



St John's School Newsletter

**6 Stuart Road
Ranfurly
03 4449514 (ph & fax)
office@sjr.school.nz**

Issue 1: 1st February 2019

Principal's Page:

Welcome

Welcome back to everyone for 2019. We hope you all enjoyed a restful, relaxing holiday. We especially welcome our new 5 year old, Florence Dowling, and her family to St John's School.

Staff

I continue to teach the Junior Class, Years 1 and 2, with Mrs Hazlett releasing me on a Wednesday (all day) and Mrs Elworthy on a Thursday afternoon (1.15 - 2.50p.m.)

Mrs M and Miss Flintoff will be permanently job sharing the middle class, Years 3 - 5. Mrs M will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Miss Flintoff teaching Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Duncan teaches the Years 6 - 8, with Mrs Hazlett releasing her on a Tuesday afternoon.

This year Mrs Jayne Hazlett will be working 2 days a week with groups and individuals in the areas of Literacy (this includes the STEPS programme) and English language. Literacy includes reading, reading comprehension, writing, spelling and alphabet activities. Teachers have identified children/groups with particular needs to work with Jayne.

Waitangi Day

School is closed on **Wednesday 6th February** for Waitangi Day.

Stationery

Children will be issued with new exercise books and a stationery account.

Please note these prices are cheaper, only for the beginning of the year because stationery has been ordered in bulk. After this the prices will be more expensive for items.

These accounts will include Mathletics and the STEPS programme. Each class will be using the STEPS programme, an online literacy based programme in class, instead of grammar this year.

The STEPS workbooks cost \$10 and as a student progresses they will need the next STEPS workbook.

We predict that most children may need 2 - 3 workbooks a year.

Books can be covered, as this does protect them from many things.

Stationery money is to be brought to school by **Friday 15th February**, please.

Cheques to be made out to St John's School. You can also pay by internet banking. The account number is: **03 0951 0066195 00**

Please remember, if you are paying by internet banking please put your name and school stationery as a reference. Thank you.

Swimming

We have booked a swim week with the Central Otago Swim School for **Week 5 - 25 February - 1st March**. We also have swimming sessions on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. You will get a note re swimming times for each classroom.

Telephone

A reminder, please when ringing school, do not leave a message for children after 1p.m. as teachers are in their classrooms and there is not always someone in the office to clear messages until after school. If your child/children are going to be absent from school, please ensure that their teacher is aware of this by texting the school cellphone or ringing the school before 8.50a.m. Thank you.

A & P Show

This is on **Wednesday 20 February**.

Children are dismissed from school at 12.30p.m. to enable them to attend the show with their parents. We ask that all children are collected from school at lunchtime - 12.30p.m. If there is a problem with this, please let us know.

Contact Phone Numbers

Attached to the paper newsletter is a form for parents to fill in to enable us to update our files. Please fill in one for your family and return it to school asap.

If your contact details and emergency details have not changed, you do not need to do this.

Office Hours

A reminder that Fiona Weir's office hours are:

Monday 9 - 1p.m.

Thursday 9 - 3p.m.

Friday 9 - 12p.m.

Emailing newsletter

Once again we will be emailing our newsletters out to families who have provided us with an email address. Last year we had a few problems with addresses being dropped off the emailing list so if you don't receive your newsletter by email please contact Fiona Weir.

Our newsletter comes out every 3 weeks so you should receive a newsletter in weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10. For anything else that comes up, eg, swim week, there will be a separate newsletter.

Remember to also check our website:

www.sjr.school.nz

Scholastic Lucky Books

Please remember if you are ordering Scholastic lucky books for your children as presents and do not want them to see these, just write a note on the order and you will be rung when they arrive.

Uniforms

Once again, there will be particular times when uniforms can be ordered. These will be at the start of each term. If you wish to order outside of these times, you will be asked to pay full postage in the total cost. If you are needing an order form, you can print one off the website under the "Notices" tab - then "Class Notices".

You can also order yourself, online at:

<http://stjohns.uniformnz.com>

School Uniform

A reminder that children are to dress in correct uniform please:

Boys - Summer

Red polo shirt

Grey shorts

School polar fleece/jersey

Grey socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals

Girls - Summer

Red polo shirt

Skort

School polar fleece/jersey

Black socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals.

