

Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday 17 November 2026

Kia ora koutou, warm greetings to our school community,

What a vibrant few weeks we have had across the school. Our students recently ventured out on trips to The Dowse Art Museum and Staglands Wildlife Reserve, both of which were fantastic learning experiences filled with discovery, creativity, and plenty of smiles. Thank you to our teachers and parent helpers who made these outings so successful.

Cultural Day This Week

We are eagerly anticipating our annual Cultural Day later this week. This celebration is always a highlight on our calendar, and it wouldn't be possible without our incredible community volunteers who generously give their time, energy, and knowledge. A reminder that students are encouraged to wear traditional dress or clothing that represents their cultural heritage on the day.

School Tour & 2027 Enrolments

This Friday, we are hosting a School Tour for prospective families interested in joining our community in 2027. We currently have very limited preference places remaining. If you know friends or extended family who are considering our school, please encourage them to contact the office promptly. Additionally, for our current families, please ensure younger siblings are formally enrolled as soon as possible to secure their placement.

Looking Ahead 2027

The new year will bring some staff changes to our kura. We farewell Giana Maroon, Jenna Dyson and Nicky James. I would like to thank them for their contributions to our school community and wish them the very best for their next adventures. We welcome Kris Sturmer, Finbar Chesney and Ròisìn Downey to the teaching team.

On Monday, we began our transition afternoons. These sessions give our tamariki dedicated time in their 2027 classrooms with their future classmates and teachers. Moving between year levels is an important milestone; by starting this process early, we aim to alleviate any worries, nurture positive relationships, and ensure every child has a confident, supported start to the new school year.

Classroom placements are made with the best interests of all students at the forefront, great care is given to the balance of ages, gender, learning & behavioural needs and friendships. Due to the many variables that go into creating balanced cohorts across the school, we do not accept caregiver requests for individual classroom placements. 2027 classroom placements are now final. Please be assured that the teaching team works closely together during this transition period to share insights on each student's learning style, strengths, and the routines that help them thrive, ensuring your child will be well-supported in their new classroom next year.

Reunification Drill

This Friday 20th November we will hold a reunification drill. This is to practice reuniting you with your child in the event of an emergency. We will send you a text message advising that we are holding a practice reunification and you must sign your child out from their classroom. If your child goes to an after school provider or goes home independently they will be released at 3pm.

Health & Safety Notice: Staff Car Park & Morning Drop-Offs

Student safety is our highest priority, and we require everyone's strict cooperation regarding our grounds:

- **Staff Car Park**: This car park is strictly reserved for staff vehicles and must not be used by members of the public at any time. **Do not** drive in to drop off or pick up children, and **do not** allow your children to walk through the car park - moving vehicles create an immediate hazard.
- **Pedestrian Gates**: The pedestrian gates accessing the staff car park will now remain locked. All students, parents, and visitors must use the **central school entrance on Myrtle Street** when arriving and departing.
- **Morning Supervision**: Classrooms open at **8:15am**. For your child's safety, please do not drop them off prior to 8:15am, as staff supervision is not provided before this time. Some children are being dropped and left unsupervised at 7:30am - this is a huge safety risk.

Important Reminders: School Uniform

As we head into the warmer months, please ensure your child arrives each day in full, correct school uniform:

- **Sunhats:** A regulation school sunhat is compulsory during Term 4 for all outdoor play and learning. Students without a hat will be directed to remain in designated shaded areas.
- **Hair & Grooming:** Long hair must be tied back neatly with hair ties. Makeup and nail polish are not permitted at school.
- **Jewellery:** For safety reasons, jewellery is restricted to a cross or taonga, plain wristwatch (no smartwatches) and **plain ear studs only**. Sleepers, hoops, and dangling earrings are safety hazards and will need to be removed.
- **Lunch boxes:** No glassware please.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in keeping our school safe, focused, and thriving.

New Way to Access Our School Policies

We work with SchoolDocs to maintain and review our policies and procedures, making them easily accessible to our community.

SchoolDocs has updated the way parents and whānau log in to view our site. You can now access our policies securely using either your Google account or a quick, one-time email code.

