



St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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04 December 2025

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou whānau, and a warm St Leo's blessing on you all

Season of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year and spans four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a time characterised by preparation, not just for the joyful celebration of Jesus' birth, but for the transformation of our hearts and the world around us. This week, we enter the beautiful season of Advent, a special time of waiting, hope, and preparation as we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas. At St Leo's, we will focus each week on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, guiding our ākonga to reflect on how they can bring Christ's light into the world through their words and actions.

Classrooms will be marking the season with prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness that honour our Mercy values and our school's strong Catholic identity. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we invite whānau to join us in embracing this time of thoughtful preparation and gratitude.



Farewell Mrs Schaffer

We say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Schaffer, who will be leaving us at the end of this year. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, warmth, and creativity she has brought to St Leo's. Her passion for learning and her genuine care for our tamariki have made a lasting impact on our school community. Mrs Schaffer will be going to Germany and teaching there for a while. We will miss her dearly. We are excited for the fantastic opportunities that await her overseas. We send her off with our prayers, our gratitude, and our very best wishes.

Welcome to Mrs Cleasby Kia ora St Leo's community!

My name is Emily Cleasby, and I'm so excited to be joining St Leo's next year. My family and I are originally from Sydney, Australia, and we've been living in Devonport for almost two years. It has been so lovely settling into this community and getting to know everyone. We're always up for a chat, so please come and say hello if you see us around!

We have two children: Alexis, who is five, and Theo, who is almost three. We've loved exploring the local playgrounds, beaches, library, and all the fun activities our area has to offer. As a family, we enjoy travelling, hiking, and volunteering through the Kaipātiki Project.

I began teaching in Sydney in late 2015, and every year since has been gratifying as I've watched my students learn, grow, achieve their goals and gain confidence in themselves. I especially enjoy teaching all aspects of literacy and creating engaging art projects while exploring different artists and art styles.

I'm really looking forward to becoming part of the St Leo's whānau and getting to know the people who make this community so special. See you in the new year!



Family Picnic

We are excited to invite all our St Leo's whānau to our Family Picnic this Friday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity for families to come together, relax, and enjoy each other's company as we celebrate the end of a busy year.

There will be pizzas, a sausage sizzle, and drinks available for purchase, so bring a blanket, find a sunny spot, and enjoy a fun afternoon with our school community. We look forward to seeing you there for a great evening of connection, laughter, and shared kai!

Costumes for the end-of-year show

We are looking for sheep costumes for our Christmas show. If you have one that we could borrow, please let Renee or Vimi know.

Christmas/Nativity Show – Thursday 11 December

We are delighted to invite all whānau and friends to our annual Christmas/Nativity Show on Thursday, 11 December at 10 am. This special celebration is a highlight of our year as our tamariki share the story of Jesus' birth through song, drama, and joy-filled performance.

Everyone is warmly welcome, so come along and support our students, and join us in the spirit of Christmas as we gather together as a community.

God Bless, *Vimi Chandra*

Other notices:

Term 4 fees

Term 4 fees invoices are now due. Term 4 activity invoices have been sent. Payment before the end of the term would be appreciated. If you have not yet received this please let Renee know.

Summer uniform

A reminder that all girls need to be in the new uniform next year. <https://www.schooluniform.co.nz/>

PTFA News

School Fair

The final figure for the fair was \$17,091.00.

Calendar art

This should be with us before the end of the term. We will let you know when it arrives

Christmas Festival

We still need a couple of people to help with selling drinks and ice blocks at the Christmas festival after the Santa Parade. Please see Gin, Amy or Renee if you can help.

Pie lunch

Your child should have brought home an order form for ordering a pie lunch. \$6 for pie, treat and drink. This will take place on the fun day 15th December. If you are able to help with the cooking and serving on this day please let Renee, Gin or Amy know.

Thank you to the following local businesses who supported our school fair:

Trish & Tracey Barfoot & Thompson

New World Devonport

Toshiba

Avenue Advice

Peter Wolkamp Resident Builder

Auckland Zoo

ClipNClimb

Inflatable World

Northern Rocks

Paradox Books

Hammer Hardware

Devonport Squash Club

Scholastic Books

Anna Stretton

North Shore United Soccer Club

Victoria Superette

Hirepool

Stoked NZ

Studio Pilates

Mr Chips

Container Nurseries

The Thread Room

Uglys

The Vic

Devonport Drycleaners

Dulcies

Benefitz

Chalmers Organics

Devonport Resource Recovery Centre

Wild Wheat

Zealandia Horticulture Ltd

Resene

Scott Base Nursery

Hauraki Social Club

Bloom Pretzels

Calimero

Asahi

MOTAT

Devonport Navy Museum

Farro

Marbles Art Studio

Wero Climb

Skin Sense

Belmont Pharmacy



Devonport

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ADVICE

TOSHIBA

CARMEL COLLEGE

Empowering young women through a Catholic education in the Mercy tradition to pursue personal excellence and to be prepared to challenge and shape the future.



