

NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

14 November 2025



Greetings from the
Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa, Ola,
Namaste

**Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb**

**Ma te kotahitanga e whai
kaha ai tātau**

In unity, we have strength.

**Values Cup
Recipient**



**Paige Robertson
Room 8**

We have enjoyed the warmer weather over the past two weeks. The end-of-year countdown in our kura is officially underway, and the calendar is packed with numerous events and celebrations over the coming weeks as we approach the close of the school year.

Excitement is definitely building, and Christmas is officially the hottest topic on the playground.

For our Year 8 girls, this time is marked by both excitement and nerves as they begin to reflect on their journey at St John's Girls' School and prepare for their transition to high school. We are all looking forward to celebrating this wonderful group of leavers over the coming weeks.

The Learner First Workshops

Last week, we hosted 15 teachers and principals from Waikaia, Salford, and Windsor North schools for The Learner First maths workshops.

The visiting group observed lessons by facilitator Sue Pine in Rooms 1, 3, and 6. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for the school, with the visiting teachers commenting positively on the high level of engagement and enthusiasm in every classroom. Our staff were very proud of the girls!

SchoolDocs

St John's Girls' School is officially a SchoolDocs kura.

Our school works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs updates policies in response to changes in legislation and Ministry guidelines, reviews/requests from schools, and regular research from the SchoolDocs team.

Our School Board has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at <https://stjohnsgirls.schooldocs.co.nz> [note that there's no "www."].

- **Username:** stjohnsgirls
- **Password:** gilmour

You can find a user guide a couple of pages further into our newsletter.

Gymnastics Festival

Our annual Gymnastics Festival was an inspiring display of skill, perseverance, and resilience!

I spoke with the girls beforehand about the importance of stepping out of their comfort zone, being brave, and giving every effort their absolute best, especially when things are tough. They all rose magnificently to this challenge and should be incredibly proud of what they accomplished.

Thank you to the many parents and whānau who came to cheer our girls on. The girls and staff appreciated your support.



Parents' Association - Pirates of the Curry Bean Video

A massive thank you to our wonderful Parents' Association for their incredible generosity. They have donated a copy of the 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' recording to every family in our school community. This is a fantastic way to relive the fun of the performance.

Please refer to the information sent out earlier this week for details on how to access your copy.

Cultural Day

Mahi pai to our Year 7 & 8 Kaiarahi who organised a wonderful morning of learning for our whole kura at our annual Cultural Day.

I was impressed to see the initiative they took in involving members of our wider school community in both their planning and the engaging activities throughout the morning. The entire school thoroughly enjoyed the experience, taking away valuable new knowledge about the diverse cultures represented within our kura.

Community Consultation - Strategic Direction

Our community consultation survey, focusing on the strategic direction of the school, has been sent out today via email and Skool Loop.

This survey, presented in a Google Forms format, is a crucial opportunity for you to share your perspective. The School Board highly values your input and looks forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy your weekend.
Mā te wa!

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal





Quick Guide to SchoolDocs for the School Community

Information for school staff, students, parents, and whānau

SchoolDocs is an online policy platform for schools in Aotearoa. Your SchoolDocs site contains policies that are specific to your school and can be accessed by the whole school community.

Using SchoolDocs

Website

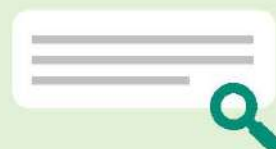
Username

Password

Enter the login information for your SchoolDocs site here.

Related policies are grouped together on SchoolDocs, with links to supporting information and resources.

- To find a policy, type a keyword into the search bar, or browse the site using the table of contents. Click the black arrows to open each section.
- Search for **Quick links for staff** and **Quick links for parents and whānau**, which provide links to useful policy information.
- For more information about using SchoolDocs, see the **Help** tab at the top of your SchoolDocs site.



Reviews and feedback

Start your review

All SchoolDocs schools follow a 3-year review cycle to keep policies up to date. For review information each term, see **Current Review** at the top of the site.

- You can provide **content feedback** to suggest changes to improve the content of a policy.
- You can provide **implementation feedback** about how the policy is implemented at your school.



If you find information that's incorrect during a review (e.g. location of first aid supplies), **do not** submit this through the review tool. Let the principal or board know that it needs to be updated.



