



Phone: 06 376 8523  
Email: office@stanthony.ac.nz † www.stanthony.ac.nz  
www.fb.com/stanthonyschool † 24 Wakeman St. Pahiataua, 4910

Within our Catholic faith, leading by gentleness and strength, to inspire, grow and celebrate our learners.

*Mā tō tātou whakapono Katorika, Kia mārie, Kia kaha, Hei whakatipu, Hei whanake, Hei whakanui hoki ōu tātou ākonga*



**12 February 2026**

**Newsletter 2**

### ***Nau mai, Haere mai Whānau and Friends of St Anthony's School,***

*It is hard to believe we are already nearing the end of Week 3 of our first term. We have been blessed with a wonderful stretch of fine weather to start the year, adding to the positive energy around the school. We are truly looking forward to coming together as a community to celebrate at our Community School Mass this Sunday.*

*Please read the information about the new Attendance requirements further in this newsletter.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Rae Powell, Sarah Moffitt and their whānau, and also with Emma Reid and her whānau, at this sad time of their recent bereavements.*

*Ngā mihi nui  
Marg Hyslop  
Principal of St Anthony's School*

### **Welcome New Student**



We warmly welcome Aria Tamainu to St Anthony's School, who enrolled last week. It is a blessing to have you with us, Aria, and we look forward to sharing a year filled with learning, and celebrations together. With our school roll now at **118**, we are deeply grateful for the strong and growing community that makes St Anthony's such a special place.

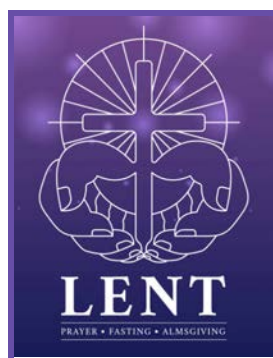
### **Welcome New Staff member**



A very warm welcome to Abby Treder, who has joined our staff as a Teacher Aide. We are delighted to have Abby join us and are pleased to have a past student return and work as a member of our St Anthony's School staff.

### **School Community Mass**

This weekend, **Sunday, 15 February 2026** at **11.15am** is our Term 1 Community Mass, being celebrated at St Brigid's Church. Students wear their formal school uniform and sit with the whānau. The school band will be playing and a number of students will be serving through readings and prayers. New families and students will also be welcomed, with those students receiving a special certificate. There will be a cup of tea afterwards. We look forward to sharing this event with our whole school community.



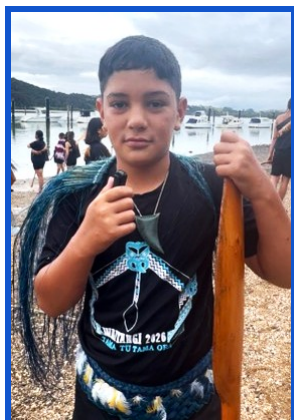
### **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. For 2026, Ash Wednesday is on **18 February 2026**. Our school will be going to Mass that morning at 11.15am and families are most welcome to join us.

## 2026 Baptism

Our Baptism Mass will be taking place this year, most likely on Friday, 24 April 2026. If you are interested in your child or children taking part in the sacrament of Baptism, please contact our DRS, Natalie Elliott [nelliott@stanthony.ac.nz](mailto:nelliott@stanthony.ac.nz).

## Ka Mau Te Wehi, Abe



It was exciting to hear of Abe Te Waaka's recent participation at the Waitangi Day celebrations as part of a rōpū that were on the water in the flotilla at Waitangi. This rōpū have been working for many weeks with Tā Rihari Daymond in preparation for this very special event, a collaboration

between Tararua College and Te Kete Hauora o Rangitāne. This was a very significant journey for Abe and his whānau who whakapapa back to the Waitangi area.



## Emergency Contact & Update Medical Details

Please advise the Office staff in writing/email of any changes to your child's contact details or medical details, phone contacts, addresses etc. Please also update us of any medical conditions we are not aware of.

## 2025 Attendance Data Term 4

We are delighted to share that **89%** of St Anthony's students achieved regular attendance in Term 4, attending school for over 90% of the term (missing fewer than five days). This is a wonderful improvement from 80% in Term 4, 2024, and reflects our community's strong commitment to learning.

## MOE Attendance 2026 Regulations

As a state-integrated Catholic primary school, we operate under the Education and Training Act 2020 which places duties on parents/guardians to ensure children attend school, and on schools to monitor and respond to attendance concerns.

The STAR framework became mandatory for all state and state-integrated schools at the start of Term 1, 2026: attendance management plans must have regard to STAR (*Stepped Attendance Response - attending to all absences*). Our school is required to maintain accurate attendance records and may be asked to provide documented steps taken when attendance concerns escalate (for example, attendance service referrals or Ministry-led prosecution).

Therefore we ask that all requests for leave are made to the Principal well in advance and that students attend school every day unless they are unwell or there is a significant family event. If your child struggles to get to school, or there are other personal circumstances making it difficult for attendance, please do have a discussion with the Principal, Marg Hyslop, who will ensure your confidentiality is maintained. Please refer to the copy of our STAR at the end of this newsletter and available on our school website.

