



9 February 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families of St Therese School,

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa, Mālō e lelei, Namaste, Malo ni, Makadini, Annyoung, Bonjour, Bula, Hola, Selami, Kamusta.

Welcome back to St Therese School for 2022. I hope you all had a fantastic break with your families and that you are ready for what promises to be an excellent year. On behalf of all the staff, may I extend a very warm welcome to our new families here at school. I know you will enjoy your time here in this wonderful community and environment.

We have had a very settled start to the school year and are impressed with the way in which our students are adjusting to new classes, routines, and guidelines. Thank you to our community for your constant support to ensure we can engage our students in a fun, focused, and safe learning environment.

**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**

THE GOSPEL CONNECTION



Jesus Calls His First Disciples

Luke 5: 1-11

Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message. Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd. When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, 'Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish.' "Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down." They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. Then they signalled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this happen, he kneeled down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner." Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too. Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish." The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus.



Reflecting on the Reading with Children – Whai Whakaaro

A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God.

- Have you ever been fishing? Simon Peter was a fisherman. He worked on a boat, catching fish in a net in the lake of Galilee. Do you think it is hard work fishing? How would the fishermen have felt after they had been fishing all night and returned to shore in the morning without catching even one fish?
- Why do you think Simon Peter tried again when Jesus told him to row back out into deep water and put his nets down again?
- What did it mean when they caught so many fish that their nets began to rip apart?
- What did Jesus mean when Jesus told him that from now on he would be bringing in people instead of fish?
- We know that Jesus came so that all people can know and love God. Just as he called Simon Peter to follow him, Jesus wants us to help him in his mission. How can we do this?

IMPORTANT DATES – TERM 1



- ✚ 14th February- Navigators, our afterschool Homework Club, begins
- ✚ 21st-25th February- Swimming Lessons for Years 3-6 students
- ✚ 2nd March- Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 2:15pm
- ✚ 3rd March- Planned Fire Drill
- ✚ 15th March- Mt Roskill Zone Rippa Rugby Tournament – Years 5 & 6 (traffic light level dependent)
- ✚ 16th March- Parent – Teacher Conferences. School closes at 12pm
- ✚ 29th April- Mt Roskill Have A Go Day – Years 3 & 4 (traffic light level dependent)
- ✚ 29th April- Mt Roskill Kiwisports – Years 5 & 6 (traffic light level dependent)
- ✚ 14th April- Holy Thursday (Last day of Term 1)



STATIONERY



It is now vital that all remaining stationery payments are made. Please send payment as soon as possible as this will enable your child to settle into routines as quickly as possible and give him/her the best possible chance to achieve at the highest level. If you have a concern or problem regarding the costs, please contact the office as soon as possible.

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

Room 1- Year 1 & 2: \$40 (Stationery)

Room 1- Year 3: \$75 (\$40 Stationery and \$35 Swimming transport)

Room 3-\$135 (\$40 Stationery, \$60 Laptop lease and \$35 Swimming transport)

Room 4- \$135 (\$40 Stationery, \$60 Laptop lease and \$35 Swimming transport)

Room 6: \$100 (\$40 Stationery and \$60 Laptop lease)

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE



Before School Care has now resumed from 8am-8:30am in the school library. Students are separated into class groups on arrival. Classrooms open at 8:30am for students to enter. Please note that Breakfast Club is not running until further notice. No students should be onsite before 8am.

NAVIGATORS



Our afterschool Homework Club 'Navigators' will begin on **Monday 14th February**. All Years 3-6 students are welcome to attend. It is important that your child has returned a Navigators form stating which days they will be in attendance. Navigators will run from **Monday – Thursday from 3:15pm-4:15pm**. Students will be provided with a healthy snack before entering. Two teachers will supervise these sessions and support your child with their homework and learning. Please remain in your car at 4:15pm and your child/ren will be sent to you.



