

## NEWSLETTER St John's Girls' School 31 Oc

31 October 2025

It has been another busy fortnight at our kura. Like many in our community, we are all looking forward to more sunshine, warmer days, and hopefully less wind!

Our thoughts have been with the many members of our school community who were impacted by the severe high wind event last week. Some of the stories shared with me by our rural girls about the impact on their farms and properties were truly gut-wrenching.

We hope that everyone is starting to recover and settle back into normalcy. Bring on summer!



Thank you for your support of our Staff Only Day last week. We spent the day working as a team to digest and implement the updated maths curriculum changes that were recently announced. The opportunity to come together on-site and focus on this important mahi was incredibly valuable for our whole staff.

Ultimately, this essential work in professional development will ensure we are delivering the best possible education, directly benefiting all of our girls in their mathematical learning journey.



Principal
Talofa lava, Mālō le
soifua

Greetings from the

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Tūwhitia te hopo, mairangatia te angitū!

Cast out fear, elevate success!

#### **The Learner First**

Next week, we are continuing our important work developing our maths curriculum alongside our cluster schools: Windsor North, Salford, and Waikawa.

We are proud to be hosting teachers from these schools for a dedicated workshop session, which will be expertly facilitated by The Learner First.

A key component of this day will be observing model lessons taught in our own classrooms. This is a wonderful, practical way for all of us to see the curriculum in action and support high-quality, relevant teacher professional development across our cluster group.

#### Values Cup Recipient



Georgia Mead Room 4

#### **Mind Mingle Quiz**

Our Mind Mingle quiz teams had an exciting afternoon of competition at Waihopai School last week. This was the first time St John's has competed in the competition. We will definitely be back next year!

Many of our girls received spot prizes. It was a successful afternoon, which was enjoyed by all the girls involved.

#### **Rotary Youth Merit Award**

We are incredibly proud of Mia Padgett, who was recognised as the Rotary Youth Merit Award recipient for our kura at the Rotary award dinner last week.

Mia consistently demonstrates kindness, responsibility, integrity, leadership, and service. She is involved in many extracurricular activities and is a true role model to her peers.

From her consistent dedication to leading waiata with her guitar to her mature and responsible approach to every task, Mia is a leader by example. She uplifts others, offers quiet support, and acts with integrity in all she does. Congratulations Mia!















#### **Greats and Grands**

There is a buzz of excitement in the junior syndicate as they prepare for Greats & Grands, which is taking place on Thursday, 20 November. This is such a special tradition in our school and is something our whānau look forward to every year. Information regading the day was sent home with your child this week.

#### Te Pōhā Mātauraka o Murihiku

I am excited to announce that St John's Girls' School will be participating in Te Pōhā Mātauraka o Murihiku for the next three years. This collaborative initiative is a landmark educational partnership driven by the Waihōpai, Awarua, and Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka. It serves as a vital contact point for schools in the region to actively support, promote, and preserve mātauraka Māori [Māori knowledge] within Murihiku.

We are proud to join over 20 other Southland schools in this commitment. This journey will allow us to thoughtfully and meaningfully build this precious knowledge into our curriculum, enriching the learning experience for every girl at St John's.

We look forward to sharing our progress and the new learning opportunities this partnership will bring.

https://www.tepoha.nz/

#### **Community Consultation - Strategic Direction**

Over the past two weeks, I have enjoyed meeting with our girls across all year levels to discuss the strategic direction of our school.

Their insights have been incredible! Through our conversations, I have learned what they love about our school, what they believe is essential for their education, and the exciting ideas they have for the future. The common themes emerging from both our junior and senior classes have been heartwarming, and their maturity and understanding throughout these discussions truly blew me away.

Now, we need your perspective.

We will be launching a community consultation survey within the next fortnight. This is your opportunity to share your view and help shape the future mahi we do at St John's.

Please make time to share your thoughts. Your voice is an incredibly important part of shaping our school's strategic direction for the years to come.

#### Give it a Go!

Our staff meetings have kicked off recently with a little friendly, and fiercely competitive, maths. We have been playing games that sharpen our logic, reasoning, and understanding of mathematical concepts.

We want to share this fun, effective learning with you.

Each week, we will feature one of these adaptable maths games in the newsletter. These are designed to be easily modified for every year level. Check out the tips and tricks included with each game.

