St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 15 : Thursday 15 October 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE









Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Welcome back to Term 4! A very special welcome to our new students who have joined us this term: Lily Ward, Maggie Gray, Maggie Mair, Sienna Frankum, Harlie Wiles and Jayden Talatonu. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.

A warm welcome back to all of our school community. We hope you had a wonderful break, whether you got away, made the most of the last of the snow, enjoyed the sunshine, or simply relaxed at home.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead. Term 4 is always a busy one as we farewell winter activities and welcome summer. Our students are looking forward to athletics, touch rugby, Beach Education, swimming and much more. It's also a big term for our Year 8s as they enjoy their final term at St Martins before heading off to high school. We'll be making sure it's a special one for them.

Classes and teaching teams for 2027

We are pleased to confirm our teaching teams and class placements for 2027. We are also delighted to welcome Isabella Byers, who is teaching in Room 3 this term and will continue as part of our Explorers team in 2027. We know she will be a wonderful addition to St Martins, and we look forward to introducing her to our tamariki and whānau.

As you will be aware, the changes to the New Zealand Curriculum mean students now learn curriculum content specific to their year level. Our teachers do a wonderful job of meeting each learner's needs through groupings, but composite classes have at times made this more challenging. With this in mind, our Year 3–8 classes will be straight year levels in 2027. Our Explorers team will stay as it is, with Year 1 and Year 1/2 classes.

While children will be in a class with others in their year level, our teams will continue to work closely together. Students will still have plenty of opportunities to learn, collaborate and build relationships across their whole team, just as they do now.

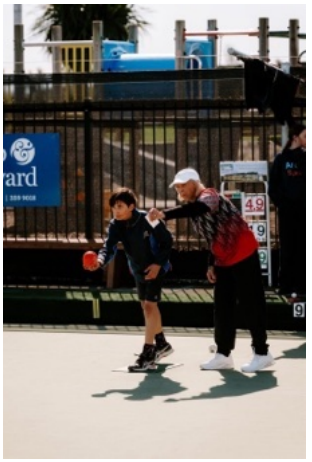
These changes have been made to benefit our learners. Our tamariki are always at the heart of the decisions we make, and we believe this structure will best support their learning and progress.

Explorers			Discoverers		
Room	**Teacher**	**Year**	**Room**	**Teacher**	**Year**
1	Annabelle Cloudesley	Y1/2	17	Bethan Lewis	Y3
2	Isabella Byers	Y1/2	18	Briana Weaver	Y3
3	Charlotte Bates	Y1	19	Lauren Robb	Y4
5	Michelle Parsons	Y1	20	Susie Keenan	Y4

7	Shauna Kelly	Y1/2	21	Helen Norcliffe	Y4
8	Sharon Rodgers	Y1/2			

Navigators			High Fliers		
Room	**Teacher**	**Year**	**Room**	**Teacher**	**Year**
13	Kate Keenan	Y5	9	Alice Barakat	Y7
14	Tamara Saxon	Y6	10	Jess Thomsen	Y7
15	Oscar Adams	Y5	11	Nicky Pateman	Y8
16	Chantal Ward	Y6	12	Jarad Pateman	Y8

There will also be some movement of classrooms. In 2027, our five Year 3/4 classes will move upstairs in the Te Maunga block, swapping places with our four Year 5/6 classes, who will come downstairs.



Sun safety reminder
With summer on the way and a beautifully sunny start to the term, a reminder that hats are compulsory for all students in Term 4. Please also make sure your child has a named drink bottle and sunscreen in their school bag each day, so they can stay sun smart and hydrated throughout the day.

Dogs at school
We know many of our families enjoy bringing their dogs along at pick-up time. Some of our children are nervous around dogs and have been feeling a little anxious when leaving their classrooms. We kindly ask that dog owners keep classroom doorways clear and make sure dogs are on a lead before and after school, especially near the playground. Thank you for helping all our tamariki feel safe and comfortable.



Key Dates 2027
To help with your planning, here are some key dates for the start of the 2027 school year:

- Whānau Connect: Monday 1 February / Tuesday 2 February
- Term 1: Wednesday 3 February – Friday 9 April
- Term 2: Tuesday 27 April – Friday 2 July
- Term 3: Monday 19 July – Friday 24 September
- Term 4: Monday 11 October – Thursday 17th December



As always, if you would like to stop by for a chat, Leanne, Chantal or I are usually at the waharoa each morning.



Kia pai te rā – have a great day.
Ngā mihi nui,
Alice Denley | Acting Principal

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT / ACTIVITIES

Koru Games
St Martins School was proud to once again take part in the Koru Games, a South Island sporting tournament that we have entered every year since its inception. This year, our Year 7 and 8 students competed in futsal, lawn bowls, netball, touch football, football, badminton, dodgeball, pickleball, ultimate frisbee, basketball and table tennis. For some students, the tournament provided an opportunity to test themselves against a high level of competition, taking on schools from across the South Island,



including Otago and the West Coast. For others, it was a chance to try a new sport, develop their skills and represent our school.

