

— Term 4 - Week 8, 2025 —



Holy Cross School

Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 4th December
Gardasil - 2nd dose Y7
students

Friday 5th December
Thank you Morning Tea
11.00am

Friday 5th December
Final School Reports &
Classes for 2026

Wednesday 10th December
2026 class and meet
teacher

Thursday 11th December
Graduation Year 8
6 - 8.00pm

Principal's Message

Talofa lava and Kia ora e te whānau,

As we head into the final weeks of school we have started looking forward to 2026 while reflecting on 2025.

"Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua - Look to the past as you move forward".

Specifically, we are planning for things like;

- Classes for 2026,
- Teacher placements,
- End of year school reports,
- 2026 School camp
- 2026 Strategic & Annual Plans

We also acknowledge some important events coming up:

- Whole school end of year mass (16th of December)
- Year 8 graduation (11th of December).

As we build towards these events we take time to acknowledge all our year 8 students and all the teachers that have taught them during their time at Holy Cross.



Principal's Message



Senior Block Upgrade – Scheduled for 2026

In term 3, I met with the ADW property management team to complete a walk-through of Rooms 1–5. The purpose of this visit was to scope and draw up plans for renovating the oldest block in the school.

Proposed Renovations:

- New doors for Rooms 1–5 and the senior resource room.
- New windows on the north and south sides of Rooms 1–3, and one side of Room 5.
- New carpets and wall coverings for Rooms 1–4.
- Opening up the space between Rooms 2 and 3:
 - Removing the door and internal wall of the current meeting room (Room 3 side).
 - Installing a smaller sliding door on the Room 2 side for internal access to Room 3.

Implementation Timeline:

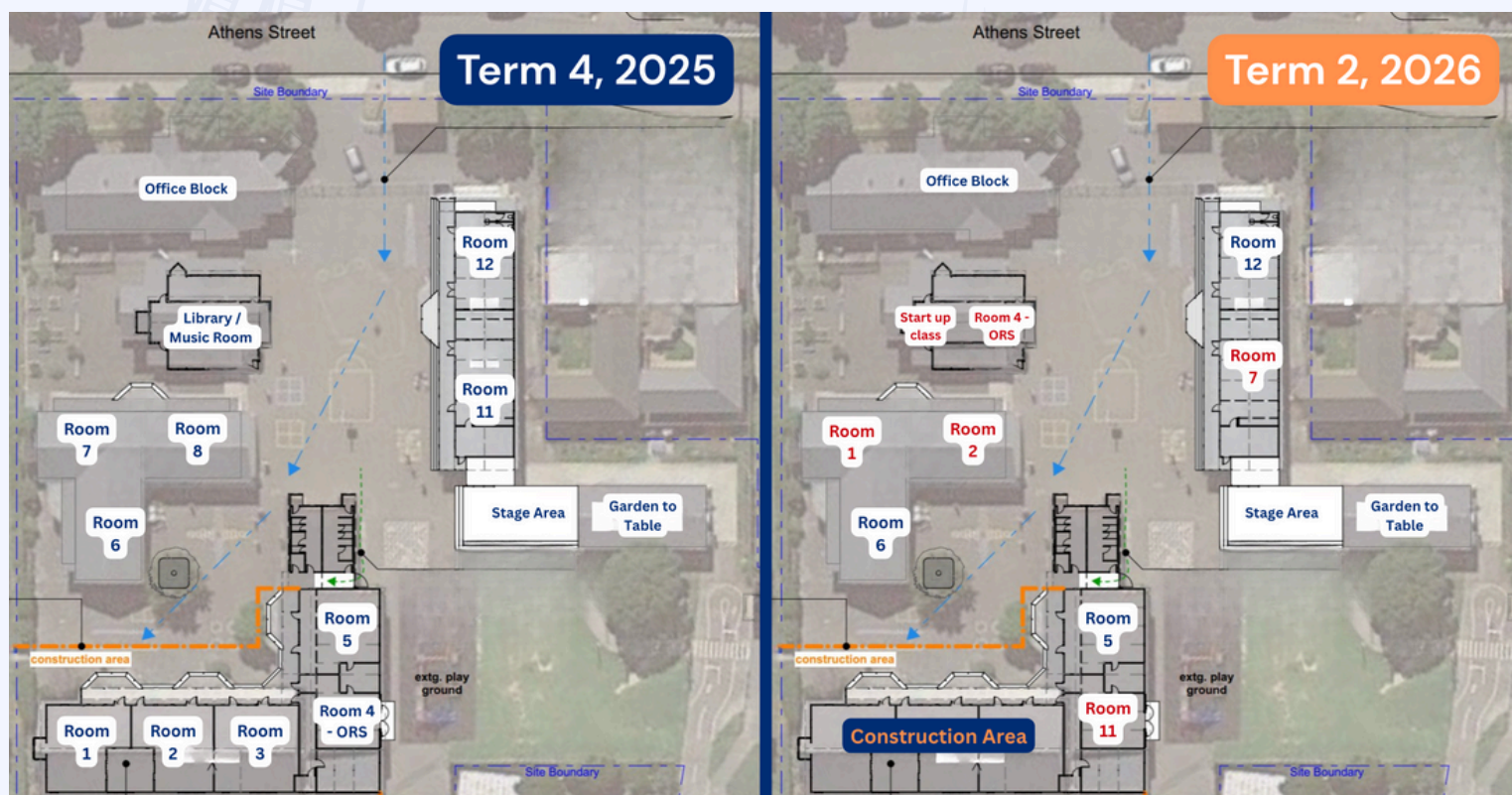
- Aim to complete all renovations as one project, over a 3-month period starting between T1 & T2, 2026.
- During this time, Rooms 1–3 would be unavailable for use.
- Available spaces for teaching and learning during this period: Rooms 4–8, 11–12, the library, and potentially the hall.