If you'd like to comment on a policy that's not under review, you can use the **feedback button** to send an email to your school. This feedback is not sent to the SchoolDocs team.

Maths Game

Give it a Go!

IN THE MIDDLE



Materials: PAPER, 2 DICE, PLACE VALUE MANIPULATIVES



Maths Concepts: PLACE VALUE, SEQUENCE & ORDER



Aim: GET THE NUMBER IN THE MIDDLE IN EACH ROUND

1. THIS GAME IS PLAYED WITH GROUPS OF 3
2. EACH PLAYER TAKES TURNS TO ROLL 2 DIE. THEY CREATE A 2-DIGIT NUMBER AND WRITE IT IN THE TABLE. E.G.
 - PLAYER 1 ROLLS A 2 & 5 [25 OR 52]
 - PLAYER 2 ROLLS A 1 & 6 [16 OR 61]
 - PLAYER 3 ROLLS A 3 & 3 [THIS CAN ONLY BE 33]
3. PLAYERS TAKE TURNS ROLLING, FIRST SECOND OR THIRD IN EACH OF THE NEXT ROUNDS, [I.E FOR ROUND PLAYER 2 WILL ROLL FIRST]

Extenders

- USE 304 DIGITS
- USE DECIMALS
- USE FRACTIONS

Enablers

- USE A HUNDREDS CHART FOR SUPPORT
- NUMBERS TO 1-20 [PICK A CARD]

Round	Player 1	Player 2	Player 3
1	25	33	16
2	PLAYER 1 WINS ROUND 1		
3			
4			
5			



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- **18/19** Dangerous Decibels Presentations
- **19** Junior Southland Adventure Race
- **20** Greats and Grands
- **25** Familiarisation Day [9.00-12pm]
- **28** Disco [5.30-7.00pm]
Singing at Rowena Jackson [Rms 1-3]
- **30** Choir Concert [2.00pm] First Church

DECEMBER

- **3** More FM Pack The Bus
Choir Performance - Rotary North [6.00pm]
- **5** Tabloids
- **10** Father/Daughter Netball
- **11** Christmas Concert - Senior Citizens [1.30pm]
BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- **15** Prizegiving / Christmas Service Rehearsal
Christmas Service [6.00pm First Church]
- **16** Last Day for Students
Prizegiving [1.30pm First Church]
Leavers' Function [3.15pm School Hall]
Reports Out

2026

- **3 February**
- **6 February**
- **17 February**
- **19 February**
- **20 February**
- **24-27 February**
- **9-11 March**
- **24-27 March**
- **2 April**
- **20 April**
- **21 April**
- **27 April**

- **21 May**
- **1 June**
- **3 July**
- **20 July**
- **24 August**
- **25 September**
- **12 October**
- **26 October**
- **15 December**

First day of school for students
Waitangi Day [school closed]
Family Fun Night
School Photos
Staff Only Day
Yr 7 Camp Stewart Island
Yrs 5/6 Camp Columba
Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp
Last day of Term 1
Staff Only Day [Learner First PD]
First day of term 2 for students
ANZAC Day Observed [School closed]
Playhouse Theatre School Visit
King's Birthday [School closed]
Last day of Term 2
Day 1 of Term 3
Staff Only Day [School closed]
Last day of Term 3
Day 1 of Term 4
Labour Day [School closed]
Last day of Term 4
Prizegiving
Leavers' Function



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Maisie Freiberg, Quinn Botting, Mackenna North, Amelia Veint, Delilah McKenzie, Gypsee Stephens

ROOM 2

Amelia Gladwin, Kate McEwan, Indy Frost, McKenzie Kyle, Addison Findlater, Charlotte Dore

ROOM 3

Millie Dobbie, Maeve Devlin, Lorelai Stirling, Ava Davies

ROOM 4

Maggie Mulqueen, Kyla Howden, Charlee Miles, Eloise Smith, Harper Peters, Katie Milne

