




ST. JOSEPH'S
PLEASANT POINT

# Week 7 Term 4 Newsletter Number 19 2026

## Principal's Message

Tēnā koutou katoa, e te whānau e hoa mā / Greetings, family and friends.

What a difference the weather can make! With the sun shining this week, it certainly feels as though our hearts and spirits have been lifted.

As this is our final newsletter for 2026, I would like to take a moment to say thank you. Every contribution to our school, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated. Whether it is donating time, resources, or finances, helping at events, or simply ensuring your child arrives at school on time each day, your support helps make our school the special place it is. As a small school, we rely on the strength of our community, and I am incredibly grateful for all that you do.

After some back-and-forth discussions with the Ministry of Education, I am pleased to confirm that we will continue to have three classrooms in 2027, and all current staff will remain with us. Our pre-enrolments for next year are healthy, and I continue to receive regular enquiries from families interested in joining our school community. This is encouraging and reflects the positive reputation our school enjoys.

I am currently working with teachers to finalise class placements for 2027 and will share this information with families very soon. Determining year levels within each classroom is not always as straightforward as it may seem, particularly when some year groups are larger than others. As always, we carefully consider the learning and wellbeing needs of all students when making these decisions.

Your child's report should be available on Hero by the end of the day this Friday. Teachers have spent many hours preparing these reports, and I would like to acknowledge the considerable work involved. Over the past two years, reporting has become increasingly complex as curriculum and assessment requirements have continued to change.

The Ministry of Education now expects students to be assessed against their year-level curriculum expectations. This means Year 1 students are assessed against the Year 1 curriculum, Year 2 students against the Year 2 curriculum, and so on.

As you read your child's report, please remember that remaining within the same curriculum descriptor as they were at mid-year does not necessarily mean they have not made progress. In many cases, students will have made significant learning gains while remaining within the same descriptor. Likewise, there may be a small number of students who move back a descriptor. This does not automatically indicate a lack of progress. The revised curriculum expectations in mathematics and literacy are more demanding than in previous years, requiring students to learn more and teachers to teach more.

The teacher comments within the report will provide important context about your child's growth and achievement. If you have any questions or concerns after reading your child's report, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, who will be happy to discuss their learning with you.

It may seem a little early to be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday break, but as this is our final newsletter of the year, it feels entirely appropriate. Thank you again for your support throughout 2026. From all of us at St Joseph's, we wish you a blessed Christmas, a happy and restful holiday season, and a wonderful start to 2027.

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki / God bless you
Jill

## Faith and Hope

When choosing a name for Christchurch's new cathedral, more than 2,000 responses were received from Catholics and members of the wider community. The name "Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament – Te Hāhi Matua o te Hākarameta Tapu Rawa" was selected, reflecting the importance of the Blessed Sacrament at the heart of Catholic faith and worship.

This strong response showed how much the Catholic community values and cherishes the name Blessed Sacrament, which has a long and significant history in Christchurch.



## Introducing Our New Values Visuals

Over the past year, our staff have worked together to develop a values progression framework called Values in Action. While our school values themselves have not changed, we wanted to create a simple way for students to remember and connect with them. Using our vision, Growing in Christ, Growing for Life, we have introduced the acronym GROW, which represents our existing values of Gratitude, Respect, Open to God, and Working Hard. The new visuals help bring these values to life and provide a consistent way for us to talk about, teach, and celebrate them across the school. The Values in Action framework will support students to develop a deeper understanding of what each value looks like in practice at different stages of their learning journey. We are also currently developing a new values-based awards system that will recognise and celebrate students who demonstrate our GROW values in their everyday actions, with this set to be fully implemented at the beginning of 2027.









Welcome to the new Mrs Cummings




ELECTIONS

## Thinking About Joining Our School Board? We Need You!

Early in 2027, we will be calling for nominations for our School Board. Serving on the Board is a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to our school and help shape its future. Board members play an important role in setting the school's strategic direction, ensuring good governance, and supporting the best outcomes for our students, staff, and wider community.

You do not need to be an education expert to join the Board. A range of skills, experiences, and perspectives are valuable, and all members share a common goal: helping our school continue to thrive. It is a wonderful way to serve our community, have a voice in important decisions, and support the future of Catholic education at our school.

If you would like to learn more about what being a Board member involves, please speak with one of our current Board members or come and see Jill. Further information about the nomination process will be shared in the new year.






We wish all of these people, who celebrate their birthdays in December, a very Happy Birthday from all of us:

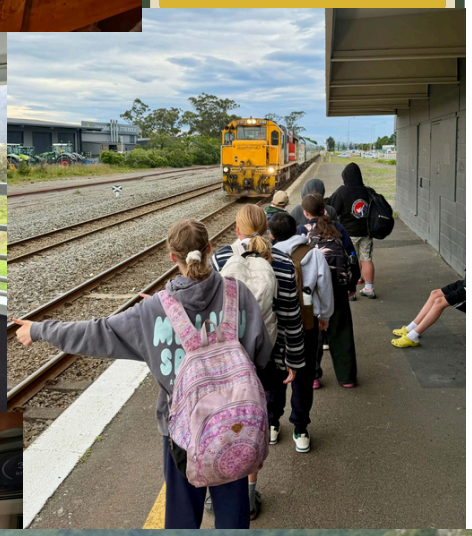
**Paula**- 1st December - a lovely age
**Maanushi**- 9th December -9 Years old
**Ardie** - 15th December - 9 Years old
**Ava** - 23rd December - 9 Years old

A big thank you to Hamish,
Father Chris, Amy, Fiona, and our
Year 7-8's for a fabulous camp.





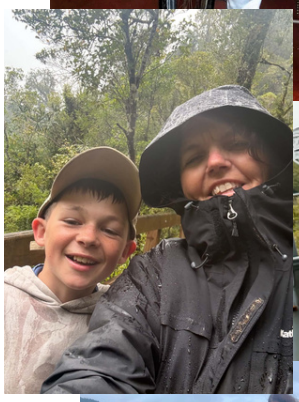



















# Year 7-8 West Coast Camp 2026

**SchoolDocs Update**

Our school policies and procedures are available online through SchoolDocs. This is the best place to find up-to-date information about how our school operates, including policies relating to learning, student wellbeing, health and safety, and school operations.

You can access SchoolDocs here:

🔗 SchoolDocs Parent Information

We encourage all parents and caregivers to have a look and become familiar with the information available. If you need our SchoolDocs login details, please contact the school office.

policies.schooldocs.co.nz/stjoplpt