Get ready to play! We are challenging all parents to take on their daughters. Can you win?

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw Tumuaki | Principal

## Maths Games Give it a Go!

### **Knock Out**

+				
+	Materials: 2 DICE, PEN AND PAPER		Player I	Player 2
	Haths Concepts: ADDITION			
	Mim: GET THE HIGHEST TOTAL AFTER 10 R	olls	8	ø
H		-		
	1. PLAYERS TAKE TURNS TO ROLL 2 DICE	+	11	Ø
†	<ol> <li>ON EACH TURN THEY WRITE THE SUM OF DICE IN THEIR COLUMN, E.G. ROLL A 5 AND 3</li> </ol>		5	7
	3. IF A PLAYER ROLLS A TOTAL OF 7 THEY C	ROSS	J	<b>/</b> '
			3	4
İ	4. THE WINNER IS THE PERSON WITH THE HIG TOTAL AFTER 10 ROLLS	HEST		·
1				

# Extenders

- > CHANGE DICE VALUES [E.G. MULTIPLES OF 2, 5, 10]
- > MULTIPLY THE VALUES INSTEAD OF ADD
- > CHANGE NUMBER OF DICE
- DECIMAL NUMBERS [0.1, 0.2 ETC.]
- ENCOURAGE CUMULATIVE TOTALS [CAN YOU KEEP THE TOTAL IN YOUR HEAD AS YOU PLAY?]

## CALENDAR OF EVENIS

#### **NOVEMBER**

•	7	<b>Christian Education Speeches</b>
		Sausage Sizzle and Chill

- 11 Guest Speaker re Christmas in Sweden -Rooms 1-3 [1.40pm]
- 12 Cultural Day [morning]
  BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 14 Dance Sharing [afternoon]
  Last day of Dance
- 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**

- 5 Tabloids
- 10 Father/Daughter Netball
- 11 Christmas Concert 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



- 2 February Sta
- 3 February
- 6 February
- 19 February
- 24-27 February
- 9-11 March
- 24-27 March
- 2 April
- 20 April
- 21 April
- 15 December

- Staff Only Day
- First day of school for students
- Waitangi Day [school closed]
- **School Photos**
- 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
- Last day of school for students

# WEEKLY AWARDS CONGRATULATIONS

**ROOM 1** 

Gussie Affleck, Jasmine McEwan

ROOM 2

Elliece Goodwright, Evie Bradshaw

ROOM 3

Amelia Maxwell, Lilly Stalker

**ROOM 4** 

Lara Preininger, Phoebe Hodson

**ROOM 6** 

Courtney Mackie, Lauren Baird

**ROOM 7** 

Emily Laughton, Morrigan Parsons

ROOM 8

Maisie Korteweg, Mia Reilly

VALUES CUP

**Rm 4** 

Georgia Mead

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Rm 2 Mackenna North Kyla Howden



The Year 8 and Year 7 Kaiarahi have been writing their fortnightly newsletters on teacher spotlights. We are coming to the end of our long list of staff. We hope you enjoyed finding out a bit more about every staff member!

Zoe, Mia P. Drew, Nevaeh, Pailey, Evie, Briar N & Greer P



Mrs Rachael Devlin is a reliever in our school. Her favourite meal is Lamb Rogan Josh, which she tells us is an Indian curry. Her favourite colour is blue like the ocean, also the St John's colour! Mrs Devlin's favourite holiday spots are New Zealand and Australia, visiting friends and family. She enjoys tramping and pilates as hobbies in her spare time. She was amused to tell us her favourite song is 'Élderly Woman Behind The Counter' by Pear Tam.



Mrs Noeleen Wilson takes our After School Care programme. Some things she enjoys doing when she isn't taking care of our girls are sewing, gardening and cooking - which she tells us is not boring at all. Her favourite singer is Bruce Springsteen, who we have recently discovered is popular among our staff. Mrs Wilson's favourite meal is a delicious steak, and her favourite place to go on holiday is Arrowtown. When we asked her what her favourite colour is, she said blue and purple - to stand out from the crowd!