ROOM 6

Aaliyah Solly, Elise Davison, Ashlyn Shepherd, Scarlett Anderson

ROOM 7

Briar Nicholl, Greer Pine, Maya Preininger, Bailey Cooper, Evie Erskine

ROOM 8

Isla Patterson, Nakaysha Fraser, Paige Robertson, Aida Chamberlain

VALUES CUP

Rm 8 Paige Robertson

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 2 Evie Bradshaw, Amelia Gladwin, Mackenzie Smithies
Rm 4 Briar Brady, Lucy Jenkins, Katie Milne, Lola Rutledge
Rm 8 Charlotte Beer, Nakaysha Fraser, Tayla Nel



FROM YOUR KAIARAHİ

Briar Nicholl, Greer Pine,
Bailey Cooper, Evie Erskine



GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL

The girls had a wonderful time doing all the activities with all their friends. The girls all did amazing tricks, showcasing their talents. They all got amazing scores but more importantly it gave all the girls a chance to try something new and step out of their comfort zone.

CULTURAL DAY

The Kaiarahi were super excited to share with the school this year's Cultural day. The countries that we learnt about were:

- Indo-Fijian
- The Netherlands
- Samoa
- Vietnam

There were lots of fun activities and great learning about these countries and their cultures. The girls all got into their house groups and rotated around the countries in the morning.

ROOM 4

THE MINT TIN MAKEOVER!

Room 4 are in the thick of our technology inquiry. We are looking at old mint tins and upcycling them to be useful. We had to assess whether or not our design was useful, innovative and viable.

Miss McSoriley is loving the innovation and creativity shown by the girls. Following the technology process is an important life skill to have and helps with other subject areas too.

Here are some photos of the process:



WRITING - FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN ALBATROSS!

Room 4 learned about a local albatross Albie who landed in Lyttelton. Everyone assumed Albie was a male [hence the name] but she's female. She was exhausted and hungry from weeks out at sea. A special vet nursed her back to full health and then she made her way out to sea. Room 4 all wrote a story from her perspective. We had to use I statements and add detail or upgrade words. Here are some examples:



LUCY JENKINS

I'm Albie the Albatross. I love to glide on top of the sea. I love to spread my wings. I am black, brown, white and grey. Sometimes I glide in circles on top of the sea while eating some fish and squid. I sleep at night. I have a girlfriend and a kid. My girlfriend is grey and white. My kid is white. I like to hunt for fish but sometimes I get a squid instead. That is very good because I can feed my whole family with that. Sometimes I can smell the strong scent of salt from the sea.



KATIE MILNE

Hi, I'm Albie. I am going to my home. I have at least a ten foot spread in my wings. I flew to Lyttelton, that's my home. I had no more energy so I landed on the wharf. Someone came to help me. I got better in a week. They fed me and cared for me. I went to where I was born. I waited for my parents. I haven't seen them for a year. I wondered if she gave up on me and found someone else but she came a long time after me. At least I had two beautiful baby chicks. They will come here next year.

LOLA RUTLEDGE

I'm Albie the Albatross. I have been flying over here for more than a year. The rest of my family is back at home. I love flying but I am getting a bit tired. I see a wharf ahead so I will take a rest right here. I go to the vet. I had no idea where I was. But it's really fun. I got endless squid but I missed my mates. Finally I got to spread my wings for the first time in two weeks. I got my webbed feet ready to go patter, patter, patter. I ran on the water to go see my husband. I have missed him so much. He will love it when I tell him my stories when I get home.

ROOM 6

WHAT ARE YOU ENJOYING / HAVE ENJOYED DOING IN RM 6 LATELY?

LEXIE NICOLL

I like doing the House Word Grid competition because you get to think of a variety of words and try to win against the other houses. I just like to build words up from the grid.

DANIELLE KING

I loved doing the water colouring and the Christmas cards because I love being crafty and trying new art techniques.



LAURA VAN WESTRENN

I like the library time since it's a time that we get to read good books and it's very enjoyable.

AMELIA BOSMA

I have enjoyed doing the Gymnastics Festival because it was fun cheering other people on. I enjoyed doing it because in general, I really like gymnastics.



ROSIE LAUGHTON

I loved the History of Christmas presentations. The learning about how other countries celebrate Christmas was fascinating. Before this I didn't know how Christianity spread.

SCARLETT ANDERSON

I enjoyed doing my Oral Language, researching my person because we couldn't copy straight from Google and had to write using our own words.

