ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Following in the footsteps of Jesus

Tuesday 8th September 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

Tuesday 8 September	**BOT meeting**	7pm in the staffroom
Wednesday 9 September	**PTFA meeting**	7pm in the staffroom
Thursday 10 September	**Trees 4 Survival Planting day**	Groups across Yr 4-6
14 - 18 September	**Te Wiki o te Reo Māori**	
Tuesday 15 September	**HPPA Interschool Mathex Competition**	
Tuesday 22 September	**Local Catholic Schools Kapa Haka Event**	SMC from 11.30 - 1.45pm
Thursday 24 September	**Grandparents/Family sharing assembly**	Starting at 1.30pm in the Church
Friday 25 September	**Last day of Term 3 -** *Crazy Hair / Mad hatters and Wheels to school day*	
Monday 12 October	**First day of Term 4**	
Thursday 22 October	**First of 8 weekly swimming sessions for Rooms 1,3, 10, 11 and 12**	
Monday 26 October	**Labour Day - public holiday - school is closed**	
Tuesday 27 October	**Staff Only Professional Development Day - school is closed for instruction**	
Friday 6 November	**Mission Day** - *more details to follow*	
Tuesday 3 November	**START OF SWIMMING INTENSIVE for Rooms 4,5, 6 and 7**	
Sat 14 - Mon 16 Nov	**Year 5 and 6 Camp to LAKEWOOD LODGE**	
Wednesday 25 November	**Thanksgiving Mass from 6.15pm in Parish Church**	
Friday 4 December	**Nativity and Special Awards from 1.15pm in the Parish Church**	
Wednesday 9 December	**Summer Picnic/Shared Lunch** - *more details to follow*	
Friday 11 December	**Last day of 2026 academic year - school closes at 12noon**	

Message from Tracey Kopua, School Principal

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of Term 3! We are now officially into spring, and we are starting to see some promising signs of warmer weather and longer, brighter days. There is certainly a sense of spring and end-of-term excitement around St Mark's!

A little spring reminder

As we head towards the final weeks of the term, it is a good time to remind all of our tamariki about the expectations we have for being a St Mark's learner and friend. As the weather improves and everyone becomes a little more excited about the end of the year, we can sometimes see an increase in silliness, distraction and off-task behaviour. We want our children to enjoy school, have fun with their friends and make the most of the opportunities available to them — but we also need to remember that greater independence comes with greater responsibility. We expect all our ākonga to use respectful language, make kind choices, look after one another, stay focused during learning time, and use school devices and technology responsibly.

A huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA for the tremendous effort that went into organising last Friday's school disco. It was fantastic to see so many of our tamariki enjoying an evening of dancing, laughter and fun with their friends and whānau. Events like this take a lot of work behind the scenes, and we really appreciate the time, energy and commitment our PTFA puts into creating these special opportunities for our school community. Thank you also to everyone who came along, supported the evening and helped make it such a success.

Don't forget your cookbook recipe!

Our St Mark's Family Cookbook is starting to take shape but we still need more recipes! We would love every family to contribute a favourite recipe — perhaps a family dinner, baking favourite, BBQ recipe, lunchbox idea, special dessert or treasured family classic. It doesn't need to be complicated. We want to capture the recipes, food traditions and family favourites that make our St Mark's families special. Don't forget to get your recipe in! The classroom that submits the most recipes will win a prize, so get those family recipes out and send them in. ***Recipes need to be submitted by Friday 11 September.***

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Next week is an important week across Aotearoa as we celebrate ***Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week****. At St Mark's, this is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate Aotearoa's indigenous heritage and first peoples, and to recognise te reo Māori as a* ***taonga*** *and an important part of who we are as a nation. It is also an opportunity for all of us to show our support for* ***Te Tiriti o Waitangi*** *and to play our part in the revitalisation of te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and the visibility of Māori culture and identity in our everyday lives. I encourage everyone in our St Mark's community to embrace the week — have a go at using some te reo Māori, learn something new, listen, ask questions and celebrate the richness that Māori language and culture bring to Aotearoa. Every little step we take contributes to keeping te reo Māori strong and thriving for future generations.*

For now, though, let's enjoy these final few weeks of Term 3 and make the most of the many opportunities we have to learn, connect and come together as a school community. As always, if you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance, or arrange a time to speak with me, Jess Robinson (Deputy Principal / Special Education Coordinator) or Debbie Eagle (Assistant Principal).