Mrs Trish Chapman, a reliever in our school, loves to do yoga because it has a lovely ambience. She loves the colour blue because it suits her. She told us that she couldn't remember her old favourite colour but that colour used to suit her more. She loves to camp in Alexandra because she doesn't have to do any housework. She can spend all of her time swimming, chatting and reading books. Mrs Chapman does not have any specific favourite songs, she just likes anything relaxing. Pasta and cherry tomatoes is her favourite meal to have at dinner time.



Mrs Vaughan's favourite colour is soft pink because it's a happy colour. She loves eating a juicy, flavourful roast because she loves the yummy taste of it, and she especially loves to eat it in the wintertime. She loves listening to Christmas songs, and Do They Know Christmas by Band Aid, as well as loves Dixie Trix. Her favourite place to go on holiday is Noosa in Australia, and she loves camping at Monkey Island. Her favourite hobby is gardening in her veggie garden, she loves growing her own fresh vegetables, and she also enjoys hanging out on the beach when it's sunny and warm. Mrs Vaughan teaches Christian Education for all of the years at our school stepping in for Mrs King. Sadly, she will be leaving at the end of this year but she has been a wonderful teacher.



Mary Kelly was the past teacher of Room 2 but now teaches part time. We did manage to find her and ask her a few questions. Firstly we asked her what her favourite meal was and she told us crayfish because she loves it! Her favourite colour is yellow which was very unusual because most teachers favourite colours were either blue or green! Mrs Kelly loves doing exercise because two of her favourite hobbies involve this. Kayaking and walking. She also loves reading. Her favourite singer is Bruce Springsteen. She also loves a song that we sing in whole school singing which involves sign language called 'I Wish'.



Last Tuesday, Mackenna's Mum, Alisha came to talk about Christmas. She is an expert because she owns and runs the *Christmas Magic Shop*. She told us about the history behind tinsel and Gonks.

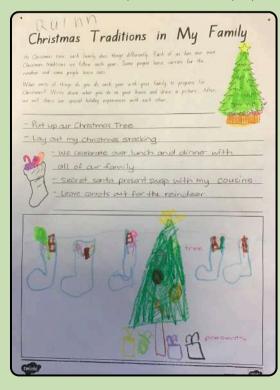
In Swedish folklore, Christmas 'gonks' are known as tomte [or nisse in Norway and Denmark], a mythical creature that acts as the guardian of a home or farmstead. While they are associated with goodwill and protection, their mood depends entirely on how they are treated. They keep watch for naughty children!

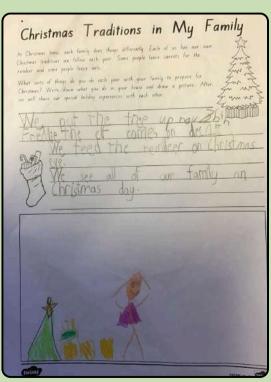


#### Christmas Traditions

Room 1 have also been sharing their own family Christmas traditions. We had a few in common, such as Christmas PJs, going to see the Christmas lights, leaving food out for Santa and the reindeers.

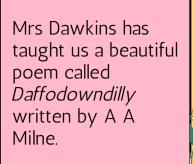
This has been a lovely start to our Inquiry about Christmas Around the World.



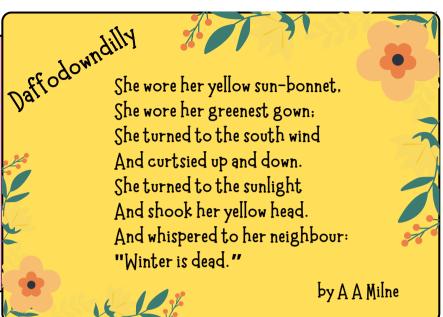








Ask your daughter to recite this for you.

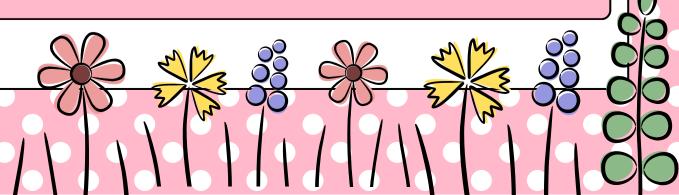


We made a collage using inspiration from *Kadinsky*. We used water colours for our background and symmetry in our vase patterns. We used bold black lines to highlight our subject.











In our writing we have been focusing on using the skills we learn in iDeal in our daily writing. Our writing has been improving as we include descriptive language and our own thoughts and feelings. Here are some extracts from our storm writing......