How to view our policies:

1. Visit our unique school policy link
2. Sign in using your preferred method (Google or a temporary 6-digit email code sent straight to your inbox).
3. Once signed in, you will stay logged in for 30 days of easy browsing.

If you have any questions or need help accessing the site, please reach out.

This Term you are invited to review the following policies;

- Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy
- Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement
- Learning Support
- Māori Educational Achievement
- Health Curriculum
- Privacy Policy

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

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Wednesday 19 November
Cultural Day

Monday 23 November
Ss Peter and Paul Whānau and Friends meeting, 7pm

Wednesday 9 December
Board meeting, 6pm

Thursday 10 December
Whānau Christmas, from 1:45pm

Friday 11 December
Christmas Dress Up Day

Wednesday 16 December
End of Year Mass
Last day of Term 4 - school closes at 12:30pm

2027 Term Dates

Term 1
Monday 1st February - Friday 9th April
Waitangi Day observed - Monday 8th February
Good Friday - 26th March
Easter Monday - 29th March
Easter Tuesday - 30th March

Term 2
Tuesday 27th April - Friday 2nd July
Anzac Day - observed - Monday 26th April
Curriculum Day - Friday 4th June
King's Birthday - Monday 7th June
Matariki - Friday 25th June

Term 3
Monday 19th July - Friday 24th September

Term 4
Monday 11th October - Wednesday 15th December
Curriculum Day - Friday 22nd October
Labour Day - Monday 25th October



SPECIAL CHARACTER

Director of Religious Studies

Congratulations to Paulo Abella who will be our Director of Religious Studies in 2027.

Many thanks to Emalyn for her wonderful leadership this year.

Celebrating Our Bible Reading Champions and Newly Confirmed Tamariki

After weeks of classroom selections, we were delighted to hear our very best readers from each class share their talents in our recently concluded Bible Reading Competition!

Our class representatives beautifully demonstrated their love for the Word of God through their confidence, reverence and enthusiasm as they read the Scriptures. Each participant reminded us of the importance of listening to God's Word and allowing it to guide our hearts, minds and actions.

We are incredibly proud of all our tamariki for their courage, dedication and willingness to share the Good News with our school community. A heartfelt well done to every participant who made this event so meaningful and memorable. A special congratulations to all our winners!



	Boys			Girls		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 0/1	Abidan	Eren	Tadhg	Ophelia	Zara	Irene
Year 2	Samuel	Euan	Sebastian	Evanya	Phoebe	Persis
Year 3	Zander	Felix	Tiaan	Serah	Lu	Jewel
Year 4	Matteo	Jack	Henry	Natalia	Miveal	Martha-Rose
Year 5	Cyriac	Ngoni	=Alex =Noah	Kaia	Sarah M	=Caitlin =Saoirse
Year 6	Ryan	Grayson	=Johnny =Hudson	Nia	Ria	=Lea =Maryann
Year 7	n/a			Norah	Renata	Hine
Year 8	n/a			Natty	Ema	Nancy

A special thank you also goes to our teachers, judges, and whānau for their support and encouragement. May this experience inspire our tamariki to continue growing in faith and to live out the teachings of Jesus through love, kindness, and compassion.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to our newly confirmed tamariki!