GREER PINE

I am loving athletics because I like doing the events and hanging out with friends.

LYDIA O'BRIEN

I have really enjoyed our Christmas history research because of all the different beliefs and traditions. I also love learning about how different countries celebrate Christmas.

AVA AMAR

I am really loving learning about Hansel and Gretel because it is really nice to hear the story and learn about things happening around the world.



ROOM 7

OUR YEAR 8 LEADERSHIP VISION: EXCITING PLANS FOR 2026!

Hello everyone! We are the current Year 7 students, and we are very excited about stepping up into the Year 8 leadership roles next year! We've been meeting to brainstorm ways we can enhance and improve things around the school, building on the great work the current Year 8 leaders are doing. Have a look at our thoughtful plans!

PALS [PEER ACTIVITY LEADERS]: Boosting Fun and Inclusivity!

We want to make playtime more engaging and make sure everyone gets involved.

- **Game Overload!** We plan to run more frequent games and introduce a wider variety of activities – we're bringing in new things like dancing, massive scavenger hunts, and an obstacle course!
- **Mixing it Up:** We'll be strategic about mixing groups—seniors with juniors, or smaller, targeted teams – to make sure all students feel included.
- **Being Great Leaders:** We're going to practice techniques to make sure the group is listening before we start talking, so our instructions are perfectly clear.
- **What to Wear:** We'll let you know if you need your PE gear or not, depending on the activity we plan!

SPORTS MONITORS: Keep the Gear Perfect!

Our mission is to make sure our sports equipment is always ready for action!

- **The Pump Patrol:** We promise to be dedicated to regularly checking and pumping up all the balls (netball, football, rugby, etc.) so they are always ready for play.
- **Storage:** We want to make sure every single item is put back in the right spot—maybe even labelling gear to make tidying up efficient.

LIBRARY MONITORS: A Fun and Active Reading Space!

We want the library to be a busy, welcoming hub that's open more often!

- **Open Doors:** We think the library should be open on more days next year!
- **Reading Community:** We are excited to offer more personal book recommendations and we are looking forward to starting a book club!
- **New Book Shelf:** We need a special shelf just for new books so students can find the latest stories right away.
- **Activities Galore:** We'll introduce a variety of games and maybe even run a Chess Tournament!
- **Student Input:** We want a system where students can easily recommend authors or series to help inform future book purchases!

REC SHED MONITORS: Organised and Action-Takers!

We want to make the Rec Shed duties run smoothly and ensure monitor ideas are heard.

- **Roster Watch:** We will check the roster carefully for clashes with things like choir, so no one misses their commitment!
- **Clock-In:** We think a system for workers to "clock in" would be a helpful way to track time.
- **Making Changes:** We suggest having two Rec Shed meetings per term because we want to ensure that when we give feedback, it actually gets followed through with action. We'll use instruction books and signs too.

HEAT UP MONITORS: Less Waiting, More Learning!

We want to save time so everyone can get back to class faster!

- **Optimized Speed:** We're going to figure out how to do the rounds quickly so students don't miss learning time.
- **Fast Drop-Off:** What if students took their heat-ups straight to the hall counter? Then we just pop them in the warmer!
- **Preventing Burns:** We need a plan (like timing and staggered removal) to help stop anyone's food from getting burnt!

TECH MONITORS: Hands-on helpers!

We are ready to fix problems and keep the technology running!

- **Ready to Go:** We'll make sure devices are set up and ready before they are needed in a lesson.
- **Weekly Check-in:** We plan to do a quick weekly check-in with classrooms to proactively help problem-solve minor tech issues.
- **Help Session:** If you have a problem, you can come and get help from us at morning tea!

ART MONITORS: Amazing, Changing Displays!

We want the hallways to look awesome and inspire everyone!

- **Theme Time:** We're planning a rotating themed hallway display that includes props and links to what we're learning (our Inquiry)!
- **Interactive Fun:** The displays must be interactive and updated often!
- **Fair Space:** We will work hard to make sure there's fair representation of art on the Junior and Senior sides, and we'll add clear descriptions!

We are ready to take on these responsibilities next year with enthusiasm and commitment to these improvements!



point of view
Leadership
ability to lead. people
leader: guidance
TEAMWORK

INQUIRY

Our class has been busy creating and experimenting!

