St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 6 : Thursday 14 May 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,



Welcome to our new students, Vienna, Masato, Mia and Toby. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene. Welcome back to Betty. We look forward to having you back in the school.

A huge thank you to all of our Year 3–8 ākonga for their amazing participation in the school cross-country event. We were fortunate to have a wonderful sunny day for the races. We truly appreciate the many families who came along to support the runners, and a special thanks goes to Mr Pateman and Oscar for their hard work in organising the event and preparing the children so well.



This week, our kura was treated to a preview of the spectacular EPAC performance. It was an incredible show, and the children are now ready to take the stage at the Christchurch Town Hall this Monday. We are so proud of the time and effort these tamariki have put in—practising during class time, their own personal time, and over weekends. Thank you to Nicky Pateman for her dedication to supporting the group and showcasing the performing arts at our school. We wish the entire team the very best for Monday.



Last week, a number of our children represented us at Rippa Rugby. It was fantastic to receive feedback from other schools about the positive competitive spirit and excellent behaviour our tamariki displayed throughout the tournament.

As a school, we are currently preparing for the new reporting requirements, focusing on reading, writing, maths, and attendance. At the end of this term, we will be sharing information regarding where your child sits within their year group, what they have been working on, and how you can support their learning at home. We look forward to discussing this new format with you at our learning conferences.



Tomorrow we are looking forward to Pink Shirt Day. All tamariki are encouraged to join in and wear pink to show our collective support for a bully-free environment and to celebrate diversity and kindness.

As we move into the cooler winter months, a reminder that children should be wearing their school polar fleeces to and from school. Our uniform offers several warm options, including polar fleeces, long pants, and beanies. If it is particularly cold and your child wears a non-uniform jacket to school, please note that these are to be hung up with their bags during the school day.



Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful support staff team. You always go above and beyond to meet the needs of our learners and find ways to promote engagement. Whether it is keeping our environment clean, welcoming whānau, caring for unwell children, or supporting classroom learning, your mahi makes a significant positive difference every day.





As always, if you would like to stop by to have a chat, either myself, Alice, or Leanne are usually at the waharoa each morning.

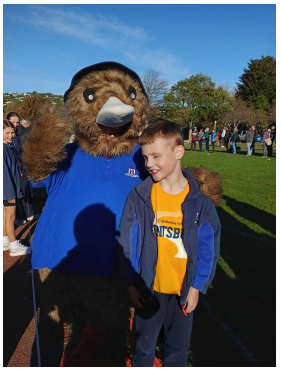
Kia pai te ra - have a great day.

Ngā mihi,

Andrew

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

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



Our Term 2 focus is **Responsibility**. One way of being responsible is showing integrity. This means:

- **Proactive Ownership:** Do what is expected of you without waiting for a prompt. Real impact happens when we see a need and meet it.
- **Radical Honesty:** Commit to honest conversations, even when they're uncomfortable. If you make a mistake, own it immediately and focus your energy on the fix.
- **Self-Respect:** Hold yourself to a high standard. When you respect your own time, your word, and your potential, you naturally elevate everyone around you.



Each fortnight we will spotlight a class working on our PB4L focus.
Here is how Room 14 has been leading the way:

It has been a busy and purposeful fortnight at St Martins school as we turned our focus toward Responsibility, specifically within our shared outdoor spaces. Our learners have been working hard to show that being responsible isn't just a word—it's an action we take every day to keep our school a great place to be.

Playing it Safe: Students have been demonstrating the "right way" to use our play equipment, ensuring everyone stays safe and included during break times.



The War on Waste: We've been practicing a "thumbs down" approach to litter. If we see it, we pick it up! Room 14 has been diligent about ensuring rubbish finds its way into the bin rather than the garden beds.

Respectful Transitions: Our class works hard to ensure we move through the school grounds in quiet, calm lines. By walking respectfully, our students set an example and ensure they don't disrupt the learning happening in other classrooms.



Seeing our values in action outdoors reminds us that leadership happens everywhere, from the playground to the classroom. A big "well done" to our rm 14 learners for being such great ambassadors for our school!



SCHOOL NOTICES

WINTER ILLNESS REMINDER

As expected for this time of the year, we are seeing a rise in winter illness. It is important with any signs of feeling unwell that you keep your child at home until they are symptom free - this also helps to minimise the spread around the school. We encourage children to wear beanies and jackets when playing outside and to regularly wash their hands, especially before eating.
For further information please visit the Te Whatu Ora website for Healthy habits to stop the spread of illnesses

RECORDING AN ABSENCE / EARLY or LATE PICKUP

If your child will be absent for any portion of the day please notify us via one of the following avenues before 9am daily;

- Email to the teacher (please also cc the office staff on office@stmartins.school.nz)
- HERO app homepage 'Report an absence' tab - note this can only be used for full day absences
- Phone the office on (03) 3326121 - please leave a message

If your child is late to school, remind them to sign in at the office before going up to class.
If you are running late for pickup or need to pick up your child early from school, please notify the office by phone so the student can be signed out or asked to wait in the office.