Charlotte Dore wrote...

'The wind started to whistle, it got stronger and stronger...'

Mackenzie Smithies wrote..

'It sounded like a lion roaring on my roof..'



Elliece Goodwright wrote..

'It was just a normal day when the power went off and the windows started to shatter...'

Amaia van Westrenen wrote..

'I heard howling and I leapt under the table...'



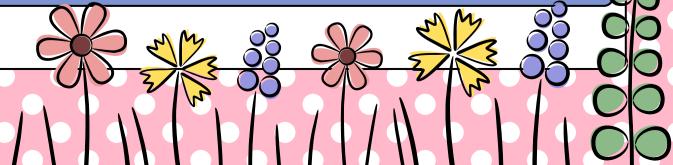
'Navy Sloane wrote..

'It was windy and rainy and window cracking weather...'

#### What's Next?

Shortly we will turn our learning toward the advent season and <u>find</u> out about Christmas traditions from around the world. This will be a fun learning time.





# Room S

#### Week 4!!!!

Wow, we have only just finished Week 4, but we have managed to achieve so much already! We have been working hard to finish off our learning around 'Pirates'. The girls designed a picture of a pirate and wrote about them.





#### Pirate Eillie - by Millie Dobbie

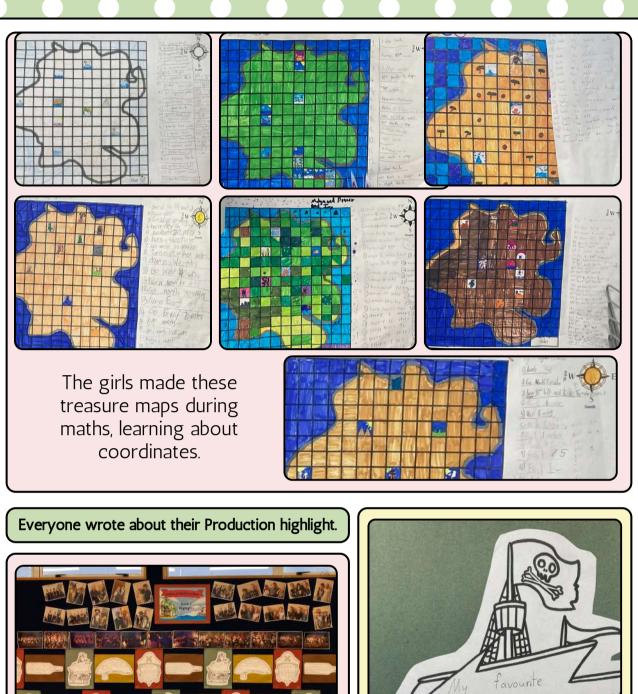
Meet captain Eillie, Eillie the pirate!

Excited Eillie has beautiful blonde blush hair. She thinks she's a pop star but she's actually a pirate! She ties her blond hair up with two red ribbons because she likes her hair in pigtails. Then her hair swishes to the sound of the waves crashing onto the boat.

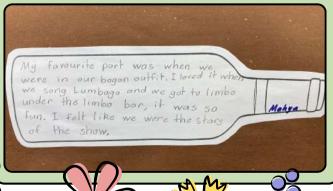
Her nose is as small as a mouse. She has a cheeky smile because she's up to no good and she loves to say jokes because she thinks she's the Queen.

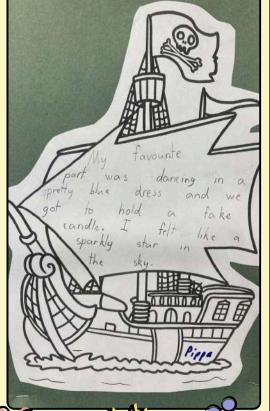
Her eyes are as blue as the beautiful blue ocean. Her peg leg taps like tap shoes and she stomps as loud as an elephant around the ship. Her arms swing like an octopus when she tries to dance. Eillie runs around the ship like the fastest animal in the world and she twirls like a little girl in a pink tutu. When she is dancing she sometimes wakes the captain up and then she has to walk the plank!