We ask that children who have long hair, have this tied up with brown, red, green, black or white hair ties.

Head Lice

Please check your children's hair regularly for this, as it is an ongoing problem. Please treat when necessary.

Parent Information Evening

On **Wednesday 13th February** we will be holding a parent information evening beginning at **6.45p.m.** This will be a presentation explaining how each classroom operates. You can attend all sessions or as many as interest you. The timetable is:

6.45 - 7.05p.m. (approximately) Junior Room

7.05 - 7.25p.m. Jayne Hazlett will talk about the STEPS programme being run in all classes

7.25 - 7.45p.m. Middle Class

7.45 - 8.05p.m. Senior Class

We look forward to seeing you then.

Special Character Clipboard:

Term 1 2019

WEEK ONE 28th – 1st Feb

28th St Thomas Aquinas

31st St John Bosco

2nd Presentation of Jesus

A new School year



A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new

opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

WEEK TWO 4th – 8th Feb

5th St Agatha

6th Waitangi Day

6th St Paul Miki and Companions

Te Tiriti o Waitangi - The Treaty of Waitangi is an agreement between the Crown and Maori signed in 1840. It is often referred to as a 'living document' and recognises the prior occupation by Maori of Aotearoa New Zealand. It allowed for the peaceful acquisition of land for European settlement and ensured that immigrants could come to live here.

The Treaty allowed the Crown to set up a government and to establish laws, and under the Treaty the Crown was to guarantee and protect Maori tribal authority over their lands, fisheries, forests, villages, taonga (treasures) and culture. The Treaty also extended to Maori the status and rights of British citizens.



Adapted from Parliamentary prayer.

Almighty God, Humbly acknowledging our need for Your guidance in all things, and laying aside all private and personal interests, we beseech You to grant that we may conduct the affairs of this House and of our country to the glory of Your Holy Name, the maintenance of true religion and justice, the honour of the Queen, and the public welfare, peace and tranquillity of New Zealand, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Junior Class News:

This year we start with 15 children in the Junior Class and we welcome Florence Dowling to our class. Once again, children will not have an allocated desk. Pencil cases etc will be kept in file boxes on a shelving area and exercise books in containers. This worked well last year. During the first 3 weeks, children will be working on a piece of artwork for the A & P Show on Wednesday 20th February. The theme this year is "Birds, Bees and Butterflies"! Our theme for this term is "Thinking Outside the Box" and involves technology challenges and problem solving.

Middle Class News:

Wow where have the holidays gone!
We are looking forward to a busy 2019.

This year Mrs M will be teaching full days on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Flintoff will be teaching full days on Thursday and Friday.

Please ensure you make yourself familiar with Home Learning expectations this year. As usual there will be reading each night. The text will be from a guided reading session in class. We are implementing a school-wide STEPS programme (an online literacy tool) which you will see featured in this newsletter, which will be part of weekly homework too. The third area of Home Learning will be Basic Facts, and each child will bring home a set of problems they need to practice every night for the week. These will be tested each Friday.

All Home Learning will begin in Week Two (Monday 4th February).

Middle Class children need to bring their swimming togs and towels on Mondays and Fridays to take part in our classroom swimming programme.

We would be grateful for the donation of any old plastic shopping bags, which are used for a variety of things in our class. Another option would be to send a re-usable bag to school with your child's name on it for their use throughout the term.

If you would like to discuss anything about your child and the Middle Class programme, please feel free to email Claire or I, or send a note to school so we can make a time to meet.

claire@sjr.school.nz

helen@sjr.school.nz

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a busy and happy term together.

Kind regards

Claire and Helen

Senior Class News:

Dream Big!

Welcome to the Senior Room where we have a class of 20 children with 11 boys and 9 girls. I warmly welcome the year 6 children and their families and we will all work hard to help them settle into the routines of our room.

Communication

You will need to read the Senior Room section of the school newsletter each time it comes home on the school website or email. It will include information specific to our class. You will also get separate notices, when I need to share additional information regarding a class activity.

If you would like to see me to discuss something related to your child's learning please make an appointment with me so that I can ensure that I can give you my full attention, as some days after school I need to scoot out the door quickly for my own children's activities. You can send me a text (0273272408), but please keep it brief and be patient for a reply.