Classroom Movements

During the redevelopment of block AB (Rm 1,2 & 3) we will need to move classes. Here is where each class will move to during construction. Room 12, Room 6 and Room 5 will not need to move at all.

- Movements:
- Rm 7 - Move to Rm 11
- Rm 1 - Move to Rm 8
- Rm 2 - Move to Rm 7

Rooms 11, 7, 12, 6 & 5 will start the 2026 year in their temporary spaces.





Principal's Message



End of Year – Overall Teacher Judgements

This past week, teachers have been writing reports for our tamariki along with assessing their learning in comparison to their mid year reports. The whole school data is shown in the tables attached.

Considerations:

- Mid year student numbers - 149 students
- End of year student numbers - 165 students
- Change of curriculum documents
- Change of assessment tools / New tool still to be rolled out by the Ministry of Education
- Assessment tools that don't match the new curriculum

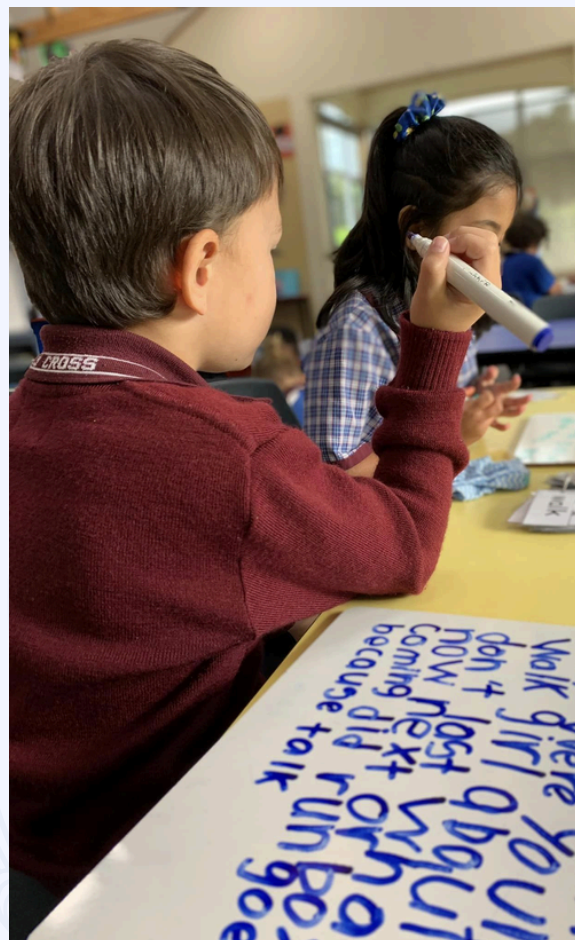
Comments: The overall data shows that over 70% of students are “at” or “above” in reading and maths and over 60% of students passed in writing. However, there has been an increase in “well below” students in writing.

Before the change in curriculum and assessment, we have consistently had “at” or “above” students sitting between 75-80% and “below and well below” students between 20-25%. Specifically, we had an overall 80/20 split in 2023 & 2024. Our focus will be to get back to those numbers in 2026.

Please remember: The move to teaching the new curriculum means a change in the way we measure progress. That means, some students who were previously seen as "at" might now be working below phase expectations.

