STIRLING SCHOOL
2026

SUCCESSFUL TENACIOUS ACTIVE RESPONSIBLE

TERM FOUR, WEEK THREE

LOCAL HERO:

Today we had Christian, from St John, present a special thank you to Frankie who had helped her Dad when he urgently needed medical attention. She listened to the 111 call assistant and followed the instructions so well that her Dad is still alive. Frankie showed that at the age of 7 she was able to perform first aid skills that were life saving. Well done, Frankie, you are a legend!





SKOOL LOOP:

The Skool Loop app is for more than just our newsletter and for you to let us know when your child is unwell - it is a site where we can send out forms, bus notices and class notices. In your settings for the app please check you are signed up for, whole school, all the classes your child/children are in and the bus route if that is applicable.

MANUIA LE ASO FANAU!

Riley - 7 Sophie - 7 Ahira - 12

SCHOOL DOCS POLICY REVIEW

We invite you to take part in our school policy reviews, your feedback is appreciated. A new policy will be available to review each fortnight. **This fortnight, we encourage you to review our Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy.**

Visit: https://stirling.schooldocs.co.nz
Username: stirling
Password: star



Click on the 'Current Review' tab, select a policy, and click 'Start Review' to leave a comment or select that you have no comments. Please see the review schedule at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

PRINCIPAL WATSON'S MESSAGE

Kia ora,

Swimming week has been a great success, which is a credit to the thorough organisation by Mrs Roxburgh. Very pleasing to hear the students chatting about their progress and to see them working so hard to imporve their skills in the water. Water safety skills are so very important and we talk about the importance of entering unknown water in a safe manner to reduce injuries.

From time to time there are bugs in our district and school - like nits or scabies. Scabies are spread by prolonged skin contact, and sharing of towels, clothing or sleeping in the same bed. Children will find the red marks itchy. Treatment is a cream that is applied and the doctor or pharmasist can assist you. I have attached the information sheets in the email.

Tofa, Donna Watson
Phone: 027 429 9272



CONGRATULATIONS:

Classroom certificates: Matauaina, Kara, Bonnie W, Te Manawa
PB4L value awards: Leah, Beau, Jaxx, Charlotte
Principal award: Jordan

RUMA KĀKANO

We have really enjoyed continuing our learning about the planets! So far, we have explored Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter. We have been watching a video about each planet, recording interesting facts and then using these to write our own information reports. I have been so impressed with how many facts the children are remembering and sharing! We also had a big space science kit arrive this week, which we are very excited to explore as we continue our space inquiry.

As part of our space learning, we also explored shadows and how the Sun creates them. We headed outside with some chalk to trace our shadows, but just as we got started, the Sun disappeared behind the clouds and so did our shadows! This turned into a great learning opportunity as we discovered how shadows need light and what happens when the Sun is blocked by clouds.

We have absolutely loved school swimming this week! It has been great to see everyone's confidence grow and the progress they have made in the pool. On Friday, we completed a self-reflection about our swimming week, and the children were all very proud of their efforts and achievements!

During maths, we have been working on different strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems, as well as strengthening our number knowledge. We have been practising identifying numbers, counting forwards and backwards, and building our confidence with numbers through our maths rotations.















RUMA TUPU

What a busy and exciting week we have had in Week 4! We had Mrs Guest on Monday and then she had training days and then she was unwell, so we have had Mrs Watson, Mrs Souness, and Mrs Williams teaching us this week.

We have enjoyed our swimming sessions, building our confidence in the water and working on our swimming skills. We have also been focusing on looking after our belongings, taking responsibility for our own things and making sure everything is packed away safely.

We worked on our reading clock/time skills in our mathematic work books. We can identify when it is o'clock and when it is half past the hour. The Year 3 students were also looking at numbers up to 1000 - using special arrow cards to help them write the numbers in their work books.

In our "Space" science inquiry we are learning more about Earth and the stars. We know the sun is the closest star to Earth in our universe and that is why it seems so lovely and bright. The other stars are there too, but not as close so we can't see them while the sun is shinning. Another great discussion was on why we can't have sunshine 24 hours and why we get tired at night. Mrs Watson was impressed with our questions/wonderings. Looking forward to our trip to the Planetarium next week.