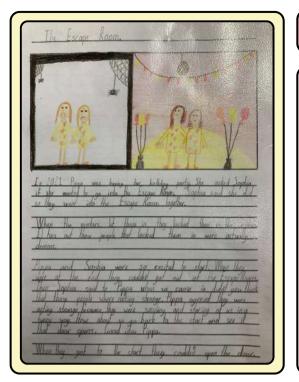
Excited Eillie has a great heart because she cares. She has a guitar with her so she could put you to sleep with her beautiful playing. When the captain lets her on the beach when the ship is not at sea, she loves to sunbathe in the burning beautiful yellow uns like a lion ROAR!!!







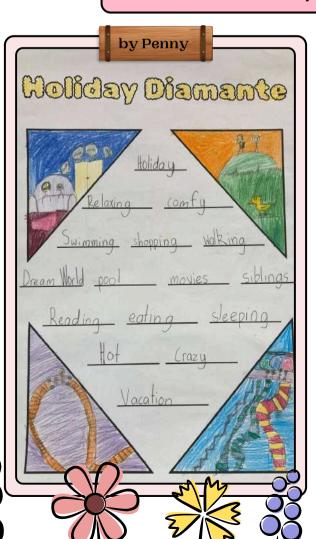


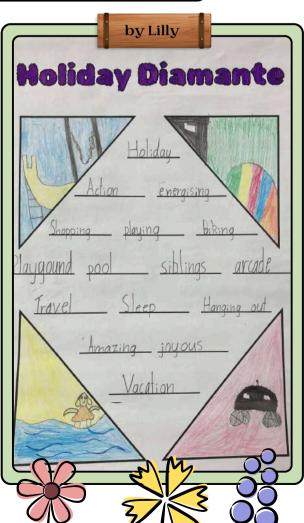


#### We finished our narrative writing



#### We wrote holiday diamante poems







#### Weathering the storm: What you need to know



#### Still without power?

PowerNet's priority is getting power restoration to lifelines for telecommunications, water and wastewater

If you have debris over fallen lines, have power lines and poles down, please don't touch them.



#### Generator & welfare requests

ok message: cdsouthland



#### Rural rapid assessment

We're collecting this information to help CDEM, MPI and Response partner agencies understand the impacts of the event on your farm and coordinate recovery support.



#### Managing water and waste in tough times

are on a serviced water or sewerage line, please be pus of water use to keep presure off water capacity and age systems while PowerNet are checking lines



#### Safety around the house

- Use torches or battery powered lamps rather than candles if possible. If you must use candles, put them in a holder with a stable base, such as a jar. If you are using camp cookers or alternative forms of heating always make sure they are on a stable base that will not tip
- The temperature is forecasted to drop so please make sure you have sufficient heating and cooking supplies



#### For more information, visit:

- 1. https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/food-safety-in-natural-disasters-and-emergencies-2/
- 2. https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/protecting-health-natural-disaster/during-an-

#### Feeding your baby safely during an emergency

- . Breastfeeding is the safest way to feed babies, particularly in an emergency. If this is not an option, take extra care when preparing infant formula. You will need safe, clean water and a way to sterilise equipment like bottles and teats.
- If you do not have safe water or electricity, take extra care preparing feeds.
- Surfaces and utensils must be as clean as possible. If you cannot clean a surface, cover it with a clean paper towel.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds. If you do not have warm, soapy water use a baby wipe for any visible dirt and then use an alcohol-based sanitiser.

. Boil equipment at a rolling boil for 1 minute. Keep the pot covered until you need the items and use tongs to remove items. You can re-boil the water and use again.

- Use sterilising tablets and soak for at least 15 minutes, making sure there are no air bubbles. You can keep the equipment in the solution with a lid on it.
- Make a new sterilising solution every 24 hours. Use the old solution for washing hands or
- If you do not have a bottle, use a sterilised cup or spoon. Let the baby sip, don't pour formula down the baby's throat. They will need practice.

#### Make water safe for preparing formula

- . If your usual drinking water supply is not available, make sure your replacement water is
- The safest water option to use in an emergency is commercial bottled water that is sealed.
   Boil water (including commercially bottled water) for 1 minute for babies of all ages, this is
- especially important for babies less than 3 months of age. Remember to cool to room temperature before use.
- · You can use an electric jug or a stove kettle until it switches or whistles.