In Inquiry, we've been learning about the technology process. The girls have started building their first playground prototypes. It's been fantastic seeing their creativity and teamwork come to life.

HOSPICE XMAS CARDS

We've also been spreading a little kindness – the girls have beautifully decorated Christmas cards for the Hospice, which will be given to their volunteers as a token of appreciation.



ROOM 8

MEMORIES AND MUSINGS

TAYLA NEL

I have 30 days left of this school year. This year has sped through. During my years here I have been through various chapters of my life. Ones that have changed and shaped me. St John's has taught me not only curriculum stuff, but life lessons. It has also given me learning opportunities that have helped. This school, like every other, has its ups and downs, but it has given me my two best friends. I only wish I could go back to my Year 3 self and say, "Cherish each day because they will be gone in an instant." I never expected the realisation of this year would come so quickly. Suddenly you think to yourself, "This is the last time I will do this." One thing that has helped me through this term is saying to myself, "Moments don't last but memories do." My advice to the upcoming year 8's is don't sweat the small stuff and live in every moment.





AIDA CHAMBERLAIN

People say life is short, but I would change that to primary school is too short. 30 days left. It feels too small now that I think about it. Part of me wants to stay, but the rest of me really wants to go on in life. I know St John's is a very special place. It keeps the crazy out, but sometimes it sneaks back in. The highs of my time at St John's are making friends, getting the values cup in year 5, going on camps in year 6, because I know some schools don't do that. In year 7 we went to Stewart Island. I'll never forget that, it was my favourite camp. In year 8 Deep Cove. Later on in year 8 I got my first solo. I did have some lows, but all these lows lead to new highs. And all my highs lead to new experiences.

ZOE MCMILLAN

I never imagined what it would be like to only have 30 days left at St John's. There have been many ups and downs throughout my five-year journey. A high is definitely getting the values cup in year 7. Another high would have to be getting the literacy award in year 6. But essentially, every day I get to spend with my friends as high. I don't really have many lows. [Mostly because I probably blocked them out of my memory]. I do remember how disappointed I was when I went to Australia for two weeks last year, and missed a lot of the important things such as announcing leadership roles and stripes. I know no matter what happens from now to the end of the year, I will definitely miss St John's.

GWYNEDD RYDER

This is my last year at St John's and it's going by very quickly. During my time at St John's there have been highs and lows. Some things I like about St John's are the small number of students and the tidy grounds, how everyone is extremely nice and welcoming. I like being at St John's because there are lots of opportunities and I especially like the camps. Camp is probably my favourite thing in the year. One of my biggest lows was definitely in year 7 when my family went on a two month trip and I had to miss two months of school and it felt like I missed out on a lot. I don't like the pressure of exams and assembly readings, but to be honest it always turns out alright in the end.



NEVAEH ROUGHAN

This year is going too fast. I don't want it to go slow, or fast. I have 30 days of school left so why not make the most of it? There is a list of negative things I can take from this year, like testing or assembly stories that you have to share to the whole school. You're always aspiring to become a year 8, but when it comes you just miss everything you did when you were a junior. You have to wait to finish school. It's like a bridge you have to reach the end of without falling. Yes, for sure I've felt proud at school. Like when you accomplish something scary. Then you feel proud. But sometimes it's never the same. Leaving school would be one of the biggest regrets for me ever. As much as people say they dislike school or think it can be boring, what they don't know is at the end of the day, school is how we make new friends. The one thing I have realised, the older I get the more responsibilities I have to take on. Leaving John's will be scary, but then again you have to face another chapter of your life. St John's has taught me everything I know, like the values and being responsible. The moral I would leave behind for others would be, "Be yourself and don't let the negativity take you down."