A huge congratulations to our girls' futsal team, who took home gold, and one of our lawn bowls teams, who secured bronze! We are incredibly proud of these achievements and of all our students who represented our school with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

A big thank you to all our parent helpers for their time and support, and a special thank you to Mr Pateman for the huge amount of work that goes into organising our Koru Games teams and making this fantastic opportunity possible.



SCHOOL NOTICES

LSC Kōrero: Give them time to think

Sometimes we ask a question and our child doesn't answer straight away. It can be tempting to repeat the question or give them the answer. Try giving them a little extra thinking time instead.

You could say: "Take your time. I'll wait."

A few extra seconds can make a big difference for children who need more time to process what they have heard and organise their thoughts.

Pause. Wait. Let them think. 😊

Noho ora mai rā
Tanya Keeling
SMS Learning Support Coordinator

Upcoming Events - October/November	
What	**When**
PTA Karma Keg fundraiser @ Moon Under Water	3-5pm Saturday 17th Oct
Year 5-8 Athletics Day @ Hansen Park	All day Friday 23rd October
Labour Day - Monday	
St Martins Book Week @ school	27-30th October
PTA Market Day	11-2pm Sunday 1 November
Year 5-8 Zone Athletics	Monday 2nd November
Year 5-8 Summer tournament	Wednesday 4th November
Teacher only Day - school closed	Thursday 12th November
Canterbury Anniversary Day - school closed	Friday 13th November
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**	

SCHOOL POLICY TERM REVIEW

SchoolDocs – what is it?

NZ schools are governed by a school board and a range of policies and procedures. Our policies are hosted by SchoolDocs Ltd, an online policy and procedure service for New Zealand primary and intermediate schools.

If you would like to know more about how SchoolDocs works and your involvement as a caregiver please visit the Parents and Whānau section of the **SchoolDocs website.**

Login **here** and go to the 'Current review' tab to review the term policies;

Username: stmartins / Password: huntsbury

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

'To create a positive climate and culture of belonging and engagement for **all**'



This term, our focus is centred on our value of **Personal Best**.
We are encouraging every student to focus on their own learning journey, celebrate their individual progress, and strive to be the best version of themselves.
An essential ingredient to achieving your **Personal Best** is unlocking a growth mindset. A growth mindset is the belief that our skills, intelligence, and talents can be developed through dedication, hard work, and persistence.

To help our students understand what this looks like in action, we are exploring the key traits of a growth mindset in our classrooms and playgrounds this term:

- **Open-mindedness:** Being willing to listen to feedback, try new learning methods, and look at things from fresh perspectives.
- **Resilience:** Understanding that setbacks and mistakes are not failures—they are simply proof that we are trying and learning how to bounce back.
- **Flexibility:** Being adaptable when plans change or when a task becomes trickier than we originally expected.
- **Risk-taking:** Stepping out of our comfort zones to try something new, even if we are afraid we won't get it perfect on the first go.
- **Positivity:** Choosing a hopeful attitude and reframing challenges as exciting opportunities to grow.
- **Practising Gratitude:** Taking time to appreciate the support of our peers, teachers, and whānau, which keeps us grounded and motivated.
- **Setting Achievable Goals:** Breaking big dreams down into smaller, actionable steps so we can measure our personal progress along the way.



In Rooms 7 and 8, we have been exploring the importance of doing our personal best and developing a growth mindset. We have enjoyed reading Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and discussing how Gerald the giraffe keeps going, even when things feel difficult. Together, we have been thinking about the question, "When something is hard, I can..." Our tamariki have been learning that they can keep trying, ask for help, practise, try a different way, and remind themselves that they can do it yet!

We are encouraging our learners to see mistakes as opportunities to learn and to celebrate the effort they put into new challenges. Whether they are learning a new word, solving a tricky maths problem, or trying something for the first time, we want our tamariki to feel proud of giving it a go. Just like Gerald, we are learning that everyone has their own strengths, and sometimes we just need to find our own way to shine!"

ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PTA UPDATE



This Weekend: Karma Keg this Saturday 17th October, 3 - 5pm, Moon Under Water. What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Rogaine: Save The Date - Friday 27th November.

Touch: We look forward to the season starting next week. We are grateful to the Hellers Sausages in Schools programme for sponsorship of the sizzle this year. We are also being generously sponsored by Spagalimis and Joe's Garage. Please ensure all your players are registered to be eligible for spot prizes.

St Martins Junior Touch - Home

As always during the touch season, we need your help to run the event, please sign up to help on the BBQ or with the set up / pack down: **Touch: St Martins Touch Rugby 2026**



Market Day: Sunday 1st November, we will be looking for your support of baking closer to the time. If you are having a clear out of books, magazines, games and puzzles we

would love to take these off your hands to sell, we are also be looking for good quality white elephant items, please email us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

If you can help on the day, please sign up here:

St Martins School PTA: Market Day Helpers 2026

Sausage Sizzle Helpers Required: We will be hosting a community sausage on Election Day, please sign up to help: **St Martins School PTA: Community Sausage Sizzle**





Next Meeting: Monday 19th October, 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members are always welcome.

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz
Facebook: St Martins School PTA
Websites: https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/ and www.stmartinsptafundraiser.com