Visit our Open Days on

Thursday 26 February 2026 (1.30 - 3.00pm) and
Friday 27 February 2026 (9.30 - 11am)

Register here
for open days



Timetable of events term 4

Friday 5 December	Save Day Peninsula Athletics Year 3 - 6 Mass 12.00 Family picnic 4pm - 6pm
Sunday 7 December	Santa Parade & stall at Christmas festival
Tuesday 9 December	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am Helpers morning tea 11 am
Wednesday 10 December	Music with Dominic Year 6 Leavers Dinner 5.30pm
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Show 10 am Chess club
Monday 15 December	Fun Day Pie lunch
Tuesday 16 December	Playgroup Year 6 Leavers Mass 10 am School finishes midday
Friday 19 December	Office closes until Jan 27th

New Zealand Traveller Declaration

Going overseas for the school holidays? Everyone travelling into New Zealand must complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration, including returning New Zealand passport holders.

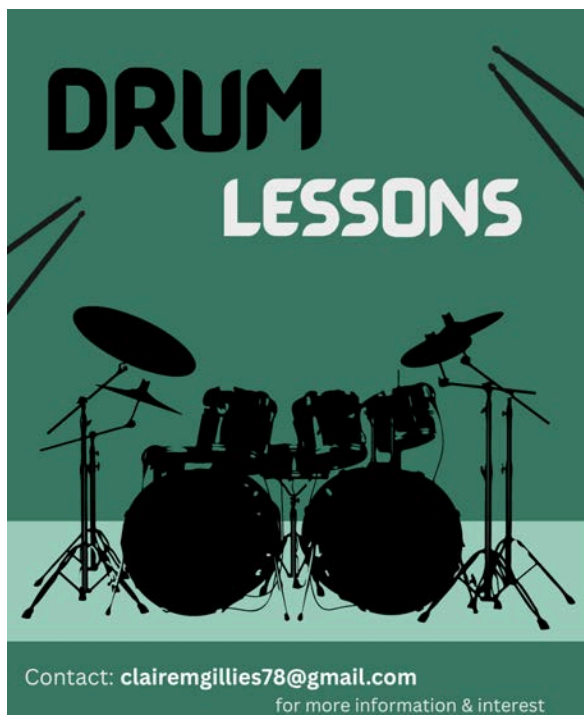
Its FREE and you can do it on the [online form](#) or on the [NZTD app](#).

If you're travelling as a family or group and completing multiple declarations, the [NZTD app](#) allows you to copy your travel details into another declaration, making it easier to complete multiple declarations for the same journey. The submitted declarations are then all easy to see within the app.

The New Zealand Traveller Declaration collects travel, customs, immigration and biosecurity information and aims to improve the safety and security of New Zealand. It replaces the paper card you used to fill out on the plane.

To make your arrival easier, do your digital declaration before your flight back to New Zealand.

Head to travellerdeclaration.govt.nz today!



Community Notices



FUN FOOTBALL CAMP WITH INFLATABLE PITCH

Kick off the school holidays with football fun at our holiday programme held at the fantastic facilities of Takapuna Normal Intermediate School. Experience the thrill of our unique inflatable pitch as we dive into fun games, skill-building activities, matches, tournaments, and much more

**17-19 & 22-23 DEC
19-22 & 26-29 JAN**

TAKAPUNA NORMAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Register on enrolmy.com/msports-northshore

9 - 12PM \$39.99 | 9 - 3PM \$59.99

More info: Chris Bryson
chrisb.fknz@gmail.com

MULTIPLE GOALS!



Season's Greetings Ngā Mihi O Te Wā - The Vic has a great range of new films for the whole family to enjoy over summer! For more info visit www.thevic.co.nz

LIVE ONLINE FAN CALL and Q & A

JESSE RANDALL

All White & Auckland FC

Date: Sunday, 25th January
Time: 7 p.m. NZDT
Join FREE on Zoom

SCAN TO REGISTER

OR CLICK TO REGISTER

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NORTH SHORE youth music

2026 APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW



To apply or to find out more information about the above groups, visit our website or find us on Facebook

www.nsym.org.nz

Yes, Te Reo Māori class is back
One night a week
Rāpare/THURSDAY 6-9pm
Where: Te Pataka kōrero ki Te Hau
Kapua/Devonport Library
Starts March 2026

Takapuna Beachside CINEMAS SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

WIN A ZOO PASS WHEN YOU BUY TICKETS TO **ZOOPIA**

Two annual passes to be won
Each pass covers 1 adult + 1 child (4-14)
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DEVONPORT COMMUNITY HOUSE PRE-CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
A VERY MERRY MARKET DAY!