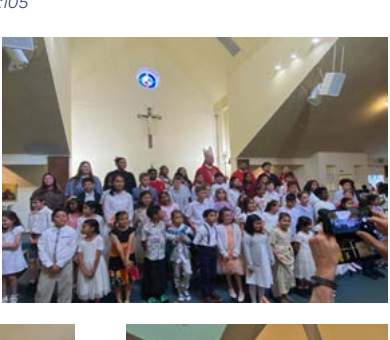
Year 2: Ayesha, Phoebe

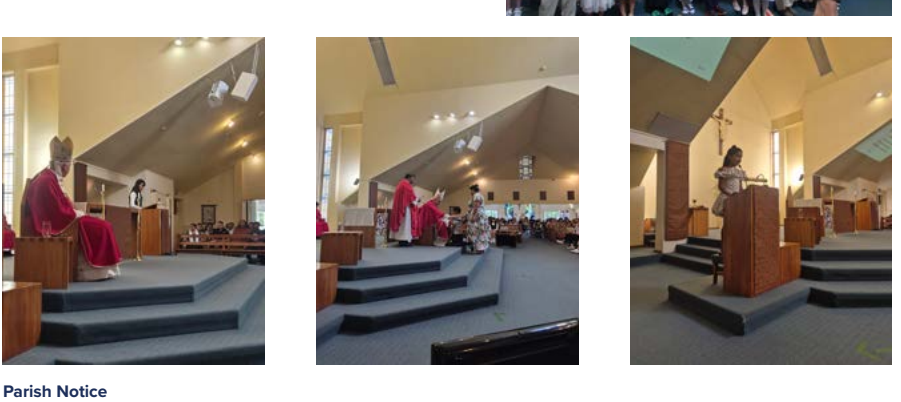
Year 3: Isabella, Savannah, Fina, Adira, Lara, Zion, Charlotte, Riley, Noah, Lucy, Lu, Zander, Declan, Jack, Kaylee, Abigail, Hallyn, Baxter and Nate

Year 4: Gianna

Year 5: Michael

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen and inspire them as they grow in faith and deepen their relationship with God.





Parish Notice

The parish is currently looking for families to take on the welcoming role of greeters at our weekend services at Sts Peter and Paul Church.

If you and your family are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the parish office or call 04 566 3088.

Emalyn Jiang
Director of Religious Studies

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

School Board Notice: Parent Representative Vacancies

Two parent representatives on the Ss Peter and Paul School Board are stepping down at the end of this year. At our meeting on Wednesday 11th November, the Board resolved to fill casual vacancies by selection rather than holding a by-election.

How the Selection Process Works

Under the Education and Training Act 2020, a board can fill parent vacancies by selection as long as elected members still make up the majority of parent representatives. Before we appoint anyone, we are required to give our community 28 days' notice:

- If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll write to the Board requesting a by-election by Tuesday 15th December, we will hold an election instead.
- If fewer than 10% request an election, the Board will appoint two new members by selection within six weeks of that date.

To request a by-election, please email the Presiding Member Michael Valli by **Tuesday 15th December 2026**.

Expressions of Interest Welcome

Subject to the 28-day notice period, we warmly invite expressions of interest from parents, caregivers, and wider community members who support our Catholic special character and want to contribute to the governance of our school. You do not need to have a child currently enrolled at our school to apply.

To apply or find out more please see Whaea Lindsey or contact the Presiding Member via the email above.

Ngā mihi
Michael Valli
Presiding Member, Ss Peter and Paul School Board



Creativity at The Dowse Art Museum!

In Week 5, Kōwhai had a fun morning exploring The Dowse Art Museum and participating in an art experience.

There was lots of talk about who has been to The Dowse before, and what we might do there.

When we arrived, we were greeted by the friendly staff who told us we had the place to ourselves.

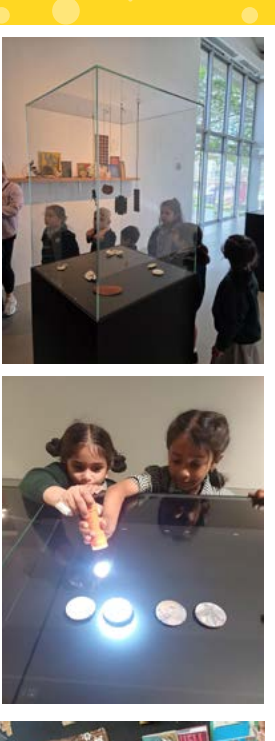
Our morning started in a gallery room, where we looked at the exhibition 'Hook Hand Heart Star: Warwick Freeman'. In this room, students were on an 'art hunt' - looking for the pieces of art by Warwick Freeman.