#### For more information, visit:

- 1. https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/protecting-health-natural-disaster/during-anemergency#feeding-your-baby-safely-during-an-emergency-6838
- 2. How to make water safe to drink under a boil water notice Taumata Arowai

#### Keeping well during storm recovery

October 2025

#### Protecting your health during an emergency

- Emergencies can be stressful. If you're having a tough time, free counselling is available by calling or texting 1737 at any time of the day or night.
- Food and water are easily contaminated during emergencies, so take extra care to avoid getting sick.
- Washing your hands is one of the best ways you can protect you and your family from getting sick. Clean, warm soapy water should always be your first choice. If safe water is not available, you can use alcohol-based products to disinfect your hands
- Always wash your hands with soap and safe water (that has been boiled or disinfected):
- Before preparing or eating food
- After using the toilet
- Use safe/clean water to drink brush your teeth, wash your hands, wash and prepare food, baby formula and ice and wash dishes

#### For more information, visit:

- 1. https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/protecting-health-natural-disaster/during-an-
- emergency#use-water-safely-during-an-emergency-4934

  https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-communities/emergencies/treating-water/

#### Food and medication safety in an emergency

- If you have no power for your fridge eat foods that expire first like bread and meat.
- Open the fridge and freezer as little as possible to keep it cool for longer Put any medication that requires refrigeration in a chiller bin or bag with ice packs. If the power outage is for a prolonged period, contact a local pharmacy or your family doctor who may be able to provide advice about whether your medicines are safe to use and/or provide emergency supplies. Visit: https://www.healthpoint.co.nz for pharmacies and doctors opening hours in your area
- Throw out rotting food before it spoils other food
- Eat canned food last.
- 3. https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/protecting-health-natural-disaster/during-anemergency

#### **Animal welfare**

If you have questions or concerns about animal welfare emergency management phone MPI on 0800 00 83 33.

#### Food safety advice

- . If you have no power, avoid getting sick from unsafe food
- Eat foods that will expire soon first such as bread, meat, salads, and dairy products because they spoil more quickly than non-perishable food.

  During the power failure, open your fridge or freezer as little as possible to help keep it
- cooler for longer. Unopened fridges should hold refrigeration temperature for 4 hours
- . Freezers will remain colder for longer if they are full (2-4 days) compared to if they are half full (1–2 days). So, leave already frozen food in the freezer if possible.
- Eat your canned and non-perishable pantry foods last.
- If in doubt, throw it out. All perishable food can become unsafe to eat if it reaches temperatures where harmful bacteria can grow and cause of food poisoning.
- See our factsheet for more information: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/55615-Food-safety-in-the-home-after-flooding

#### Looking after your wellbeing, and others during storm recovery

October 2025





#### It's okay to feel a bit all over the place right now. You're not alone - help is available.

- · Our body's natural response to threatening situations can leave us feeling rattled, on-edge, or make it hard to concentrate
- Once we are in a position of safety, it helps to take some slow, deep breaths and remind ourselves we are not in immediate danger
- It's also good to not be alone, or to reach out to loved ones by phone or in person if possible.
- Try to limit your use of media or social media as this can often be sensational or misleading and add to our stress levels. Stick to trusted, authoritative sources of information such as Southland District Council.

#### Where to get help

- Please contact your doctor or health professional, or call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 611 116 if you have any concerns about your own or others' health
- You can text or phone 1737 anytime to speak to a trained counsellor for free.
- More mental health support options: https://info.health.nz/mental-health/where-to-get-help

#### A few additional ways to support your wellbeing and those around you

- Take care of basic needs food, rest, and connection.
- Listen and offer practical help where you can
- Breathe deeply and remind yourself you're safe now Stay connected reach out to loved ones
- Find out more here: https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/protecting-health-naturaldisaster/managing-stress-in-an-emergency

#### **Using a Generator**

- If you use a portable generator, it's important it's used properly to keep yourself, your whanau, farm team, and others safe. Do not connect a generator directly into a cowshed or
- a building. It requires special hard wiring to connect and needs to be installed by an qualified electrician
- Plug appliances directly into the generator.
- The generator needs be located in a well-ventilated place with the exhaust gases funneled away from any internal or confined space. The generator must never be used in an indoor space where people are present; this includes areas such as an internal garage. The rating
- of the connected equipment should not exceed the rating of the generator. Remember to always use a safety switch (RCD) where the supplied equipment is outside or in a damp
- location. If you require a generator call the Welfare Team at the Emergency Management
- Southland by calling 0800 890 127 or emailing with your contact details, locations and requirements welfare@cdsouthland.nz
- Further information is available by going to https://bit.ly/43ufpPE

#### Insurance advice

- Keep good records. Take notes and photos of damage
- Lodge your claim as soon as you can, even though you may not have all the information
- If you need to carry out urgent work to make your home and safe, sanitary and secure. Keep track of costs incurred and take photos as you go.