PARKING & BIKING AROUND THE SCHOOL



It seems we have a few continued issues with correct parking and driving/biking around the school. Just a few reminders to help keep our community safe:
When walking to and from school we ask that you keep all of our tamariki safe by using the crossing and footpath.

When biking we ask both students and adults to walk their bikes through the school grounds please.

When driving to and from school;

- Be aware how narrow our roads are on Albert Tce
- Park in the allocated areas - only park in the disabled parking if you have a parking dispensation visible
- Follow the time periods for parking
- Be aware of parking over neighbours driveways
- Watch for children if you are coming in and out of the school driveways
- Keep the flow of traffic and avoid U turns on Albert Tce near the crossing

We encourage the community to 'snap, send and solve' behaviour that does not comply and the council will follow this up.

And as always be a respectful role model for your children if a conversation arises either with a staff or whānau member.



PHOTO DAY THANKYOU!

Thank you to our wonderful students & staff for making our 2026 photo day a success! Heritage staff were very impressed with the calm and polite manner in which students moved through the school and were able to complete photos ahead of schedule on the day.
Ordering information will be provided to families via email in a few weeks after Heritage has completed the editing process. Keep an eye on your HERO notifications and emails for updates.

Key Dates Coming Up - May		
What	**When**	**Where**
Pink Shirt Day	Friday 15th May	At school
Yr 7-8 Showquest	Monday 18th May	https://www.rqp.co.nz/showquest/dates-tickets
Yr 0-2 Cross country	Wednesday 20th May	9.30-11am at school
Yr 5-8 winter sports starts	Thursdays, starting 21st May	Various locations, check your hero notices
Yr 7-8 William Pike Walk	Friday 22nd May	TBC - keep an eye on your HERO Feed
Yr 5-8 Zone Cross Country (selected students)	Wednesday 27th May	TBC - keep an eye on your HERO Feed
King's Birthday - School closed Monday 1st June		
For specific details on these events see your HERO app feed or the School Calendar		

SCHOOL POLICY TERM 2 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

WHĀNAU GROUP

Our Whānau group was established in order for our whānau to have a safe place to voice their ideas and suggestions. The Whānau Group works together with our Kura, Board of Trustees and the wider community to set goals that will raise the culture and the achievement of all of our tamariki. Having a Whānau Group in our school helps families become more involved with what is happening within the school community.
Our hui are informal, we share kai and kōrero while our tamariki play together. Meetings are twice a term in Miss Barakat's classroom, located beside the new junior playground.

Wednesday Morning Te Reo Māori and Waiata Group
Come, hang out with your friends and learn te reo Māori through games, crafts, pūrākau (stories) and waiata. Every week at 8am. We welcome all families to come and join us. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

Alexis Barakat | Whānau Group Representative
Contact: alexisbarakat22@gmail.com
Join our Facebook! | Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene

PTA UPDATE



AGM and New Members: At our AGM on Monday we welcomed new members Clare Mackey and Paul Child, great to have you both on the committee. We also welcomed in our new Treasurer, Christine Kelly who will replace Joce Levett after four years of dedicated service. We were pleased to approve funding of $650 for Explorers construction and play-based resources. For the Navigators, four Bloom stools and $300 for reading resources and for the High Flyers, 64 art aprons. We hope the High Flyer students are enjoying their four new picnic tables. We are very pleased to confirm we have locked in a **Colour Run** for Term 4! Don't forget to save the date for Quiz Night on 8th August, jingle all the way!

Selling Your House? We are fortunate to be offered a generous sponsorship opportunity by new PTA member Paul who is a real estate agent with Harcourts Cashmere. Please encourage your family and school connections to contact Paul if they are looking to list their property: paul.child@harcourts.co.nz



LAST ORDERS! Cookie Dough & Croissants Fundraiser: Only 10 days left, orders close on 24th May. 13 frozen cookie dough nuggets for $12.95, 20 frozen unbaked croissants for $20 and a selection of organic tea, coffee and hot chocolate to accompany them.

Order Here: Cookie Dough & Croissant Fundraiser

Look out for cookie samples at school pick up tomorrow (Friday), yum yum cookies!

Fudgey June: Generous Fudge Cottage owner, Alison will be donating 30% of website sales to the PTA in June. Don't buy yet but check out their website in anticipation: Fudge Cottage

Next Meeting: Monday 22nd June, 7.30pm, Staff Room.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ezlunch is back for Term 2

Ordering Ezlunch through Kindo is quick, easy, and one less thing to think about in the morning. You order from home (or on the go), and your child's lunch is delivered to school, ready to eat.



Here's how:

- Log in to the Kindo app (or set up an account at shop.kindo.co.nz)
- Pick from the menu on your school's available days
- Your child collects their lunch at school

Order & win!

Every Ezlunch order placed between 27 April - 22 May goes in the draw to win 1 of 5 x $50 Kindo credits each week. Order here 👉 mykindo.co.nz T&Cs apply.





