



St Mark's School

Te Kura o Hato Māka

Kia ora St Mark's Whānau,

Term 4 Week 5
5 November 2025

We are now halfway through one of the busiest terms of the year. Our teaching staff are diligently hard at work preparing end-of-year academic reports following the appropriate round of formal testing and assessment.

All of this critical work is happening amid the announcement of yet another clarification regarding the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum (Te Mātaiaho), which is scheduled for full implementation from 2026.

As parents can imagine, our staff are actively engaged in grappling with a number of associated, and fundamental, questions about the latest curriculum updates. The primary focus of these recent changes reinforces the push for a clearer, knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.

Key Curriculum Considerations Our Staff Are Addressing:

- **Assessment Alignment:** How do we ensure our current end-of-year assessment tools accurately align with the updated expectations and the new focus areas of the curriculum, especially in reading, writing, and mathematics?
- **Literacy and Numeracy Focus:** How do we pivot our current teaching programs to fully embed the evidence-based instruction (such as Structured Literacy) that underpins the refreshed curriculum, ensuring we are effectively preparing students for the 2026 roll-out?
- **Curriculum Clarity (Te Mātaiaho):** How does the new direction impact the content and scope of learning in other essential areas? Our staff are ensuring they understand the new 'What Matters' statements and the more detailed content guidance provided for each subject learning area.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work through these complex issues. Our commitment remains ensuring that our reporting accurately reflects your child's learning journey and that our teaching practices are fully aligned with the most effective, research-backed approaches outlined in the refreshed national curriculum.

We will continue to keep you informed as we receive and incorporate further implementation guidance.



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Singing Cup Auditions

Mrs Wells is auditioning students for this important school event. For the first time, there will be three age categories for the competition:

Year 0-2 auditions on Friday 7 November at lunch time.

Year 6-8 auditions on Monday 10 November at lunch time.

Year 3-4 auditions on Wednesday 12 November also at lunch time.

School Athletic Sports

Our school athletics event was another opportunity for students to develop and display their God given talents and gifts. A wonderful day of competition was had which included some great, winning performances and some very impressive personal bests.

Persistence and *Have A Go* were the Habits of Mind used most by students on the day.

Our teaching staff always pull together to make big events like this a success. Thanks to Mrs Bigelow and the team.

Results will be published separately via the school app soon.

Zone Athletic Sports

Mrs Bigelow is formulating our St Mark's School Year 5-8 team to compete at this event. Communication will go home this week to advise families. The event is scheduled for Tuesday 11 November.

Principal's Awards

It has been wonderful to see no fewer than six different students this week as they share some of their amazing work. This Friday at church I will be presenting principal's awards to them all. We have included some poems from year 5 students in this newsletter.



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MEASLES INFORMATION

Information to share with parents, caregivers and your communities

- Measles is circulating and is very contagious. There is now measles in Northland, Auckland, Manawatu, Nelson and Wellington, and we expect further cases across New Zealand.
- Watch out for symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, and a blotchy rash: [Measles – Health New Zealand](#)
- Anyone with measles symptoms must stay at home and should seek urgent advice by ringing their doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116.
- Anyone who is closely exposed to a measles case must stay at home. Health New Zealand will provide individuals with advice on a case-by-case basis (including when they can leave quarantine at home).
- Health New Zealand is actively working with the schools that currently have measles cases.
- People are considered immune to measles after having 2 doses of a measles vaccine from 12 months or older, or if you have had measles before. For more information on measles immunity visit the Health NZ website. [Measles immunity – Health New Zealand](#)
- Encourage families and whānau to check their own and their child/children's immunisation status through My Health Record: [My Health Record – Health New Zealand](#)
- Anyone born between 1969-2004 may have only received one vaccine dose and might not be fully protected. It's safe to get extra doses. A free vaccine can be booked online or via the vaccination helpline on 0800 28 29 26. [Book my vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)





St Mark's School Te Kura o Hato Māka

Positive Popcorn is back with \$2 popcorn on Wednesdays. If you'd like to buy some yummy popcorn at lunchtime, please bring a \$2 coin. Funds raised support enrichment programmes at St Mark's School.



Positive Popcorn! \$2 on Wednesdays



A STOP and THINK Moment...

Research is overwhelming and consistent: the presence and use of **cell phones and devices in children's bedrooms at night** have a **significant negative effect on sleep quality, sleep quantity, and overall well-being**. Children and adolescents with devices in their bedrooms are at **more than double the risk** of experiencing a disrupted night's sleep compared to those without.

What is the right age for children to have a phone?

Do you allow children to charge their phones in their bedrooms overnight?



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2026 Places On Our School Roll

Work on filling our roll for 2026 is complete. We are happy to advise that there are places still available in the following year levels for next year:

Year 8

Year 7

Year 4

Families wishing to apply can access the application information on the school website.