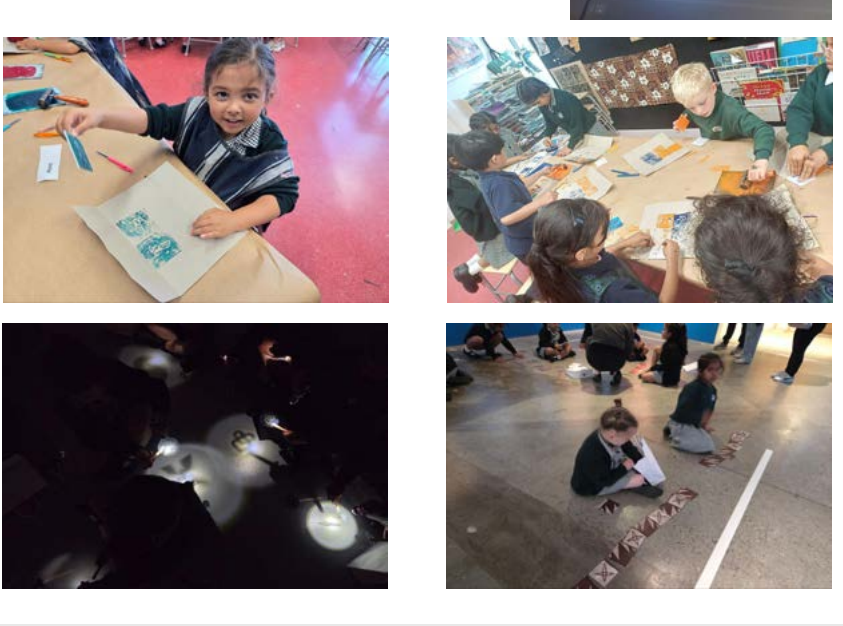
From there, we moved to a dark exhibition room, where we were given torches to look at more art. This is where we explored the idea of light and shadow, through using a torch and paper cut outs. We let our imaginations run wild and came up with some interesting stories to share in our pairs.

We then moved onto the exhibition 'Where U From', where we learnt all about patterns and how to create one.

After looking at the patterns on display, it was time to create our own. We made stamps from sheets of styrofoam, coated the stamp in ink, then stamped our design onto a card. Creating a stamp and pattern was definitely a highlight for the students!

A big thank you to all the parent helpers who joined us for our trip to The Dowse Art Museum. We truly could not have done it without your support!





What's the word on the street? RESPECT!

We have been busy learning about our bodies and how we can keep them healthy and safe. We started off by exploring what **respect** means and introduced the ***Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated***.

This led us into some important kōrero about respecting our own and other people's bodies, understanding personal boundaries, and recognising that everyone has the right to feel safe.

We also learned about the different parts of our bodies and how to keep them healthy, safe, and protected. We also learned about the difference between safe and unsafe touches, listening to our feelings, and knowing when and how to speak up.

Here are some of the key points of our discussions around this topic:

1. We need to say 'no' when we feel uncomfortable and unsafe.
2. We have to respect other people's boundaries and choices.
3. We should know which trusted adults we can go to for help.

To further reinforce our learning, some of the tamariki and their kaiako did some role-playing to help everyone identify what behaviours are considered respectful and safe.

Let us help each other build a culture of respect by including this in our daily mantra:

Everyone is precious, everyone deserves care.

Show respect everywhere!



Trip to Staglands!

This term in Nīkau, we have been diving deep into a Social Sciences unit all about kaitiakitanga - exploring habitat safety, eco-design, pest control, and the protection of New Zealand's endangered native species, with a special focus on the Whio and the Kārearea.

It has been great to see how engaged the students are! This topic has sparked endless conversations in class about predators versus prey, alongside plenty of critical and creative thinking. Not only have our Tamariki been learning more about the history and geography of our local area and native wildlife, but they have also been flexing their creative muscles by designing eco-friendly environments that could help regenerate Aotearoa's wildlife.

A real highlight of our inquiry was our trip to Staglands, where the protection of native species and thoughtful eco-design are at the very heart of what John Simister and his team have created. Seeing these concepts in action brought our classroom learning to life.



To wrap up our unit, the students will be designing and building a 3D model of a habitat suitable for protecting our endangered species. Because we are focusing on sustainability, we will be constructing these using recycled materials.