This doesn't mean they are failing, it means the bar has shifted slightly as we focus more deeply on key skills. Both students and teachers are getting used to the new system. It takes time to adjust, and learning progress might feel slower at first, but it will lead to stronger foundations in the long run.

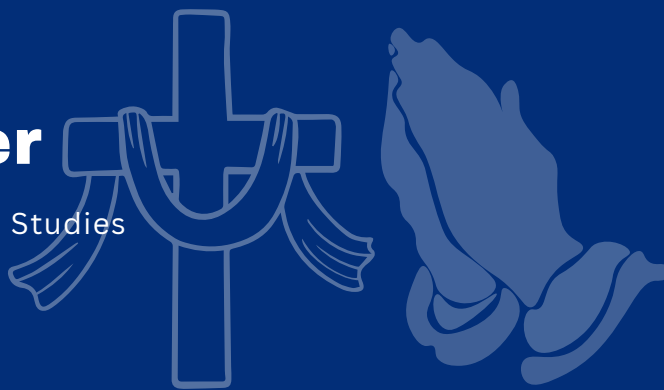
End of Year	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Above	13%	9%	7%
At	60%	55%	64%
Below	23%	28%	22%
Well Below	4%	8%	7%
At/Above	73%	64%	70%
Below/Well Below	27%	36%	30%



Alison

Catholic Character

Director of Religious Studies
Simone Meech



Advent - A Time to Prepare..

The season of Advent starts this Sunday, November 30. This date also marks the start of the new liturgical year (Year A). As we begin the season of Advent, we enter a special time of hope, waiting, and preparation. Advent invites us to slow down, make space for prayer, and ready our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

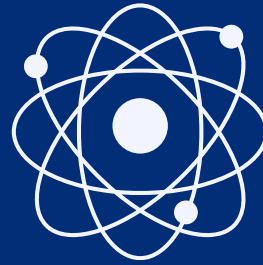
Over the next four weeks, our classes will be learning about the Advent wreath and the meaning of each candle—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Students will take part in prayers, reflections, and simple acts of kindness to help them understand what this season is truly about. We encourage families to share in this journey at home. Lighting a candle, saying a short prayer together, or choosing a small daily act of kindness to bring Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to others, can help children see how faith is lived in everyday moments.

Advent reminds us that even in busy times, God invites us to pause, reflect, and look forward with hope. We pray that this season brings peace to your homes, joy to your families, and a deep sense of God's love as Christmas approaches.

Wishing everyone a blessed and hope-filled Advent.



Room 1



Room 1 dived into a hands-on science inquiry connected to the real-world issue of oil spills and their environmental impact. The children took part in an interactive experiment where they explored how oil behaves in water, tested different materials for cleaning it up, and discussed the challenges that wildlife and rescue teams face during real spill events. The activity encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and scientific thinking as students recorded observations and compared results.

To build on their scientific learning, the children also engaged with current news reports about recent environmental incidents. They practised reading for key facts, identifying reliable sources, and summarising information in their own words. This helped them understand how science connects with real-life events and how news media communicates these events to the public.

Using both their scientific knowledge and their reading insights, students then worked on writing their own newspaper articles.

I am incredibly proud of how thoughtfully the children approached this project. They demonstrated curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity throughout each step—from experimenting like scientists to reporting like journalists.

Alongside this, our Maths lessons have focused on strengthening essential skills. Students have been consolidating their understanding of fractions, ratios, percentages, and interpreting graphs. These areas support a wide range of learning across the curriculum, and it has been wonderful to see pupils applying their knowledge with increasing confidence and accuracy.



Book by Esme and Niamh - “Mae is Okay”

Those two girls are going places. Vicky, thank you so much for the role you played throughout. This is one of the most special things I've ever received! (Mia)

Incredible work from these girls, and how lucky they are to have such a supportive kaiako helping their dream come alive! You're awesome Vicky! (Evelyn)



Room 2



It's been a lively and rewarding term in Rūma Rua so far! In literacy, ākonga have jumped into narrative writing as they work towards their reflective memoirs, and their enthusiasm for improving their touch-typing has been awesome to see.

In numeracy, we wrapped up our work on fractions, decimals, and percentages and are now diving into financial mathematics with Banqer - an absolute hit with the class! Beyond the classroom, ākonga have begun preparing for the Christmas Bake Sale, rehearsing for our End-of-Year Production, and are in the beginning stages of leading a collaborative PALs session for our junior ākonga, showing beautiful tuakana-teina in action.

He rawe te mahi a ngā ākonga!





Gardener of the day– Hendrix. (Hendrix is one of our most enthusiastic gardeners and volunteered to be the gardener this week.

