ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

11 November 2026

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Ciào, おはよう (Ohayoou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privet!, Xin Chào, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Sat Shari Akal, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

Key dates

Thurs 12, Fri 13, Tues 17	**Junior Swimming at Fulton Hogan Pools**	
Friday 13 November	**Day in lieu for campers/ Sushi Friday**	
Sat 14 – Mon 16 November	**YEAR 5 & 6 CAMP**	Lakewood Lodge
Tuesday 17 November	**Day in lieu for campers**	
Wednesday 18 November	**Howick Historical Village Trip**	Rooms 4 and 5
Wednesday 25 November	**THANKSGIVING MASS**	6.15pm, Parish Church
Monday 30 November	**Sancta Maria Transition Morning**	9.30am–12.30pm
Friday 4 December	**NATIVITY & SPECIAL AWARDS**	1.00pm, Parish Church
Tuesday 8 December	**Learning Certificate Assemblies**	Last day in school uniform
Wednesday 9 December	**Summer Picnic / Shared Lunch**	Non-uniform day
Thursday 10 December	**End-of-year reports emailed home**	Non-uniform day
Friday 11 December	**LAST DAY OF 2026**	**School closes at 12noon** Non-uniform day
Tuesday 2 February	**FIRST DAY OF 2027 SCHOOL YEAR**	**Arrive on-site from 8.30am**
Monday 8 February	**WAITANGI DAY**	**School is closed**

Shared Driveway – Safety Reminder

A friendly reminder to please observe the STOP sign and slow down when exiting the shared driveway. While speed bumps are in place, we all need to remain vigilant and drive at a safe, considerate speed.

Please remember that we share this driveway with elderly residents, so extra care and courtesy are essential to keeping everyone safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Message from Tracey Kopua, School Principal

As we move further into Term 4, there is certainly plenty happening at St Mark's! It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, generosity and spirit of our school community shining through in so many ways.

Mission Day – An Amazing Community Effort!

What a fabulous Mission Day we enjoyed last Friday! Despite the unpredictable weather forecast requiring some last-minute adjustments to our timetable, everyone adapted brilliantly, ensuring the children could make the most of this much-anticipated event. Our Year 5 and 6 tamariki deserve a huge congratulations for the creativity, enthusiasm and effort they put into organising such a wonderful variety of games, stalls and activities. From the ever-popular toy stall and tombola to the delicious home-baked goodies and exciting games, there was certainly something for everyone! A heartfelt thank you to our families for your incredible generosity, whether through donations of toys, baking, prizes or the purchase of Mission Day tokens. Together, we raised ***approximately $2,500*** *for Missionz – an outstanding effort!*

Swimming – Building Confidence and Water Safety

Our tamariki have been making a splash this week! Our junior classes are thoroughly enjoying their lessons at Fulton Hogan Swim School, while our Year 3-6 students have been developing their swimming skills at Lloyd Elsmore Pools. It has been wonderful to see the growing confidence, enthusiasm and progress of our swimmers as they develop essential water confidence, swimming techniques and water safety skills. With summer just around the corner, we encourage families to make the most of our local swimming pools and continue practising the skills children have been learning. Remember, children can enjoy free entry to many of Auckland's public swimming pools, making this a great opportunity for some affordable family fun. Swimming is not only a valuable life skill but an essential part of keeping our tamariki safe in and around water. The more opportunities children have to practise, the more confident and capable they become.

St Mark's Cookbook – Now on Sale!

Our much-anticipated St Mark's Cookbook is now available to purchase through Kindo! At ***$25*** *per copy, this beautiful collection of family recipes is not only a lovely keepsake of our St Mark's community but also makes a wonderful Christmas gift or coffee table book to enjoy for years to come. With a limited number of copies being printed, we encourage families to get in quick and secure yours! Orders close on* ***Friday 20 November.*** *A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed recipes and helped bring this special project to life.*

Celebrating Our Retiring Teachers

By now, many of you will have heard the news that three of our much-loved and long-serving teachers, Mrs Jenny McKenzie, Mrs Trish Hodgson and Mrs Julie Kippen, will be retiring at the end of this year. Each has made a significant contribution to the life of St Mark's, touching the lives of countless children and families through their dedication, care and commitment to Catholic education. We look forward to formally acknowledging and farewelling them at our Christmas Concert and Nativity Celebration on Friday 4 December, when we will also celebrate and farewell our Year 6 school leavers. It promises to be a very special and memorable occasion for our school community.

Assessment, Progress and Reporting

As we approach the end of the school year, teachers are busy completing assessments, reviewing student progress and preparing end-of-year reports.It has been encouraging to see the fabulous progress being made across the school, reflecting the hard work of our tamariki and the dedication of our teaching team. This year, we are introducing a revised student reporting template, which we believe will provide families with a clearer picture of their child's learning, progress and next steps. Our teachers are looking forward to sharing these reports with you and celebrating the many achievements of our learners.

Year 5 & 6 Camp – Let the Adventure Begin!

The excitement is certainly building as our Year 5 and 6 tamariki prepare for their camp at Lakewood Lodge this weekend! We are looking forward to a few days filled with adventure, new challenges, teamwork, friendship and plenty of opportunities to build confidence and resilience. We are also keeping our fingers crossed, and saying a few prayers for some beautiful weather! Our campers have been reminded that, while there are plenty of things on their packing lists, the two most important items they need to bring are:

1. ***Great listening ears*** *– to listen carefully, follow instructions and keep themselves and others safe.*
2. ***A positive, can-do attitude*** *– to embrace new experiences, give everything a go and encourage one another along the way.*

Our Door Is Always Open

A gentle reminder that we value open, honest communication and the strong partnerships we share with our families. Please don't let little niggles become bigger worries! If something is concerning you, we encourage you to reach out and have a conversation with us. Often, a simple chat can clear up misunderstandings before they grow into something bigger.

Your friend in Christ

Tracey Kopua

2027 PLANNING

NOT RETURNING - We are currently planning class groupings and staffing for next year. If for any reason your child/family will not be returning to St Mark's (with the exception of Year 6 school leavers), we would appreciate you letting the school know asap.

FUTURE ENROLMENTS - If you have a child turning 5 before the end of 2027, please complete an enrolment asap. You may know of other families hoping to enrol their child/children at St Mark's. If this is the case, please encourage them to arrange a visit to the school and a meeting with the Principal.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS - If you have not yet enrolled your Year 6 child in a school for 2027, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Many local schools are zoned and have closing dates, so early application is important. If you need any support with the enrolment process, please let us know—we are always happy to help.

2027 Term dates

Term 1	Tues 2 February – Fri 9 April	Includes Waitangi Day observed and Easter closures
Term 2	Tues 27 April – Fri 2 July	Staff Only day: Friday 4 June 2027
Term 3	Mon 19 July – Fri 24 September	
Term 4	Mon 11 October – Thurs 16 December	Staff Only day: Tuesday 26 October

SUSHI FRIDAYS

SUSHI FRIDAYS ARE HERE!



IT'S FRIDAY...
YOU'VE MADE IT!
LET US TAKE LUNCH OFF YOUR LIST TODAY!

A DELICIOUS, FRESH LUNCH DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM!

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9AM
ON FRIDAY

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