



8 February 2018

Dear Families of St Therese School,

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

Welcome back to all our children, parents and friends of St Therese School. We trust you had a very restful holiday and are looking forward to the beginning of a new year at school.

We extend a warm welcome to all our families and encourage you to forge strong connections between school and home. Students who are engaged in their learning achieve higher results, if families and schools value what they are doing in the classroom. Please feel free to come into the class before 8.50am and after 3pm, to connect with your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Our Strategic Goals are

- To provide a faith-filled community with an environment and opportunities to have a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ.
- To grow teachers as Learners
- To grow learner capability in our students
- Improve family engagement with student learning.

Our vision is: To grow learners **PREPARED** for the future. For our students this means

Personal Best, Resilient, Encountering Christ, Problem solvers, Active Learners, Resourceful, Engaged, Determined.

We are a vibrant and forward-looking community and the staff, students, parents and Board of Trustees work together to ensure that our children receive the best education possible in a loving and nurturing environment. As always, at St Therese School we strive to weave our overarching goals into all that we do.

- **Faith** is the essence of our school. Christ's teaching is the foundation and like our patron, Saint Therese, we are reminded to do little things well.
- Our **knowledge** goal inspires our children to love learning and seek answers.
- Through our **growth** goal we nurture the children's emotional journey to adulthood.
- Our school is a powerful learning **community** where we care about every child and encourage them to become involved as leaders in their community.

The topic this term for the whole school is "Minibeasts". This unit enables our children to recognise the important role that all of God's creatures have in our world today. Our school is a powerful learning community where we care about every child. Join us on your child's learning journey this year. Blessings to you and your family.

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

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

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

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.

Jesus, be with us on our journey every day and inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

Susan McDonald
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2019

15 February - Opening Mass at 11.00am & BBQ

18 Feb – 1 March – Assessment weeks

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

18-22 February – Yr. 3-6 Swimming

18 – 20 Feb - Swimming Yrs 3-6

28 February - BOT meeting @ 6pm

12 March – Parent / Teacher Meeting 1- 5pm

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



OPENING MASS and FAMILY BBQ

This year, our Opening Mass will be held on **Friday, 15 February at 11.30am**. This will be followed by a picnic at which the families and teachers will have the opportunity to meet each other informally. Please bring some finger food to share. The Opening Mass will be a wonderful beginning to our year together as we make plans for ways in which everyone can be a valuable part of our St Therese community. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the staff and other parents and to quickly become a part of our beautiful community.



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.



STAFF NEWS

This year, we are delighted to welcome 3 new teachers: Miss Caitlin Melloy (Room 2), Miss Hiwote Yimer (Room 3) and Mrs Cecilia van Helsdingen (Room5). We are excited to have them as part of our school family and warmly welcome them to St Therese School. We will have 5 classes again this year and Mrs Peram will be in Room 1 and Ms Geaney will be in Room 6. Mrs Harris will continue to be our Reading Recovery teacher. Ms Geaney will be the Community of Learning Within School Teacher this year.

Ms Grant and Mrs Seagar will be working one day a week in Rooms 2 & 3.

Mrs Kerr, Mrs Paterson, Pata and Ms Luz will also continue to be valued members of our community, working to provide your children with all they need.

We will be having 10-minute parent teacher meetings on **Wednesday 12 March, 1.00 – 5.00pm** so please put that date in your diary and come along and meet your child's classroom teacher. Meanwhile, please feel free to call into school at any time to get to know your child's teacher. When we know each other well and work together, we become a very powerful team - parents, children and teachers.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHILDREN:

Room 1: Josiah Dias, Marielle Giray, Tavui Tu'itupou, Moses Ve, Sophia Kiernan

Room 3: Standon Pickering, Jaydahviah Talanoa, JR Lemoe

Room 6: Megan Small

We hope they will enjoy being part of the St Therese Community.

Room 2: Khobe Iosefo

Room 5: Fanua Malupo, Annikah Iosefo



STATIONERY COSTS FOR 2019

These costs include: computer access for Rooms 3, 5 and 6, RE resources, stationery and Technology fees for Year 7 and 8 students.

Year 1: \$40 (Stationery and RE resources)

Year 2: \$40 (Stationery and RE resources)

Year 3: \$65 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$25 Swimming.)

Year 4: \$65: (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$25 Swimming.)

