



21 February 2019

Dear Families of St Therese School,

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour.

Thank you to Ms Geaney for the Opening Mass on Friday 15 February as a huge amount of preparation goes in to our special Liturgies and this mainly falls on the shoulders of the DRS. Ms Geaney encouraged the students to challenge themselves and take on leadership roles. All those who participated can be very proud of the way they assisted in making the Opening Mass very special. Thank you also to all the parents, families and friends who came along to the Mass and then spent the afternoon with us. The children had lots of fun, thanks to the activities organised and led by our senior students.

Susan McDonald
Principal

TERM DATES 2018

TERM 1	Thursday 7 Feb @ 10.30am	to	12 April
TERM 2	29 April	to	5 July
TERM 3	22 July	to	27 September
TERM 4	15 October	to	Friday 20 December



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2019

18-22 February – Yr. 3-6 Swimming

25 Feb – 1 March – Life Education Caravan

6 March – Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 9.30am

8 April – ERO review

29 April - School reopens for Term 2

18 Feb – 1 March – Assessment weeks

28 February - BOT meeting @ 6pm

12 March – Parent / Teacher Meeting 1- 5pm

12 April – Last day of term – school finishes @ 3pm



SCHOOL TIMES.

School starts promptly at **8.50am**, with all children in class and ready to start the day with prayers. Lateness disrupts the class and prayer time and also means that your child is not ready and focussed for learning. If your child arrives late, they should go to the school office for a late pass as this will stop us phoning home to check where they are. We are also concerned that students are arriving very early at school, 7.30 – 8.00am, and are not going to the breakfast club or the library. This is a safety issue as they will be unsupervised in the school grounds. **Please take your child to the hall for breakfast when you arrive or to the library** if it is after 8am. If possible, please consider making sure that your child does not arrive before 8.15am as it can be a very long day for them. **School finishes at 3.00pm**. If you are going to be late, please contact the school as soon as possible. For the younger children it can be very distressing if their parents do not arrive on time at the end of the day.



COLLECTING CHILDREN

Thank you to all the parents for using the One-Way system when leaving the school. **For the safety of all the children, it is vital that parents leave their cars and go to the shade area to collect their child.** We are concerned that children are running onto the carpark and not thinking about moving vehicles. It will only take you a few moments to do this and will keep your child safe. Please keep your child close to you at all times and do not let them run ahead, as it is dangerous in the car park with cars constantly moving in and out.



St Therese School

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VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A reminder that our catholic schools can only exist if parents help contribute to their upkeep. Attendance Dues are compulsory. However, the Diocese asks that you pay a small contribution per year to enable them to carry on the wonderful work they do to the upkeep of our schools. You will receive notification of this shortly. It is **\$12.50 per child, per term** and is separate from Attendance Dues.



OPENING MASS

'Let the little children come to me' was the theme of our Opening Mass this year. It was lovely to join together as a community to celebrate Mass and the beginning of a new school year. The students of Room 6 did a wonderful job planning, decorating the church, reading, and running the music and projector. A huge thank you to Room 2, who performed a beautiful dance for us. The students of Room 1 received their heart necklaces from their Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Room 6 and the candle was passed from one of our youngest students to the new Year 8 leaders for 2019. Thank you to all the parents and whanau who were able to come along and be part of this day. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.





ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on **Wednesday 6 March** and it is a day of fast and abstinence. In preparation for Lent, all classes will be looking at the meaning of Lent and how they can make positive changes in their lives. The school will have a Liturgy in the Church and all students will receive the ashes which are a sign of penance. The time has still to be decided. All parents and families are invited to celebrate this with us.



BREAKFAST CLUB

This restarted on **Monday 18 February** and will be held **Monday to Thursday next week, but this may be reduced to Tuesday to Thursday for the rest of the term. We will send a email next week with more information.** Students who arrive before 8.30 are expected to go down and have something to eat and then go directly to the library. Please make sure your children are aware of this. If it is possible children should not arrive at school before 8.15 unless they are going to the breakfast club.



HATS

There is a 'No Hat – No Play' policy. Children will need to remain in a shaded area unless they are wearing a hat. Please remind your children about this. Hats can be purchased from the office for \$15. We ask your help in encouraging your children to be Sun-Smart and always wear a hat and sunscreen when outside. An appropriate hat from home is allowed but needs to cover the neck area.



NAVIGATORS

Navigators restarted on **Monday 18 February**. Navigators is only for Year 4 – 8 students and younger siblings of children attending this class will need to be collected at 3pm as normal. Students must return the permission slip stating which days they will attend. **They cannot attend until the permissions slip is returned.** There is no charge for the class and students will be given a snack before the class begins. The classes are from 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Please collect your child promptly at 4.15pm. Any child not picked up at 4.15pm will wait for their parents outside the main entrance to the school. Please make sure your child knows the arrangements you have made to collect them and notify the school if, for any reason, you cannot be there on time as some children become very anxious when no-one arrives to collect them at 4.15pm.



UNIFORM

Please help us to keep up the standard of uniform. If your child's uniform is damaged or worn, please replace or repair it as soon as possible. Footwear is important too. Jandals should **NOT** be worn as part of the uniform as they are a safety issue. Children must wear black school sandals or shoes. Students are to wear sports uniform and trainers on Fridays as they will be having PE. **Please make sure that all clothing and footwear is clearly named. If it is labelled it can be returned to the owner.**



LUNCHES

Please make sure your child has a healthy lunch that does not include chips, lollies, packets of biscuits or fizzy drinks. If these items are brought to school, they will be exchanged for a sandwich or fruit, free of charge, so children will not go hungry. We will explain this to the children, but we would appreciate your continued cooperation by not including these items in school lunch boxes. If a child comes to school with no lunch, we will call home and arrange for it to be brought in. Children will be given free milk and fruit to have at morning tea. Please encourage them to drink this milk by explaining that the calcium it contains strengthens their bones.



VOLUNTEER HELP

We need your help to keep the garden areas clean and tidy. Please consider giving up an hour or two a week to help us keep the environment beautiful. We also need some help to clear the weeds from the garden beds and paths. Please contact us as soon as possible or even better, just come along with a brush or blower or just your enthusiasm and we will direct you to areas that need your help.



St Peter's College Fair 2019

This will be held on **Sunday 24 March 2019** from **11am - 3pm** at **St Peter's College, 23 Mountain Road, Epsom**. There will be Food Stalls, Books, Raffles, Pre-Loved Goods, Silent Auctions, Amusements, Music, Plants and much much more. Please come along and support the College.



WATER FUN

While Years 3 – 6 were at swimming lessons the rest of the school had fun at school. The senior students set up water slides and played with the little ones on the field.