WILLOW HARPER

As my time at St John's comes to an end, I want to reflect on the good and the bad memories I have made here at school. The highs and the lows. The black and the white. As a junior, my memories are more about playing with friends, like my best friend and I believe we were fairies and that we had to save the school from Jack Frost [Mr Hughes]. But as I've got an older I have learned to appreciate all the opportunities we have here. Back in year 6 we were preparing for our first camp together. I was extremely nervous. Luckily my dad, [who preferred to be known as Princess Craig] was coming. I remember the concrete slide. Mrs Taylor told us that the heavier you were the higher you would go. Princess Craig practically flew, all the way into outer space. In year 7 my best friend Alyssa told us she was moving to Australia. As we got to Term 4 Zoey and I made her last time for everything super special! This year we've all been pushing ourselves to try new things and challenge ourselves. I know this has been the best decision our parents have made, to send us to St John's. And to any parents, you have made the best decision for your daughter.



ADVICE TO NEXT YEAR'S YR 8'S FROM THE 2025 LEAVERS

- Don't worry too much at the start of the year.
- Create a list of all you need to do every week.
- Don't pull out of anything, because you can't do it next year.
- Have the best time at camp - bring tons of bug spray and don't fall off the wharf when there's a shark.
- Don't send an email to a teacher without double checking you have used your manners.
- Don't stay inside during morning tea.
- Don't play Hide n' Seek indoors!
- Definitely get class mascots.
- Hang the mascots up on the railings in class.
- Don't leave things to the last minute.
- Make sure your assembly stories are in a week before you do them.
- Remember to be prepared for changes that could happen, e.g. homework or timetable.
- Listen, you may need it in the future.
- Give every opportunity a try, because you will probably regret it later if you don't.
- Don't lose your drink bottle on the way to Deep Cove.
- Help the little kids.
- The harder your work, the better the outcomes.



NOTICES

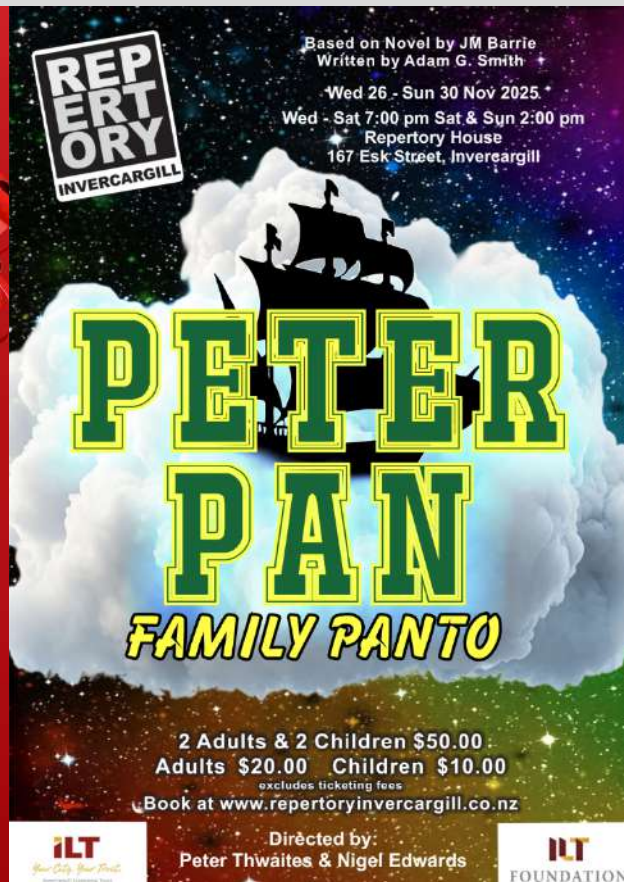


CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS

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REP RTORY
INVERCARGILL

Based on Novel by JM Barrie
Written by Adam G. Smith

Wed 26 - Sun 30 Nov 2025
Wed - Sat 7:00 pm Sat & Sun 2:00 pm
Repertory House
167 Esk Street, Invercargill

PETER PAN
FAMILY PANTO

2 Adults & 2 Children \$50.00
Adults \$20.00 Children \$10.00
excludes ticketing fees
Book at www.repertoryinvercargill.co.nz

Directed by:
Peter Thwaites & Nigel Edwards

ILT FOUNDATION

No-sugar
Fizzy Drinks

These diet drinks...

may be SUGAR-FREE...

but they're NOT ACID-FREE!



Did
you know?

Sugar-free fizzy drinks still have acids in them. These acids can wear away our tooth enamel. The more often we have acid on our teeth, the higher our risk is for tooth decay. Choose plain water or plain milk for your everyday drinks!