Year 5 & Year 6 students \$125 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$60 contribution for lease of computers + \$25 Swimming.)

Year 7 & 8 \$160 (\$40 Stationery and RE resources + \$60 contribution for lease of computer + \$60 Technology fees.)

Thank you to the many families who have already paid for child's stationery. If you haven't yet, please send payment for stationery as soon as possible as this will enable your child to settle into routines as quickly as possible and give him/her is to have the best possible chance to achieve at the highest level.

Payment can be made online to: **St Therese School 12-3033-0353893-00** Please ensure you include your child's name

If you have a concern or problem regarding the costs, please notify the office as soon as possible.



SCHOOL TIMES.

From Monday 11 February, School starts promptly at **8.50am** and it is essential that all children are 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 does arrive late, they must go to the school office for a late pass as this will save 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 have concerns 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.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

A reminder that our catholic schools can only exist if parents help contribute to their upkeep. 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 the Attendance Dues, which are compulsory.



STUDENT INFORMATION

Please complete the forms your child brought home and return them as soon as possible, even if your details are still the same. For the safety of your child it is vital that we have up-to-date contact details and that you are able to be contacted quickly should an emergency occur. We must have a current, working phone number and an email address.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Years 3-6 Swimming Programme. We are very fortunate this year to be able to offer free swimming lessons for our year 3-6 students. Five double sessions of swimming lessons have been booked with the YMCA Swim School. The sessions are as follows: **Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February 2019, 12.30 – 2.00pm**. The bus will leave at 12:00pm and return at 2.30pm. The cost for each child is \$25.00 for bus fares to and from the pool. A letter will be sent home with your child and the permission slip needs to be returned to the class teacher. All Yr 3 – 6 students will be attending the lessons, even if they are not swimming. Please send the permission slip to the classroom teacher as soon as possible. The \$25 has been included in the stationery cost.



BREAKFAST CLUB

This will restart on **Monday 18 February** and will be held **Monday to Thursday**. 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.



NAVIGATORS

Navigators will restart 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. Students will be made aware of the expectations regarding behaviour and attendance at these classes.

This term 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, especially as the children will be going swimming soon. If it is labelled it can be returned to the owner.**



HATS

From Monday 11 February, there will be 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.



LUNCHES

If your child is bringing lunch to school please make sure that it is a healthy lunch and that it does not include chips, lollies, packets of biscuits or fizzy drinks. If your child brings these items 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

This term we have several Special Character events: Opening Mass & Ash Wednesday. We would ask families and friends to come along and join us in these very special occasions. All extended family members are also invited.

please join us

St Therese School

Opening Mass 2019

'Let the children come to me.'

Friday 15th February @ 11am



Followed by a shared lunch and activities on the field. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers.

NAVIGATORS
After School Club

NOW 4 DAYS A WEEK

Kids, now there's more fun things to do four days a week!

- Now located in the Library so you can have access to all the computers, internet, stationery and library research resources to help you do your homework. And there will be a fantastic teacher to help you with anything you are stuck on.



Navigators helps me to re-cap on what I need to do when I don't understand some of my work

If you want to be smart, if you want to be cool, join our club, after school!

There's always someone who understands exactly what I need to do

Navigators prepares us for our assessments

If we get behind in our work, we can catch up in Navigators

 **St Therese School**

www.sainttherese.school.nz

NAVIGATORS
After School Club

NOW 4 DAYS A WEEK

Parents, help your child become an independent learner with our successful Navigators After School programme.

Facilitated by qualified teachers Sharon Peram and other staff members, the Navigators programme provides a quiet, well-resourced area for study, with access to technologies and teacher expertise.

Students in the current programme have shown marked improvement in achievement levels, more success at meeting deadlines and value the opportunity to have teacher support with their homework.

The programme has been so successful for our Year 4-8 students. We strongly recommend each child in Years 4-8 to attend at least one day a week, and all four days if possible.

I would like to enroll my child in the Navigators Programme:

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday

Child's name _____

Parent's Signature _____

FREE to all Year 4-8 St Therese Students

Keep evening free for family time

Sample programme:

3pm- Finish school and enjoy a nutritious snack.

3:15pm-4:15pm- Complete homework with dedicated teacher/mentor assistance.

Students to have access to computers and internet for homework

 **St Therese School**

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