RUMA MĀHURI

What a dynamic and action-packed week we've had!

Our daily swimming lessons have been a highlight, and it has been fantastic to see how much everyone's confidence, swimming technique, and water safety skills have improved.

Back in the classroom, the students have been working exceptionally hard in numeracy and literacy as we prepare for our upcoming assessments next week. I've been so impressed by the focus and determination everyone has shown.

We also brought civic learning to life in the senior classes with our very own Stirling election! The students experienced the real process—providing their full names, being checked off the official electoral roll, and casting their votes. The anticipation in the room while waiting for the election results the following day was electric!











RUMA RĀKAU

This week I would like to share a piece of writing from Eva. This was her writing assessment the class completed this week on a special whānau/family time, or a time with friends.

As my family strolled through the lush, green bush in Niue, my heart leaped. My mum held our snorkels, my dad held flippers, and Lily carried towels. We were all buzzing with excitement.

As the water came into view, I gasped. It was crystal clear and clean. I had never seen water so inviting. Our family piled on sunblock, plopped on flippers and snorkels, and we dove in. My sister was hesitant, but eventually she came in too.

The water was warm and slowly soothed my body. I paddled for a while before my mother urged me to look underwater. I dove down and saw a bountiful array of colourful fish. They swam between rainbow coral or paddled in groups. A gigantic, metallic blue fish caught my attention as it swam alongside striking pink coral.

As I paddled along, soaking in the clear waters, my dad yelped. He pointed to the water and we peered at it. A hypnotising sea snake (or katuali) had swum past him. It was long and had black and white stripes, much like a zebra. It wriggled frantically as it left. I was awestruck by it. My mum explained it was the most venomous sea snake in the world, but couldn't break human skin.

After the encounter with the snake, everyone got out except me. I had never (and probably never will again) seen such incredible animals. But as the sun slowly made way for the moon and the water became colder, I hopped out.

We dried off and watched for a while as the sun made the sky a lovely orange. The view was incredible and unforgettable. I chatted away about the different fish and begged to come back the next day. Mum agreed, and we walked back, leaving the view behind.

It was a lovely way to end the day, the smell of the water lingering in my nose.

CALENDAR

11th November	Board Meeting - 6pm
17th November	Junior Classes - Trip to Otago Museum
24th November	Quadrathon
27th November	Community Period - 2:15pm
3rd December	Ki O Rahi Tournament - Rākau
8th December	Beach Day
15th December	Reports sent home
15th December	Prize Giving - Te Pou Ō Mata-au - 6pm
16th December	Final day of Term 4 - half day and no buses.

SWIMMING WEEK





What a huge week of swimming we've had!

We are very proud of all of our children for their efforts at swimming this week. It is a very tiring week for our tamariki and everyone who has swum have been absolute Stirling STARs. We hope you see an improvement in your child's confidence and abilities the next time you go to the pool.

A massive thank you from the staff to our parents and caregivers for all of your supervision support throughout the week. We can not do it without you!

PB4L FOCUS

This week, our whole-school focus has been **“Ask Questions.”** We have been learning about how asking questions can help us feel more confident and prepared when things change. We have explored how to turn our worries into questions, think about what we already know and identify people we can ask for help.

Next week, our focus will be **“Circle of Control.”** We will be learning about the things we can control, such as our choices, attitude, words and actions, and the things we can't control, such as the weather, other people's choices and changes around us. We will explore how to focus on what we can do, even when things don't go the way we had hoped.

A great conversation to have at home this week is to talk with your child about something they can and can't control. You could discuss how we can't always change what happens around us, but we can choose how we respond.







Find out more

Join ST JOHN YOUTH

Empowering young people to build confidence, leadership skills, wellbeing, and lifelong friendships. St John Youth is for everyone aged 5-18. Come learn, connect, and grow with us.

Balclutha Division

Monday

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

St John Balclutha
7 High St, Balclutha

youth@stjohn.org.nz | 0800 ST JOHN | youth.stjohn.org.nz

Hato Hone St John