Term 4 Events

Wednesday 5 November	Music Festival Choir Performance - 6.30pm
Tuesday 11 November	Zone Athletics
Thursday 13 November	Junior Athletic Sports Event - Years 0-3 at school -11am-3pm
Friday 14 November	Canterbury Anniversary Day
Tuesday 18 November	Year 0-2 trip to Ferrymead
Thursday 20 November	Singing Cup - 11am
Tuesday 25 November	Year 8 Leavers Dinner
Thursday 27 November	Year 7 Leadership Camp
Tuesday 2 December	Itinerant Music Night 6.00pm
Thursday 4 December	Advent Service - Transitional Cathedral - 7pm
Thursday 11 December	Prize Giving
Friday 12 December	End of Year Service - 1.45pm

[Proverbs 22:6:](#)

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Blessings to all,
Adrian



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Church Certificates

Kererū	Olly B/Maya D
Harakeke	Jack D/Isla O'C
Kawau	Loki C/Cairo T
Pātiki	Rosie A/George T
Aua	Kaira F/Sadie G
Wheke	Eesa McC/Quinn R/Madison A
Mako	Genevieve F/Charlotte P
Toroa	Felix A/Cleo F
Kahawai	Arran MacD



Commencement Certificates



Gianna B and George B



Basil T



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Scape Public Art Inside Out Exhibition

SCAPE PUBLIC ART

Kaya R, Millie H, and Elspeth A have their artwork on exhibition at Tūranga until November 17. The theme for this year's Scape Public Art Inside Out Competition was "Limits of Language." Out of 272 entries, only 18 pieces of artwork were shortlisted for this exhibition. Wow!



White smells like one rose in a field of fox gloves.

White looks like a dead tree begging for forgiveness.

White tastes like The sun sparkling on the water on a sunny day.

White feels like temptation wearing a suit and tie.

Rian

White sounds like a door creeping open in the middle of the night.

Orange

Looks like scooters roaring down the pavement excited to be wizing around.

Smells like bees making honey spreading their joy to the world, happy and buzzy.

Tastes like warm toast straight out of the toaster terrified of being eaten.

Sounds like my brother snoring away at night peacefully sleeping, restoring my energy.

Feels like reading a book by the fire relaxing, anxious to turn the page and find out what happens.

Elisha

By Riaan Aitken - Year 5

By Elisha R - Year 5

1st Fridays morning tea

THIS WEEK

Come along for a cuppa
& chat after school

service in the
Church Lounge

Playtime for toddlers & preschoolers -
and a chance for a cuppa and
company for caregivers

Hosted by Pastoral Care Team
email opawa.stmartins@gmail.com for
details

All are welcome



Anglican Parish of Opawa St Martins St Mark's Church



9 November 2025
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

What's on this week?

Sunday 9 November – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
10am	Sung Eucharist	St Mark's Church

Monday 10 November

9.30am	Opawa Shells Elder Care	Chapman Lounge
2.15–2.45pm	Private Booking	St Mark's Church
6–7.30pm	Brownies	Wilson Room

Tuesday 11 November

8.30–9.30am	Pastoral Support	St Mark's School Boardroom
10am	U3A	St Mark's Church
11.45–12.45pm	Private Booking	Chapman Lounge
1.15–4pm	Private Booking	Wilson Room
7pm	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel

Wednesday 12 November

10am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
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Thursday 13 November

8.15am	Morning Prayer <u>Online via Zoom</u>	Meeting ID: 878 542 1911 Password: 100100
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Friday 14 November – Show Day

Sunday 16 November – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30am	Holy Communion	St Anne's Chapel
10am	Sung Eucharist	St Mark's Church



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Simon Green 027 642 1987 osmvicar@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL SALES CONSULTANT

JULIA DALY



Do you know someone who is looking to sell their property?

Refer them to Julia, and you'll be
helping to support us!

Here's how it works:

1. Refer a property listing to Julia.
2. When the property is successfully sold, Julia will donate \$1000 to St Marks School.

Your referral not only helps someone find the perfect home it also directly benefits the children at our school.

Spread the word and make a difference today!

For more information, contact

JULIA DALY

022 0305 285 | julia.daly@harcourts.co.nz

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SUPPORTING ST MARK'S SCHOOL



Part of the St Mark's School Family

For every home referred and sold or listed and sold with us within the school family, we will donate \$1000 to St. Marks School.*

With Sonia being a past parent, now grandparent, and Sophie a current parent at St Mark's, we are proudly involved with the school community and look forward to giving back.

**Supporting St Mark's school,
now and for its future**

*Terms and conditions apply.

Sonia Cameron | 027 220 5665
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