How you can help: Over the next week, we encourage children to collect suitable clean recycling from home and bring it into school (your child knows which items to collect).

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support, we can't wait to see the habitat our Nīkau kaitiaki create.





Parihaka

The students of Room 13 have been immersing themselves in Aotearoa New Zealand's history, focusing closely on the peaceful resistance at Parihaka.



To deepen their understanding of the events surrounding **November 5, 1881**, the class took on the challenge of creative historical writing.

Rather than simply recounting the facts, students stepped into the shoes of someone living through that era by exploring and recounting their perspective. Room 13 students captured the resilience, sorrow, and enduring legacy of Te Whiti-o-Rongomai, Tohu Kākahi, and the people of Parihaka.

Ngā mihi nui to our tamariki for approaching such an important part of our history with empathy, respect, and thoughtful storytelling.



Parihaka

Two years after the invasion, Te Whiti and Tohu are released from prison. They make their way back to Parihaka, where it all started. It's barely recognisable as the once thriving village now broken and empty.

Most people who fled never came back, afraid it may happen again. The few that stayed rejoiced, some of them crying as their leaders were back!

The sadness still lingers, though… you can still smell a faint trace of ash, and you remember the day the soldiers came. Everyone got to work.

Once broken, houses are now being built up. The gardens were fixed and produced wheat and other crops again. The overlooking mountain smiles proudly at the village that got back up. The white albatross feather still gleaming in the sunlight as a reminder of their peaceful ways, and one day everyone will know it too.

By Lea

The White Feather

After the raid, after the hope. After the arrests took place, before the home of life and peace. What becomes of it now?

Faces were grim, and grief was wrapped around all their hearts. Though it was two years later. Crying was heard, and laughter too! Acceptance was also made. But sadness was still lingering in the air. Their only two were chiefs arrested; it was a sorrowful era of time.

But people still had hope. Though it seemed the crown was winning. Then a trumpet blew, and our two chiefs stepped out. Everyone felt a huge jolt of hope. Everything was possibly normal. Finally a command is announced: "Start rebuilding!"

It was like a reflection on how fast people started doing what should have been done long ago. Picking up the wet black driftwood, the crackling of fire from the oven of the bakery had started once more. Nostalgia filled the air.

The white feather had won.

By Kaia

PARIHAKA

Where we follow our beliefs,
With our two brave chiefs,
Farming fruit and wheat,
That we trade for meat.
A white albatross feather,
Binds us together.
Crops outside,
A bright blue sky,
Our peaceful marae,
Where the tuis fly by.
The hiss of the stream,
Fresh, clear and clean.
Everyone welcome here,
No fences and no fear.
Lots of crops and gardens,
Our tranquil village largens.
Mount Taranaki looking down,
On our peaceful Maori town.

By Honor

PARIHAKA

Sobbing, broken fences, and people crying.
The village of Parihaka was quiet.
Then, soldiers came. The houses fell.
They ploughed whatever the soldiers claimed was theirs.
Like grass in the wind that bends so low.
The people by the marae simply wait silently.
The chiefs preach passive resistance, not war!
Parihaka chose a path that no sword could pave.
In 1907 the two chiefs died, and their hope was still within the village of Parihaka.
Parihaka's peace always stays strong in the village.

By JeMaine



Living Our Faith: Exploring Catholic Social Teaching

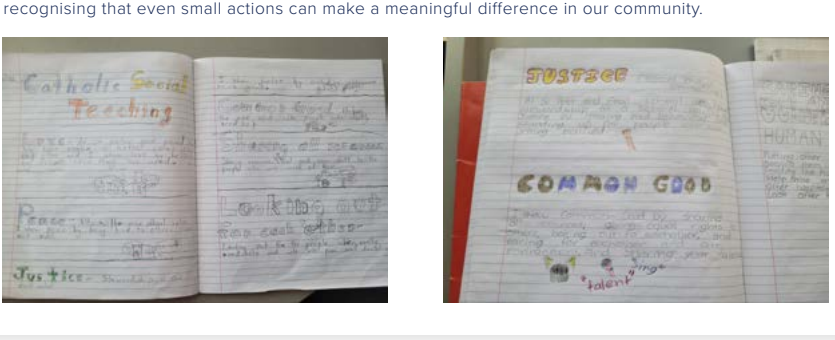
This term, our tamariki have been learning about Catholic Social Teaching and exploring what it truly means to love our neighbours and care for the world around us.