Today in the garden, we made a kumera bed and it was made of seaweed that Solomon, Noah, Roman and Emmanuel put on the soil with the help of a few other people. Olivia put horse poo on top with dry grass and finally soil. Last we put water on the top. We also planted lots of corn today. I also watered the corn me and Emmanuel had planted a couple of weeks ago. It is starting to grow.

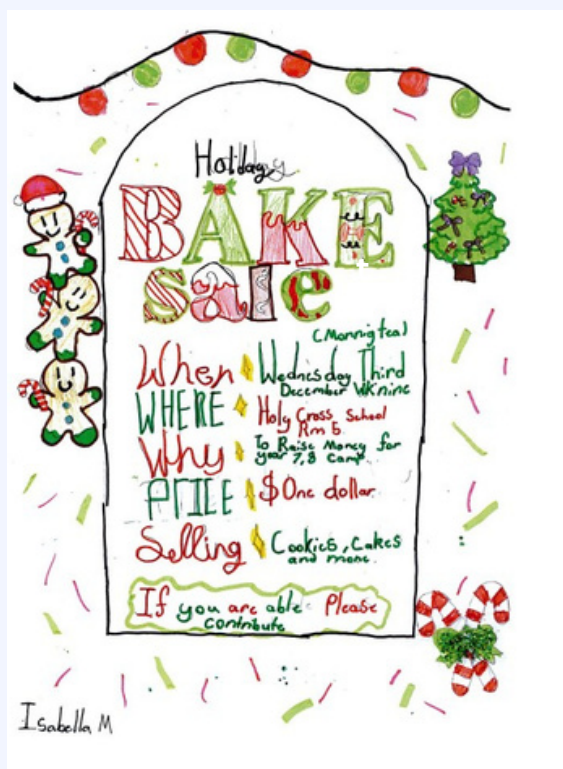
Cook of the day– Conor (Conor volunteered to be the cook this week– he is great at dicing vegetables and always tries out our dishes even when the recipe might not be his favourite)

Today we were making Salad of the Imagination. First we cut the lettuce then the cucumber, fennel and garlic. Also Ceydeaze grated some beetroot and her hands got pink. Next we made a dressing. After that we washed the boards and finally we started writing. I love cutting vegetables because you get so much action.





School News



Wednesday 3rd December is our Christmas Bake Sale raising money for Camp 2026.

Please bring your money to buy some yummy Christmas treats, all items are \$1 so a bargain!

Year 6 and 7 students who will be attending Camp from Rooms 1,2 and 5 will be manning the bake sale stalls during morning tea 11-11.30am
Thank you!

DECEMBER

THURSDAY 4	Gardasil 2nd dose immunisation Year 7 students
FRIDAY 5	School reports and 2026 class letters go home
FRIDAY 5	Thank you morning tea 11.00am
WEDNESDAY 10	Meet the teacher 2026
THURSDAY 11	Year 8 graduation 6.00pm-8.00pm
TUESDAY 16	Whanau picnic 5pm Christmas liturgy 6pm in the hall
WEDNESDAY 17	Last day of school - pick up from 12.30pm



Happy Birthday to..

Sahaan, Olive, Charlotte, Eva, Leya,
Michael K & Thinbeth.

Birthday wishes to you all.





We are looking for someone to fill the position as **Programme Manager** at sKids Holy Cross Miramar.

Junior Adventures Group Programme Manager | Miramar | SmartRecruiters

Jeanene Weyers
Senior Programme Leader
Wellington Region

Mobile 027 200 1763
Web www.sKids.co.nz

AFTER SCHOOL HOCKEY CLUB

YRS 1-3 | YRS 4-6 TERM 1, 2026

KEY INFORMATION

DATES
6 Weeks | Starts 16 Feb 2026

TIMES
45min Sessions
Yrs 1-3: 3:30pm | Yrs 4-6: 4:45pm
(Upper Hutt: 4:00pm & 4:45pm)

VENUES
NHS (Mon) | Upper Hutt & Porirua (Wed)
Lower Hutt & Kelburn (Thu)

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

\$2 ENTRY

06 DEC | **1.00 PM - 4.00 PM**
ST AIDAN'S, MIRAMAR
89 Miramar Avenue

MAKE AND TAKE HOME CRAFTS
E.G. CANDLES, PHOTO FRAMES, SNOW GLOBES

MORE INFO: PENINSULAPARISH.NZ/CHRISTMAS

Holy Cross School

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Downloading the Skool Loop app a step by step guide



Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open the Skool Loop App – you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379