A reminder that absences regarding sickness and /or medical appointments can be sent through to the Office using the School Loop app or a phone call. Please provide adequate information about the illness.

## Swimming

Our last day of swimming will now be the 26 Feb.

## Lunch Orders

School Lunch orders will start again from **Friday, 27 February 2026**. Order forms are on the school website.

### School Picnic and Games



What a beautiful evening last Thursday, with lots of school whānau, students and staff catching up and enjoying the sunshine at our annual school picnic. Thank you to the BOT and everyone who helped with the BBQ. Well done to the parents and children who made it through the egg throwing competition, almost in one piece!

### School Garden Produce



Our Fr Tom McKenna Y5 & Y6 Class of 2025 invested a lot of hard work into the school garden during the year. The result of all their hard work was an amazingly bountiful harvest. The produce was donated to Helping Hand Pahiataua, the Pahiataua Community Food Bank and to members of the community. This is a fantastic way for our students to see in action the Catholic Social Teaching principle, Preferential Option for the Poor - he whakaaro nui mō te hunga rawakore. - This compels us to think first of the needs of those who are most vulnerable. A special thank you to Mr Jansen for all his work and guidance in developing the school vegetable garden.

### Go Bus Information - Contact

Brent Tomlinson the site manager for GoBus Pahiataua is resigning as manager but continuing as bus driver. We have really appreciated all Brent's help over the last couple of years. In the meantime, from Monday, 16 February 2026 until a site manager for Pahiataua is appointed, the contact for GoBus is Kim Forbes 0272145126 (Go Bus Operations Manager).

### Bush Tabloid Minor Sports Y1 & Y2

A notice will be sent out to families of Sr Alphonsus Y1 Class and Sr Margaret Y1 & Y2 Class, at the end of next week, about the upcoming Bush Tabloid Minor Sports Day on 13 March 2026.

### Thank You Firewood Helpers

Thank you to Jason Waterman and Robey Jansen for their work to split the firewood last weekend. We really appreciate your help.

### Firewood Available

The large blue gum tree was removed from the playground over the summer break. If you are wanting a trailer load of firewood for a donation, please contact Daniel Bird.

### School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has donated uniform items to our pre-loved uniform cupboard. Please keep these donations rolling in. Please contact the Office staff if you need any further good quality uniform items, free of charge.

### Touch Rugby

The after school Touch Rugby will start tomorrow, Friday, 13 February 2026. The draw is on our school website and on our school sports board. Students are to wear our St Anthony's PE uniform. Our duty evening will be Friday, 27 February 2026, and we will require parent help on this day.

### Touch Rugby Practice for Under 7 Team

The Under 7s Touch Rugby Team practice will be every Thursday at 3.30pm at the Bush Multi Sport Park. Please contact Mondeo Dodd-Tui Ihaia or Patrick Thomson for further information.

### Touch Rugby Practice for Under 13 Red Team

The Under 7s Touch Rugby Team practice will be every Thursday at 3.30pm at the Bush Multi Sport Park. Please contact Hannah Tamainu for further information.

### Head Lice

There have been some cases of head lice reported to us over the past week. We ask that all families please check their children’s hair daily and treat as required. To eradicate head lice it does take two or three repeated treatments. For further information please contact your health provider or go to the following website <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice>. Public Health Nurses can provide head lice treatment for the whole family, this includes head lice product, conditioner and combs and advice. The Public Health nurse will either come to school and do an assessment or make a home visit and make an assessment there. Please see the School Office for a referral form.

### Tough Girl Tough Guy

We are not entering a team in this competition this year.

### 2026 School Term Dates

Term One: 28 January - 2 April

Term Two: 20 April - 3 July

Term Three: 20 July - 25 September

Term Four: 12 October - 16 December

### Upcoming School Dates

- 13.02.26 Mass: Sr B, Fr T & Sr dSM  
Touch Rugby Starts
- 15.02.26 Community Mass 11.15**
- 17.02.26 Rite of Burning of the Palms  
- St Brigids 9:15am
- 17.02.26 BOT Meeting 5pm
- 18.2.26 Ash Wednesday - Lent
- 20.02.26 Mass: Sr A, Sr M & Sr G
- 24.02.26 Y7 & Y8 Tech
- 26.02.26 Newsletter  
Swimming finishes
- 27.02.26 Mass: Sr B, Fr T & Sr dSM  
Friday Lunch Orders Start  
Assembly