HO, HO, HO! LETS MAKE AND SWAP ALL SORTS OF COOL AND CUTE XMAS CRAFTY GIFTS TO TAKE HOME!

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER
MOVIE DAY AND AN ICE CREAM! EXTRA COST \$18 ZOOPTOPIA 2!



WOO HOO! ZOOPTOPIA 2 MOVIE AND ICE-CREAM AT THE VIC! PLUS CRAZY CHRISTMAS FUN & CUTE CRAFTS AT THE HOUSE!

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS PYJAMA PARTY! SHARED LUNCH, PRESENT MAKING AND XMAS MAKEOVERS!!



WEAR YOUR PYJAMAS OR XMAS DRESS UPS IF YOU LIKE! IF YOU LIKE, BRING SOMETHING FOR OUR SHARED LUNCH! FUN XMAS PARTY GAMES, XMAS MOVIES AND MORE!!



8:00 AM - 5:00 PM FOR 5-13 YEAR OLDS! FEES: 1 CHILD \$18 WITH 10% DISCOUNT FOR 2ND CHILD, 10% DISCOUNT FOR 3RD CHILD. EXTRA COST FOR SOME ACTIVITIES. PLACES MAY BE LIMITED. ENROLMENTS AND BOOKINGS WILL BE TAKEN THROUGH AIMY PLUS, USING THE FOLLOWING LINK: <https://devonportcomhouse.aimyplus.com/>

EVERY DAY PLEASE BRING ALONG A DRINK BOTTLE, MORNING TEA, LUNCH AND AFTERNOON TEA (STRICTLY NO NUTS). BRING A JACKET OR RAINCOAT, HAT AND SHOES EVERYDAY. A CHANGE OF CLOTHES IS A GOOD IDEA TOO. BRING ALONG YOUR ROLLER SKATES, SCOOTER OR SKATEBOARD IF YOU LIKE, PLEASE REMEMBER SOCKS IF YOU WANT TO USE OUR HILLBRIDGE IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO POP A PIN IN YOUR BAG THAT SHOWS THERE ALL HOLIDAYS. NO TOYS PLEASE. EVERY DAY WE WILL HAVE SOME KIND OF CRAFT, SEWING, GAMES OR SCIENCE. THERE WILL BE A QUIET AREA FOR DRAWING OR JUST FOR READING, SO BRING YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK.



DEVONPORT
COMMUNITY
HOUSE

MON 19TH JANUARY
WATER PLAY SUMMER FUN DAY!



REMEMBER TO BRING A HAT, TOWELS & A TOWEL FOR WATER PLAY AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE!

TUES 20TH JANUARY
LETS CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN & HAVE GAMES & A PICNIC LUNCH!!



WEATHER PERMITTING BIG WALK UP MT VIC! REMEMBER YOUR SUNHAT, SHOES & WATER BOTTLES!

WED 21ST JANUARY
ACTIVITY- YOUNG GUNS SKATE SCHOOL SUPER FUN SKATEBOARDING LESSON! EXTRA COST-\$20



YOUNG GUNS SKATE SCHOOL COMES TO US AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE! EPIC FUN TIMES, SAFELY LEARNING TO SKATEBOARD! PLEASE WEAR SNEAKERS TODAY!

THURS 22ND JANUARY
MEGA SUPER AWESOME BOX CITY !!



SUPER GIANT BOX CITY BUILDING! CRAZY CARDBOARD CHALLENGES & COOL CRAFTS!

FRI 23RD JANUARY
PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR FUN DAY!! EPIC PENGUIN CRAZINESS & CRAFTS!



I LIKE TO MOVE (I) MOVE (I) SNEAKY PENGUIN MYSTERY TO BE SOLVED!

MON 26TH JANUARY
PUBLIC HOLIDAY TODAY!!



HAVE A HAPPY DAY!!

TUES 27TH JANUARY
WATER BALLOONS & WATER PLAY FUN DAY!!



COOL SUMMER CRAFTS AND CRAZY CHALLENGES AND GAMES! REMEMBER TO BRING HAT, TOWELS & TOWELS!

WED 28TH JANUARY
TRIP-MOVIE DAY!! POUT POULT FISH MOVIE AND AN ICE CREAM! EXTRA COST \$18



MOVIE AT THE VIC AND FUNNY FISH CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE!

THURS 29TH JANUARY
ARTY PARTY MARKET FUN DAY!



AN EPIC DAY OF CRAFTY KIDS MAKING TO TRACE AT OUR VERY OWN MARKET! ART AND CRAFT TILL YOUR HEARTS CONTENT! ART THEMED GAMES AND MORE!