Stationery

Your child's stationery list will come home by week three. Please pay for the stationery either with cash or a cheque made out to St Johns School, or by using internet banking - the account will be on the bottom of the stationary list.. The late timing of this is due to a maths decision that the children and I have to make (see in the homework section).

Year 7 and 8 Technology

The year 7 and 8 children will go to the Maniototo Area School on a Wednesday afternoon for Technology learning, and they will then board their buses or get picked up from there. The children involved have brought home a separate notice from MAS regarding this. Technology starts on the 13th February and costs \$20 for the year. This will be included in the stationery account.

Homework

I like to have a regular routine around my homework expectations. As a parent you need to sign the homework Monday to Thursday and take an interest in what your child is doing.

Reading: Each night I expect your child to read either from a set activity that I give them or from a book of their choice. We spend regular time at school reading for pleasure and the children like to continue this at home.

Maths: All children will have a Mathletics or Education Perfect login to an online component of their learning. The year 6 children are using Mathletics and the year 7 and 8 children and I have to make a decision about whether we use Education Perfect or Mathletics. If your child does not have access to a computer at home, they are able to use time before school and at playtime/class time to get these points. They have a special login which we will glue into their homework books.

Physical Activity: We are an active class and we are working towards being fit for the Central Otago Rippa tournament (no confirmed date yet) at the end of the term and the Dunstan Zone Triathlon on March 27th. To help us be on track we are noting down our daily activity in our homework book.

All children have a task sheet with questions to complete by Monday 11th February. There is a small parent task on here also. Normal homework will start after this.

Class learning

Our class focus for the year will be based upon having a positive attitude and being ready to meet challenges in a variety of ways and being resilient when needed. Through our learning we will be working on building our self-belief, resilience and people skills, as well as our personal fitness.

Our topic this term is about thinking outside the box and finding solutions to activities - this is based on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. We will be completing tasks in

class as well as coming together every second Friday as a school to work on challenges. We are also developing our classroom climate and as part of that will be considering what / who is a good role model and researching a person whom we consider to have these qualities.

Steps Web is an online and booklet based learning tool that we are using school wide this year. It is a comprehensive and user friendly literacy programme which includes class based teaching sessions as well as online activities to reinforce the learning. The children may have some aspects to complete as homework tasks. Mrs Hazlett will explain this further to you at our parent information evening.

ICT agreement

I am required to seek your permission for your child to use the ICT facilities at school – specifically our class laptops. This form will come home in the next few days. Please read through with your child and sign in the appropriate places.

Parent Information evening

The teachers are hosting a meeting with parents on Wednesday 13th February where we will explain how life is in our classrooms and answer any questions that you have.

Swimming

Our swim times are

Monday: 11.30 - 12.10pm

Tuesday: 9 - 10am

Friday: 12.10-1pm (week 1 is 11.30-12.10pm).

Children need to bring togs, towel, goggles and a rash top if they want to wear one. No tee-shirts thank you as these are very heavy in the water.

With a range of swimming abilities I would love to have some help with my teaching. I am looking for adults to help supervise one group of children while I work with the other group. Your work conditions might be a little damp and hot, but it will be stress free – you can always dive in for a dip while the children get dressed. If you can help supervise, send me a text (0273272408) prior so I can confirm we are going to the pool that day.

After the swim week I am planning a trip to the Patearoa swimming hole to apply our skills in a real situation. I will need lots of help with active supervision on this day so please consider coming when I send home the permission / asking for help letter in a couple of weeks time.

Finally

My goodness, there is so much information in here for you to take on board! Please do not stress, I am confident that all children in our class will have a positive year. I am really excited to be back and I look forward to speaking with you all at the parent evening.

Take care,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

Next meeting to be held on the 12th February at 7.00pm

Notices and Dates:

Week 2	Sunday 10 th February	School/Parish Mass & Picnic at 5pm
Week 3	Tuesday 12 th February	BOT meeting 7.00pm
	Wednesday 13 th February	Parent Info Evening First sessions at 6.45pm
Week 4	Wednesday 20 th February	Maniototo A & P Show
Week 5	Monday 25 th Feb – Friday 1 st March	Swim Week
Week 9	Wednesday 27 th March	Dunstan Zone Triathlon



You are Invited

to attend our

School/Parish Mass and Picnic



Picnic

on

Sunday 10th February 2019

5pm

BYO food and drinks.

BBQ available.

ALL WELCOME