- 6.03.26 Mass: Sr A, Sr M & Sr G  
Bush Swimming
- 10.03.26 Y7 & Y8 Tech
- 12.03.26 Newsletter  
Assembly
- 13.03.26 Mass: Sr B, Fr T & Sr dSM  
Bush Tabloid Minor Sports (Sr A & Sr M)
- 16.03.26 Y7&Y8 Imms
- 17.03.26 St Patrick’s Day
- 20.03.26 Mass: Sr A, Sr M & Sr G
- 24.03.26 Y7 & Y8 Tech
- 26.03.26 Newsletter
- 27.03.26 Mass: Sr B, Fr T & Sr dSM  
Student Reports sent home
- 30.03.26 Parent Teacher Meetings
- 31.03.26 Parent Teacher Meetings
- 1.04.26 Parent Teacher Meetings
- 2.04.26 Holy Thursday - Last Day of Term 1
- 3.04.26 Good Friday
- 20.04.26 First Day Term 2
- 24.04.26 Baptism Mass
- 27.04.26 Anzac Day observation, school closed
- 28.04.26 Y7 & Y8 Tech
- 3.05.206 Community Mass
- 5-8.05.26 Y7 & Y8 Camp

### BOT Meeting

Our next BOT (Board of Trustees) meeting is at **5pm on Tuesday, 17 February 2026**, at school. All are very welcome.

### BOT School Policies & Procedures

To access our school policies and procedures please go to <https://stanthony.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there is no "www").

Our **username** is: stanthony

Our **password** is: anthony

The Board are currently reviewing:

Term 1, 2026 Policy Review:

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful
- Substances Policy (board)
- Sun Protection (board)
- Digital Technology and Online Safety (board)
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

- *Safety and Welfare for Students on Work*
- *Experience \**
- *Firearms Not Allowed \* / Firearms Policy \**

**Friends of St Anthony’s Community Cookbook**

This beautiful book is still available to order. Please contact Friends of St Anthony’s School Committee on [Friendsofsta@stanthony.ac.nz](mailto:Friendsofsta@stanthony.ac.nz) A copy of this book is in the school foyer for you to view.

*Please refer to our school website for the latest Community Notices.*

**More photos from our School Picnic**





# Stepped Attendance Response - STAR: Responding to all absence



<p><b>Less than 5 days absence</b> in a school term</p>	<p><b>Parents/Guardians</b></p> <p>Parents will encourage good attendance habits and do their very best to ensure their children attend school regularly during term time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positively reinforce regular attendance with their children</li> <li>- Open communication with school</li> <li>- Follow school attendance process</li> </ul>	<p><b>Up to 10 days absence</b> in a school term</p>	<p><b>Parents/Guardians</b></p> <p>Parents will engage constructively with the school to enable their child to return more regularly to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage positively in supports offered</li> <li>- Identify barriers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Up to 15 days absence</b> in a school term</p>	<p><b>Parents/Guardians</b></p> <p>Parents will engage constructively with formal notification and attend a meeting with the school to develop an Attendance and Engagement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Constructively take part in developing an Attendance and Engagement Plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>15 days or more of absence</b> in a school term</p>	<p><b>Parents/Guardians</b></p> <p>Parents will engage constructively with the notice advising of 15 days or more absence. Parents will meet with the school and review the plan that is currently in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the Attendance and Engagement Plan in place</li> <li>- Attend regular meetings</li> </ul>
<p><b>School</b></p> <p>School encourages good attendance habits. Support will be given to encourage good attendance habits. School will follow our attendance management plan and policies. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regular communication about attendance expectations in newsletters</li> <li>- celebration of positive attendance results</li> <li>- contact families when absence starts to increase</li> </ul>	<p><b>School</b></p> <p>School makes an effort to return the child to regular attendance. A formal notification will be made to the parent advising the of the 10 days absence. Contact will be made with the parent to discuss the absences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify barriers</li> <li>- put in place support/intervention plan (e.g., mentoring, transport help, food support, pastoral check-in).</li> </ul>	<p><b>School</b></p> <p>School makes every effort to ensure students can return to regular attendance. A formal notification will be sent to parents advising of the 15 days absence. A meeting will be organised with the whānau to discuss reasons for absence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing an Attendance and Engagement Plan (may include multi agencies)</li> <li>- Counsellor</li> <li>- Attendance Project</li> <li>- Monitor due to explained reason</li> </ul>	<p><b>School</b></p> <p>School makes every effort to support regular attendance. Warning notice sent to parents advising of 15 days or more absence. A meeting will be organised with the whānau to discuss reasons. A variety of agencies may be engaged to support whānau.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance and Engagement Plan in place</li> <li>- ROCK-on support</li> <li>- Collaborative Problem Solving</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Ministry of Education</b></p>							
<p><b>Attendance Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with chronically absent and non-enrolled students and their families to identify and address barriers to attendance. This includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ agreeing to changes to be made,</li> <li>❖ addressing some unmet basic needs impacting on attendance, and</li> <li>❖ referring students to other services as necessary</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Collaborate with schools so that             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ they remain engaged as plans are developed and implemented, and</li> <li>○ they can continue to provide support as the student increases their attendance at school and the additional Attendance Service support is withdrawn.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Regional and National teams</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate involvement of other agencies</li> <li>• Support schools to access other education pathways for a student where appropriate</li> <li>• Consider system-wide initiatives for high-risk attendance</li> <li>• Reprioritise regional support resources to where most needed/effective</li> <li>• Undertake Ministry-led prosecution when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up, when requested by schools.</li> </ul>							