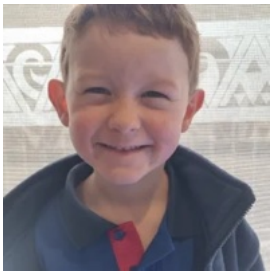
St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 12 : Thursday 20 August 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,



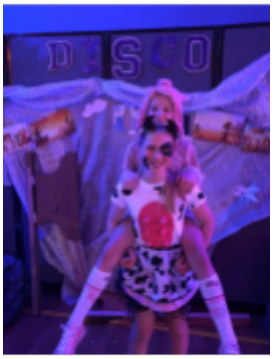
Welcome to our new student Jimmy Ellis. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.

Here we are, nearly halfway through the term. It is hard to believe how quickly the weeks are flying by.

A big thank you to our Maths Team for their organisation of Maths Week, and to our students and whānau for their enthusiasm and participation in the daily challenges. Congratulations also to our Year 8 students for winning the Cantamath competition last Friday, closely followed by the PTA in second place and the teachers' team in third. A great way to finish a really positive Maths Week.



Thank you also to Jarad and the School Council for their planning of the school disco, closely supported by our PTA. Both discos were a heap of fun, with some fantastic costumes and plenty of dancing. Our discos are always next level and are so well supported by our school community.



Keeping Ourselves Safe

This term, during Weeks 6–9, we will be implementing the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme. This initiative helps our students learn important skills to stay safe, both online and in person, and is part of the New Zealand Health and Physical Education curriculum. The programme focuses on three main goals: empowering children to protect themselves, encouraging them to reach out to a trusted adult if they need help, and ensuring our wider community understands the importance of keeping our children safe. The programme will be taught by your child's teacher and will cover a range of focus areas. Our Whānau Hui was held on Monday afternoon to provide an overview of the programme and an opportunity for parents and whānau to ask questions. Thank you to those who attended. A PDF of the presentation was also shared via Hero on Tuesday.



Staffing

Our year 1-2 teacher, Emily Smith has made the decision to move away from Christchurch at the end of this year to be with her partner and family. Although we are sad to be losing Emily at the end of 2026, we are excited for her as she embarks on this next chapter. Thank you Emily for everything you have contributed to St Martins School, we wish you all the best for your bright future.



As always, if you would like to stop by for a chat, either myself, Alice, or Chantal are usually at the waharoa each morning. We love seeing our whānau and are always happy to connect.

Kia pai te rā – have a great day.

Ngā mihi nui,

Leanne



SCHOOL NOTICES

TEACHER ONLY DAYS REMINDER

Just a reminder that we have two Teacher Only Days remaining between now and the end of the year. These days provide valuable opportunities for our staff to engage in professional learning, planning, and curriculum development, ensuring we continue to strengthen learning experiences for our students.

The dates are:

📅 Term 3: Monday 31st August

📅 Term 4: Thursday 12th November

Please mark these dates in your calendars. School will be closed for students on these days. Thank you for your support as we continue to invest in the growth and learning of our staff and tamariki.

Upcoming Events - August/September	
What	**When**
Free dress day - gold coin donation to support the Ronald McDonald House Charity	Friday 21st August
William Pike Adrenaline Forrest trip	Friday 4th September
Canterbury Duathlon year 7-8	Monday 7th September
Navigators Camp parent meeting	Wednesday 9th September (4.30pm)
Westland Sports exchange year 7-8	Thursday 10th - Friday 11th September
Navigators Camp year 5-6	Monday 14 - Wed 16th September
Pō Whakangahau - Kapa Haka	Thursday 17th September 4-6pm
Korfball tournament	Monday 21st September
Koru Games year 7-8	Tuesday 22nd - 24th September
Last day of term 3 (3pm finish)	Friday 25th September
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**	

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning



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

This term, our school community is placing a strong focus on the value of **caring,** specifically looking at how we conduct ourselves in and around our school environment. We are encouraging all students to take ownership of their actions by focusing on these key daily habits:

- Walk on paths to care for the plants
- Play in appropriate places designated for active games.
- Use equipment strictly for its intended purpose
- .Look after nature by respecting our gardens, trees, and school grounds.

By practicing these small actions every day, our students are learning how to care for our shared environment. Thank you for reinforcing these positive behaviours and discussions at home!



In Room 13 we have been learning about our school value of **Caring**, with a focus on caring for our environment. We have discussed how small actions can make a big difference in keeping our school clean, safe and healthy.



We talked about ways we can show care for our environment:

- **Don't litter** - use the bins and recycle where possible.
- **Respect living things** - look after plants and trees, and leave insects alone.
- **Use the footpaths** - stay out of gardens and bushes.

- **Look after our school grounds** - respect areas such as the field when they are closed.
- **Use resources wisely** - use scrap paper for free drawing when possible.
- **Garden to Table** - care for our gardens and learn about where our food comes from.





ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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. We send out a HERO notice to advise of upcoming meetings.

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.
Alice Barakat
aliceb@stmartins.school.nz
Join our Facebook! | Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene



PTA UPDATE

Thank You: To our school community, thank you for your amazing support of our three recent events which you supported overwhelmingly - the second-hand uniform sale, another near sellout, the quiz night, lots of festive hilarity and the discos with some outstanding costumes at both the junior and senior events. All events were a great success and extremely well received. Congratulations to The Jingle Bell-ends, taking out the quiz championship honours and congratulations to The Gifted for Best Dressed team, Candy Caned were robbed! To the amazing quiz helpers, quiz master and Santa, thank you, we couldn't do it without you!

Market Day: If you or your children / family member are interested in hosting a stall at the Market Day on Sunday 1st November, please register your interest before this opportunity is offered to the wider community: Market Day

Touch Term 4: In Term 4 we run a seven week touch competition through Touch Canterbury on Thursdays at Waltham Park: St Martins Junior Touch - Home



Register established teams here: St Martins Junior Touch Team Registration

If your child is keen to play but NOT in a team already, register them here and we can help organise a team for them to join: Touch Team Finder Form

This is a great opportunity for children to join a team sport or try a new sport in a friendly local competition with their friends.



Coming Up: Colour Run Friday 16th October, Karma Keg Saturday 17th October, Touch starts Thursday 22nd October, Market Day Sunday 1st November, Community Sausage Sizzle 7th November, Rogaine = Springtime.

Next Meeting: Monday 7th September , 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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

