Te Kura o te Manawa Tapu
SACRED HEART
SCHOOL REEFTON

School News

**Wednesday 19 November**
**Rāapa 19 Noema**

**Bless me, heavenly Father, forgive my erring ways. Grant me strength to serve Thee, put purpose in my days. Give me understanding, enough to make me kind. So I may judge all people with my heart, not my mind. Teach me to be patient in everything I do, content to trust Your wisdom and to follow after You. Help me when I falter and hear me when I pray, And receive me in Thy kingdom to dwell with Thee someday. Amen.**

| **REEFTON - Sacred Heart Church** | **REEFTON WEEKDAY MASSES** |
|---|---|
| Saturday 15 November 5:00PM | Thursday 9.00am |
| Sunday 23 November 9:00AM | Friday 9.00am |
| Saturday 29 November 5:00PM | |

## Sacramental Preparation

If parents wish for their child/ren to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion, please make contact with the school, Fr David or Bernadette Snowden.

## School Camp - Tuesday 2 -Friday 5 December

Things are beginning to kick into gear, with preparations in full flow. You will have received an invoice for the donation of $170 and also a pile of paperwork! I appreciate you all for taking the time to complete this and for getting it all back to us so quickly. I also appreciate you completing the medical/contact details so we can cross reference with our student management platform, making sure we have the very latest information at hand.

In regard to the gear list, if there is anything that you are short of, please reach out and we'll do our very best to organise on your behalf. Parents attending as supervision/help/transport are Lance Andrews, Aaron or Justine Mitchell, Brayden Parkinson and both myself and Tracy.

If your child requires any medications during the week, please supply a clear snaplock bag with the name of your child, dosage and when the dose is to be taken written clearly on the bag or a piece of paper within the bag. Given Tracy is a trained first responder, she will act as camp nurse.

If you have any queries in regard to camp, please make contact with myself.



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## Top of the South Touch Rugby Tournament

We had a fantastic day at Avery Park in Richmond on Friday 7 November.. The students were a credit to you and the school. Though due to numbers we were only able to play in the 'participation' grade, this did not deter our kids from showing a real competitive spirit, but also incredibly high levels of sportsmanship and fair play.

I spent a while talking to John Maguire, principal at Garin College and we both agreed that any parent who was thinking about enrolling their child into Catholic education would certainly have seen the positive result of a values based education in the way the children conducted themselves individually and en masse.

## Attendance and Engagement 2025

**If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age.** As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. **It is the parent or caregivers responsibility to notify the school prior to 9am if your child is going to be absent**. **It is also important to let the office or staff (Tony and Linda in the first instance) know if your child is being picked up from school by somebody other than a parent.**

**Attendance Rates for Term 4 (Weeks 1-7) -** *Looking pretty good at the moment...*

Attendance Rate For School

| Present 0-70% | Present 71-80% | Present 81-90% | Present 91-100% | Late |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.33% | 3.33% | 23.33% | 70.00% | 0.77% |

## Attendance 2026

As we draw nearer to closing the door on the 2025 school year, the board and I are busy developing an Attendance Management Plan, a new mandated requirement from the Ministry of Education for 2026 and beyond. This plan will outline how we as a school are managing our attendance, with a particular focus on regular absence and chronic absence. Analysis of our data tells me that over the past 7 terms, we have fallen below the regional average (Nelson, Marlborough & West Coast) in two of those terms, however in four of those terms we have recorded **just** above the regional average which is 48% of students attending 91-100% of the time...in other words, though the data on the whole is okay, we can still do so much better. I'd estimate that our average over the past 7 terms would sit at about 50% of students attending 91-100% which is really not good enough and has the very real knock on effect of putting unwanted pressure on the teaching staff to catch students up which inevitably has the effect of slowing the progress and achievement of the collective.

## Sun Hats and Uniform

Can all parents please check their child's sun hats and uniform for 2026, making sure the material resembles navy blue and that it fits and is named. Please, no skate shoes, converse high tops to be worn in 2026. Children need to be wearing sneakers - the colour of which is up to you. Thanks in advance for your help here.

## Last Day and PrizeGiving

The last of the school year will be 19th December. We will meet in the Sacred Heart Church at 11.00am for Mass and PrizeGiving. **Please inform me if your child will require the bus home on that day.**

## Santa Parade

Will take place on Saturday 6 December at 11am. As per the usual we will be participating with our school float. If children would like to be on the float they will need to be at school for 10.30am.

## SHS Student Photography Wall Calendars School Fundraiser

We still have a number of wall calendars available for sale ($25 each). They are beautifully presented and would make a wonderful Xmas present for family and friends.

## Reminder from the Ministry of Education: Student safety

Student safety is of paramount importance. Schools are responsible for regularly reminding caregivers and students on how to keep students safe before, during and after using a school bus.

## Term 4 is a School Hat term

Term 1 and Term 4 traditionally require students to wear a sun hat while outside. At SHS we have our students wear a navy blue bucket hat. These can be purchased through NZ Uniforms, or the Warehouse (being the cheaper option). Though we are not too fussy in regard to where you purchase the hat, it must be a navy blue bucket hat. If your child's hat has faded to a colour other than navy blue, please consider purchasing

## Drink Bottles

Please can you ensure that your child/ren have a filled water bottle **daily**.

## Raincoats

Please ensure your child has a raincoat with them daily.

## Tissues

We go through tissues like you would not believe...especially at this time of year. If each family could donate a box, that'd be really helpful

## For the Diary

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Term 3 Begins | 9am | | |
| Mass | | | Check cover page |
| Friday 28 November | All Day | | TEACHER ONLY DAY (NO SCHOOL) |
| Tuesday 2 December - Friday 5 December | | Bridge Valley, Wakefield | Year 5-8 Camp |
| Thursday 11 December | 6pm | Mtg Rm | BOT Meeting |
| Friday 19 December | 11am | Sacred Heart Church | Prize Giving - Last Day of 2025 |
| TERM DATES 2025<br>TERM DATES 2026 | | | Term 4 - 06 October - 19 December<br>Term 1 - 09 February - 02 April |