Students have been unpacking the **nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching**, including *Human Dignity, Care for Creation, Solidarity*, and *Preferential Option for the Poor*, to see how these values guide the way we treat one another.

Rather than just learning what these principles mean, our focus has been on **putting faith into action**. Across the classrooms, students have been reflecting on practical, everyday ways they can live out these teachings whether through acts of kindness on the playground, welcoming others, standing up for fairness, or being kaitiaki (guardians) of our school environment.



It has been inspiring to see our learners connect these to our school values and to their own lives, recognising that even small actions can make a meaningful difference in our community.



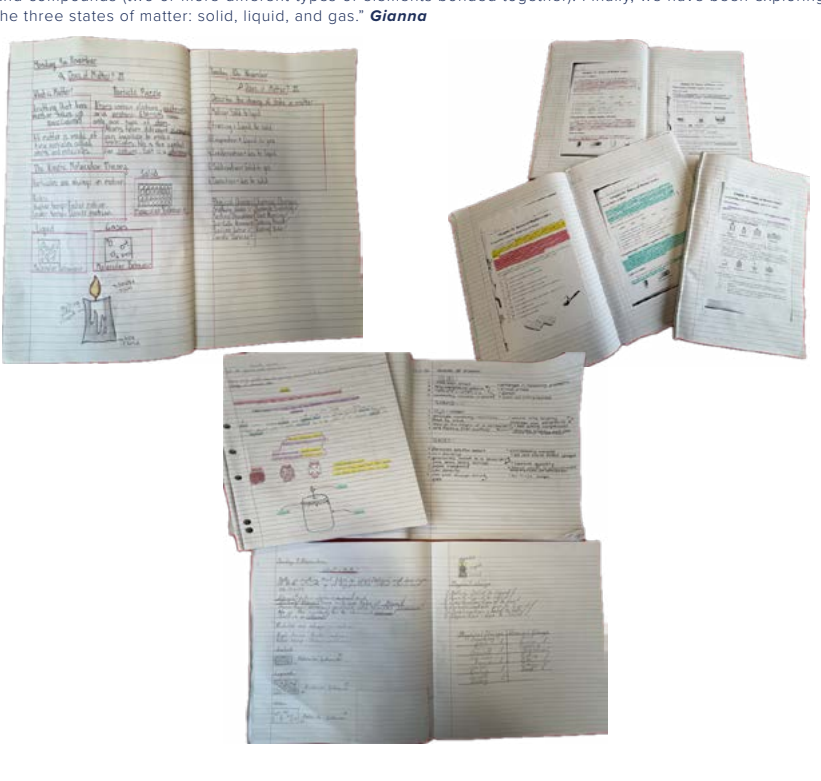


Science

"In science, we have been learning about matter and its three main states: solid, liquid, and gas. These states all contain atoms, just arranged in different ways. For example, solid molecules are constantly touching and stay locked in one shape. Liquid molecules are always moving and will take the shape of whatever container they are in. Finally, the molecules in a gas are also constantly moving, spreading out freely without touching." ***Lucy***

"We've been learning about matter and how it consists of anything that has mass and occupies space. All matter is made up of tiny particles known as atoms, and we've been focusing on how atoms are composed of neutrons, electrons, and protons. We also closely examined molecular behaviour and how particles interact. For example, particles in a solid are close and compact, particles in a liquid are slightly separated, and particles in a gas are completely spread apart." ***Isla***

"We learned that matter is made from atoms, and anything that has mass is matter. We also learned the difference between elements (made of one type of atom), molecules (two or more atoms bonded together), and compounds (two or more different types of elements bonded together). Finally, we have been exploring the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas." ***Gianna***



KURA AHUREA

Māori Te Reo Māori – Kupu o te Wiki

As our tamariki prepare for new beginnings and transitions, we encourage them to use simple te reo Māori phrases that promote confidence, kindness, and a sense of belonging.