SAFETY AROUND ROADS AND VEHICLES

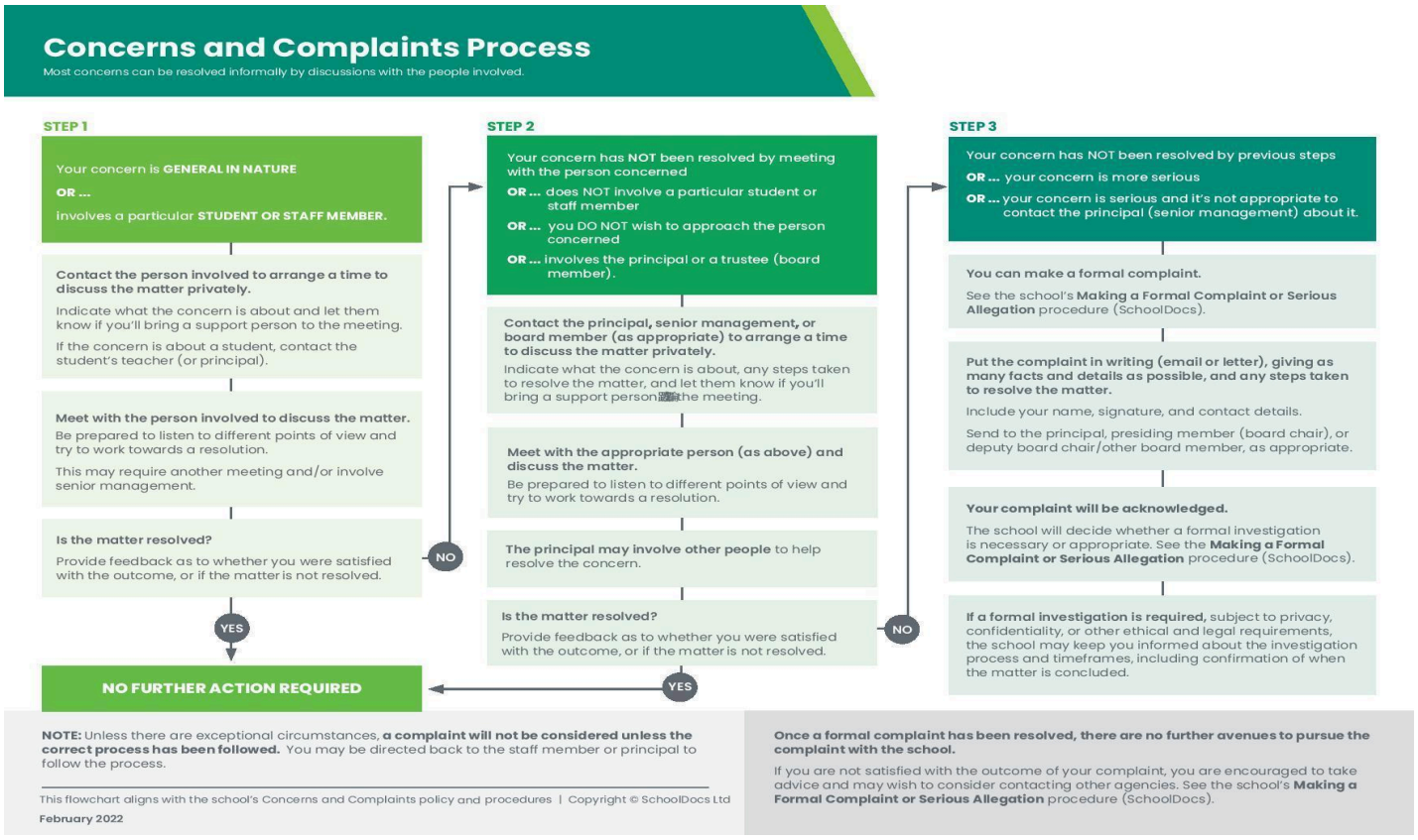
We are very fortunate to be able to park so close to the school and to have access to a large parking area. When entering the school site, please remember to drive slowly (5–10 km/h) and be patient as others reverse into, and exit from, individual parking spaces. Please also remember that the shared driveway with the retirement village operates as a one-way system. No vehicles should drive up this driveway at any time. During school drop-off and pick-up times, all traffic exiting the shared driveway should turn left, as this helps traffic flow and is much safer for everyone. For everyone's safety, please also ensure children use the **footpaths and designated pedestrian areas** when moving around the school. **Walking on the road or through driveways is not permitted**, even when the area appears quiet. Please take particular care around moving vehicles during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

BEFORE SCHOOL

No children are to go into classrooms before 8.30am, unless a staff member specifically directs them to do so. **Staff supervision begins at 8.25am.** Before 8.25am, children should remain with their parent/caregiver. Children arriving between 8.25am and 8.30am should remain in the designated outdoor area under the large trees at the front of the school, where staff will be on duty. Any child dropped off before 8.20am will be sent to SKIDS (Please note that this incurs a cost to families.)

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Schools are not perfect places and we acknowledge that from time to time there may be cause for concern. Most concerns can be resolved informally through respectful discussion. Please reference the flowchart below outlining St Mark's Catholic School's Concerns and Complaints Process.



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027 AND BEYOND

NEW ENTRANTS: If you, or anyone you know, has a child and/or children turning 5 later this year or next year, please connect with Kerrie Hunt in our school office to lodge an expression of interest and to collect an enrolment pack.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE: We accept enquiries and enrolments from families who may be seeking schooling for their child/children across different year levels. Limited spaces are available so register your interest quickly to avoid disappointment.
For all enrolment enquiries, please contact Kerrie Hunt: admin@stmarks.school.nz

Mission Day Donations

From the start of next term, we will be collecting items for our Mission Day. The school holidays might be the perfect opportunity for a little spring-cleaning!

We are looking for good-quality second-hand toys and books that are clean, complete and still have plenty of life left in them.
If you have toys or books at home that are no longer being used but another child could enjoy, we would love you to consider donating them to our Mission Day.

ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND

ST MARK'S PTFA

St Mark's FAMILY COOKBOOK

MADE BY OUR COMMUNITY, FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We are creating our very first
St Mark's Family Cookbook and we need **YOUR** recipes!

WE NEED:

1 FAMILY RECIPE
A favourite meal, treat or dish passed down in your family.

A SHORT NOTE
Tell us why this recipe is special to your family.

A PHOTO OR DRAWING
A photo of the dish or a drawing from your child.

HOW TO SUBMIT
The submission form link will be in the school email newsletter soon.

OUR BIG END OF YEAR FUNDRAISER!
A wonderful keepsake for your family and a great gift for Christmas.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Sponsoring pages, adverts and more – details to come!