  Detailed quote for repair (Ensure your repairer includes a breakdown of the costs).
- Keep records of any costs incurred in relation to continuing your farming operations. This could include hiring a generator, purchasing additional fuel for the generator/s.
- If you need to throw any food or items out, take photos first.
- Talk to Environment Southland, your milk supplier if you need to dispose of spoiled milk.
- Information is available here from FMG <a href="https://bit.ly/479H2Qp">https://bit.ly/479H2Qp</a>



 Farmers and growers who are finding it challenging and want a confidential chat to contact the Southland Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254.



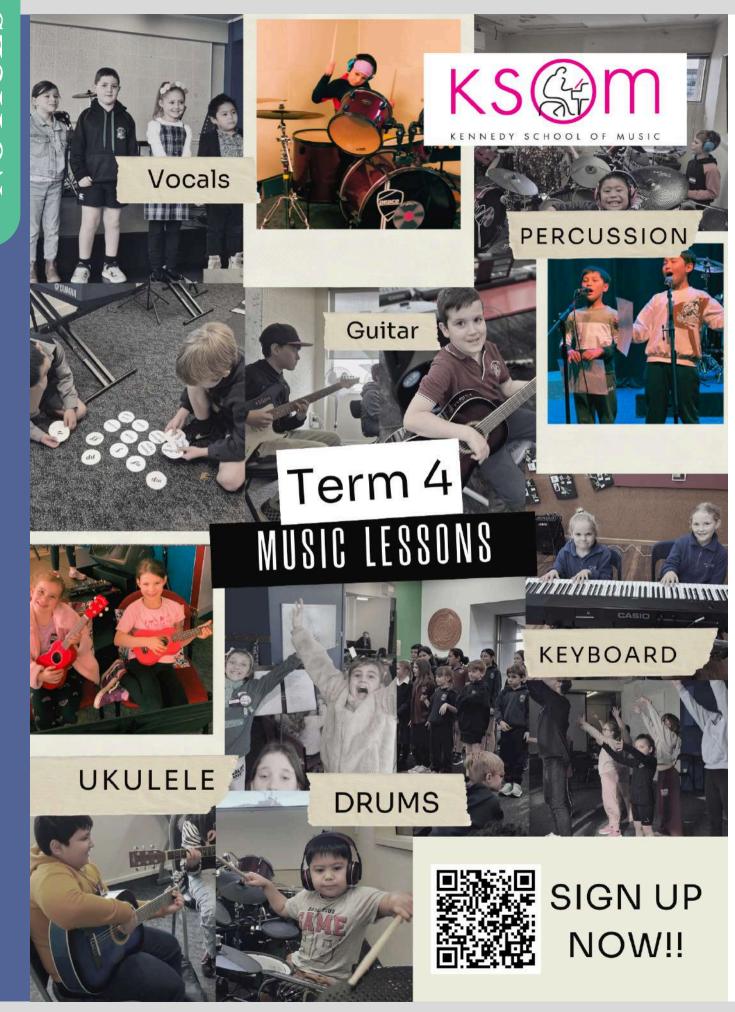
If you have questions or concerns about animal welfare phone MPI on 0800 00 83 33.

#### Food safety advice

See our factsheet for more information - https://bit.ly/4nt7xoS

#### Biosecurity when using a neighbour's shed

- Move only essential animals and keep herds separate.
- Clean/disinfect gear and vehicles before returning home.
- Use your own personal protective equipment.
- Record all movements and contacts.
- Speak with your insurer and vet for advice.



**SIGNUPNOW** 

# KEYS LESSONS DRUMLESSONS VOCALLESSONS OUTARESSONS

MUSICLESSONS JANUARY SECONS

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