FRI 30TH JANUARY
LAST DAY! PARTY ANIMALS DAY!! SHARED LUNCH! DRESS UPS AND PYJAMA PARTY!!



WEAR DRESS UPS, PYJAMAS OR ANIMAL ONES! MAKE OVER AN AWESOME DAY OF WILD AND SLEEPY PARTY ANIMAL FUN! IF YOU LIKE, BRING SOMETHING FOR OUR SHARED LUNCH!

<https://devonportcomhouse.aimyplus.com/>



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bricks 4 kidz
TAKAPUNA

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M: 020 406 806 70

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

JANUARY 2026

\$77 FULL DAY \$25 DROP IN SESSIONS 9am - 3pm 10% BUDDY DISCOUNT

Monday 12 January **Tuesday 13 January** **Wednesday 14 January** **Thursday 15 January**



Friday 16 January **Monday 19 January** **Tuesday 20 January** **Wednesday 21 January**



Book now at:
www.brick4kidz.co.nz
or scan QR Code:



Thursday 22 January **Friday 23 January** **Tuesday 27 January**



Wednesday 28 January **Thursday 29 January** **Friday 30 January**



DEVONPORT COMMUNITY HOUSE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME JANUARY 2026

MON 5TH JANUARY
BACK TO THE FUTURE DAY! AWESOME TIME TRAVEL FUN & CRAFTS! ROBOT CHALLENGES AND GAMES!



TUES 6TH JANUARY
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE!



WILD THINGS WILD ACTIVITIES, WILD CRAFTS AND WE WILL GO OUT IN THE WILD! WEATHER PERMITTING WE WILL MARCH TO THE LIBRARY AND WINDSOR RESERVE TODAY!

WED 7TH JANUARY
SPONGEBOB MOVIE & AN ICE CREAM! EXTRA COST \$18



SPONGE ON THE RUN! MOVIE AND ICE-CREAM AT THE VIC AND FUNNY UNDER THE SEA THEME ACTIVITIES!

THURS 8TH JANUARY
WATER FUN DAY!!



WATER PLAY AND SUMMER CRAFTS! REMEMBER TO BRING A HAT, TOWELS & A TOWEL FOR WATER PLAY AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE!

FRI 9TH JANUARY
TERRIFIC TOY STORY DAY!!



WHAT GOES ON WITH OUR TOYS WHEN WE AREN'T LOOKING? TOY MYSTERY, MISCHIEF AND MAYHEM! FUN, GAMES AND CRAZINESS!

MON 12TH JANUARY
TROLLS MUSIC MAKING MONDAY!



COOL HAIR MAKEOVERS AND MUSIC MAKING CRAFTS! TERRIFIC TALENT SHOW AND MORE!

TUES 15TH JANUARY
RATATOUILLE KOOKY COOKS DAY!



CUTE AND KOOKY FOOD CRAFTS, CHALLENGES GAMES AND COOKING FUN!

WED 14TH JANUARY
LILO AND STITCH TROPICAL PARTY! WATER PLAY TODAY! BEACH VISIT



REMEMBER TO BRING TOWELS & A TOWEL FOR WATER PLAY AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE! AND SHOES & A HAT FOR SANDCASTLE COMPETITION AT THE BEACH!

THURS 15TH JANUARY
TRIP DAY! CATCH THE FERRY TO MARITIME MUSEUM \$22 LETS GO IN A SAILBOAT UNDER THE HARBOUR BRIDGE! WEAR CLOSED TOE SHOES PLEASE!



PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9AM THIS DAY! WE WILL BE LEAVING AT 9:45AM AT THE VERY LATEST!

FRI 16TH JANUARY
HARRY POTTER MAGIC DAY!



IF YOU LIKE, DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER FOR A DAY OF MAGICAL CRAFTS HARRY POTTER YOGA AND MYSTICAL ACTIVITIES!

<https://devonportcomhouse.aimyplus.com/>



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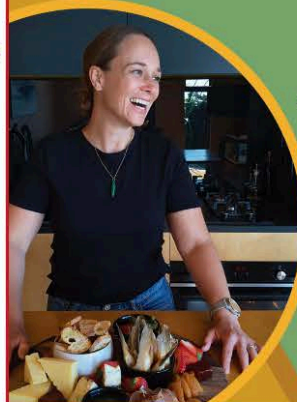
I'm Arna,

a local Nutritionist, Health Coach, and mum who gets the juggle.

I offer practical, no-guilt support to help families feel confident about food and wellbeing. From lunchbox inspiration to personalised coaching, I help make healthy living feel doable — and even enjoyable!

PH 027 345 0701

E arna.howard@outlook.com



The GAME



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