Our phrases for this week are:

Kia māia! - Be brave!

Ka taea e koe! - You can do it!

Nau mai, haere mai! - Welcome!

Kia pai tō rā! - Have a good day!

We encourage our tamariki and whānau to practise these phrases in everyday conversations. Even small efforts to use te reo Māori help us celebrate and strengthen our connection to the language and culture of Aotearoa.

SPORTS NEWS

2027 Term 1 sports

Registration forms for Term 1 sports are being finalised and will be sent soon - keep an eye on your inbox for these!

In Term 1, we will have on offer:

Badminton This is open to all children in Years 5-8. Games are at Hutt Valley Badminton Hall, Naenae, on Tuesday afternoons for Years 5/6 and Thursday afternoons for Years 7/8. Games start in Week 2 of Term 1.

Floorball This is open to all children in Years 0-8. Games are at Walter Nash Centre, Taitā, on Wednesday afternoons.

Futsal This is open to all children in Years 3-8. Games are at Walter Nash Centre, Taitā, on Monday afternoons.

Netball This is open to all children in Years 0-4. Games are at Walter Nash Courts, Taitā, on Saturday mornings starting in Week 2 of Term 1.

Touch Rugby This is open to all children in Years 0-8. Games are at Hutt Park on Friday afternoons for Years 0-6, and at Fraser Park on Thursday afternoons for Years 7/8. Games will start in Week 2 (Hutt Park) and Week 3 (Fraser Park) of Term 1.

REMINDERS

School Uniform

Regulation School Uniform - Incorrect footwear and socks seem to be creeping back in again. Sneakers and trainers are not part of our school uniform and are only to be worn during PE or fitness. Black school shoes must be worn to and from school unless your teacher has been advised otherwise.

Navy school socks with green stripes or white socks are regulation socks. **No plain black socks or leggings.**

Please refer to the uniform regulation brochure if you are unsure of any uniform requirements.

Borrowed Uniform - If your child has borrowed uniform from the office, please ensure that it is washed and returned.

Our stock is now extremely low and we may not be able to lend out any more uniform. Extra underwear in your child's school bag, if needed, would also be most helpful.

Appointments During School Time

To minimise interruptions to classroom learning and reduce the load on our office staff, we kindly ask that families schedule medical or dental appointments outside of school hours, whenever possible.

We appreciate that this isn't always achievable and thank you for your support when it can be managed.

Attendance and Absences

Please notify the office by 9am if your child will be absent. We are still seeing a high volume of unnotified absences, which creates significant administrative work for our staff who must manually follow up on every child.

How to report an absence:

- **Parent Portal:** Log your absence directly via the School Parent Portal. (This is our preferred method).
- **Email:** Send details to absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz.
- **Phone:** Call the office at **04 569 5759** and leave a message on the absence line.

Note: If your child is late (arriving after the 8:50am bell), they must sign in at the office before heading to class so we can update the register.

Finance and Payments

When making payments to the school bank account, please include your **child's name** and the **purpose of the payment as a reference**.

Assistance: If you have questions regarding your account or wish to discuss payment options, please reach out to our office team in confidence.

Signing Out During School Hours

For the safety and accountability of all students, any child leaving the school grounds between 8:50am and 2:50pm must be signed out.

1. **Visit the Office:** Parents/caregivers must come to the front office first.
2. **Vistab Tablet:** Use the electronic tablet to sign your child out.
3. **Collection:** Once signed out, your child will be called to the office to meet you.

Ezlunch (via Kindo)

Healthy, delicious school lunches are available for delivery to the school.

- **Availability:** Orders are available on Thursday and Friday each week.
- **How to Order:** All orders and payments are handled through **Kindo**.
- **Cut-off Time:** Please ensure orders are placed by **9am** on the day of delivery.

Click here to log in or create your Kindo account. View the Ss Peter and Paul menu here.

Thank you for helping keep our school running smoothly and our tamariki safe!

COMMUNITY NEWS



