9-10am, Thursday 1.30-2pm, Friday 1-2pm.

Week 5: Tuesday 4th March is the Swimming Sports afternoon.

Everybody needs to participate in this, please. I recommend swimming goggles to protect the children's eyes against the chlorine. If you can help during these swim slots by taking a group of children (under our direction), please text the school's cellphone and let us know. Thank you.

## **HPV Vaccine**

On Thursday, 13th February, Sue Philips (Public Health Nurse from Alexandra) will spend time with the year 8 students explaining what the HPV vaccine is. Parents are welcome to come along to this session with Sue, it will be held at 11am in our classroom.

After this your child will bring home the HPV Vaccine form. You fill it in, indicating if you would like them to receive the vaccination or not. The date of the first vaccination is Thursday, 13th March. Sue Phillips comes back with a team of nurses to do this, and it happens at school.

## **Class Camp**

This is from Monday, 31st March, to Thursday, 3rd April. We are planning to attend Camp Berwick. This is not confirmed, but when we know what's happening, we will let you know.

## **International T20 Cricket in Dunedin**

You will receive a separate notice about this today. There will be a second notice on Monday 10th March.

## **Tips for the year ahead**

1. Sleep! Set a routine and get plenty of rest. Your child has a busy life, and their bodies are growing.
2. Be organised with school 'stuff' (homework signatures, notices) so your child does not arrive at school anxious about forgetting something. Reading the school notices also means you do not need to text us to repeat information, so please stay engaged with what is happening at school.
3. Promote a positive attitude in your child - to be challenged, open to new experiences, be kind to others, and see the good in their life.

We are going to have a great year together.

Kind regards,  
Geraldine Duncan and Rachel Gray.



## Looking ahead to February

Week	Dates	Activities planned at this stage
2	10-14th Feb	Monday: Elevate programme with Courtney 2pm at school (girls only). This happens every Monday. Mon: Soccer Coaching Wednesday, February 12th - A and P show (½ day of school) Thursday - HPV Education Year 8 students and parents <b>Class Swimming: Tues/Thurs.</b>
3	17 - 21st Feb	Homework starts Life Education Bus Wednesday and Thursday Class Swimming: No swimming
4	24 - 28th Feb	Mon: Cricket coaching Fri: Enviroschool - Meeting with Lucy the Facilitator <b>Class Swimming: Wed/Thurs/Fri</b>

### Board of Trustees:

Our first meeting for 2025 is on **Tuesday 11th February at 7p.m.**

### Notices and Dates:

<b>Term 1</b>	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Maniototo A & P Show
<b>Week 2</b>		School Closed from 12pm
	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Mufti Day
	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley
<b>Week 3</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Stationery Money Due
	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Harry & Jack Jeffries
<b>Week 4</b>	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Colleen & Yuri Torres
<b>Week 5</b>	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith
<b>Week 6</b>	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis, Sophia & Henry Crutchley
<b>Week 7</b>	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Teachers Only Day School Closed
	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Isla, Jimmy & Oscar Jeffries
<b>Week 8</b>	Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele



# SMASH PLAY

JUNIOR — TAMARIKI



## HUBS

### Alexandra

Molyneux Park | Monday | 3:30–4:15pm

### Cromwell

Anderson Park | Tuesday | 3:30–4:15pm

### Wanaka

Wanaka Primary School | Wednesday | 3:30–4:15pm

### Arrowtown

Arrowtown Primary School | Friday | 3:30–4:15pm



Registration link: <https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/org/otago-country-cricket-association/03971773/register>



# ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

6 Stuart Road, Telephone & Facsimile (03) 4449-514, Ranfurly

Dear Parents

Please provide us with all the following details as we need to keep our records up to date in case of an emergency. If any of the following changes during the year, please advise as soon as possible.

## Phone Numbers/ Emergency Contact Phone Numbers & Email Addresses & Medical Updates?

One form for each family to be filled in please:

Children's Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (including rapid number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name & cellphone number

Name	Cellphone number	Landline Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact

Name	Number
_____	_____
_____	_____

Medical Updates

Does your child have any allergies? YES / NO. If so \_\_\_\_\_

Do they use an asthma inhaler? YES / NO

Is there anything medically that we should be made aware of?