MASKS



Masks are now worn by all staff as well as all students in Rooms 3, 4 and 6. Masks must be brought from home and worn from the moment students step out of the car or onto school grounds. If your child/ren is in one of these classes, ensure that a mask is packed each day. It is important that we all work together to continue to provide a safe environment for our students and staff.



HATS



Every student requires a hat each day of Term 1. These must be named. Students are invited to leave their hats in their classroom from Monday to Friday each week. Teaching children to be SunSmart from an early age is vital. School hats are available from Elizabeth Michael Uniforms, 4 Bond Street, Grey Lynn.



SWIMMING LESSONS- CHANGE OF VENUE



Years 3-6 students will soon be participating in the Water Skills for Life 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 Dean Greenwood Swim School in New Windsor. The transport cost for each child is \$35.00 and has been included with your child's stationery cost this year. A letter has been sent home with your child and the permission slip needs to be returned to the class teacher if this has not already happened. Ensure all uniforms are labelled clearly. A reminder will be sent out to parents in the week prior.





This year we will be celebrating the new school year with a digital Opening Mass due to Red Light Restrictions. A link to the recording will be shared with our St Therese Community via email on Monday 14th February. Our theme for our Opening Mass is 'Let the little children come.'

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus Welcomes Children

People brought their small children to Jesus so that he could lay his hands on them to bless them. But the followers told the people to stop bringing their children to him. Jesus saw what happened. He did not like his followers telling the children not to come. So he said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these little children. The truth is, you must accept God's kingdom like a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it." Then Jesus held the children in his arms. He laid his hands on them and blessed them.



We are reminded through the gospel of the value of children in the eyes of Christ. All people matter to him. No matter their age or status (or lack thereof), he is not too important, too busy, too taxed, or too powerful, even for children. In fact, it's just the opposite: he values and loves children and seeks to bless them. We look forward to journeying with Jesus Christ this year, knowing that he is with us in all that we do.

GAME CHANGERS



We have only 10 spaces still available for Year 3-6 students to participate in a 6-week multi-sport programme called 'Game Changers'. If you have returned your permission slip already, your child/ren are part of the group. A confirmation email will be sent to all parents. If you are still considering this, here is some more information about the programme:

- Game Changers is a programme that involves 2 fully qualified coaches (both vaccinated) delivering a range of experiences to unlock confidence and build teamwork, all while creating a fun, safe environment.
- These multi-sport sessions will involve using equipment from a wide range of sports, including rugby & league balls, soccer balls, basketballs, netballs, dodgeballs, American footballs and much more.
- Sessions are for students in Years 3 – 6. No previous sport experience is required.
- Students are required to bring their PE Uniform, a sunhat, and a water bottle to participate.
- The programme is **free of charge**.
- These sessions will run from **3.15pm-4.15pm** on Wednesdays for 6 weeks in Term 1.

Wednesday 16th February

Wednesday 23rd February

Wednesday 2nd March

Wednesday 9th March

Wednesday 16th March

Wednesday 23rd March

MUFTI DAY- TONGA FUNDRAISER



Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to those affected by the recent disaster.

Tonga has been devastated by the violent eruption of Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai. Not only have communications, infrastructure and food crops been severely damaged - there are risks of contamination from ashfall, most notably to Tonga's water-supply and air quality. Though the situation is still unfolding, there is an urgent need for water and emergency food supplies. On Friday 11th February, St Therese School will be having a mufti day to raise money for this cause. We ask that where possible each student brings a gold coin donation.



MUFTI DAY * MUFTI DAY *
SUPPORT
TONGA
FRIDAY
11 FEB
* MUFTI DAY * MUFTI DAY *



A message from the Auckland Catholic Diocese:

Join us in supporting our Tongan whānau at this time. We will be livestreaming on Saturday 7PM 12 February 2022, and you can access it on Bishop Michael Gielen & Bishop Patrick Dunn's Facebook pages.

An online event full of excitement - silent auction, musical items, shout outs, and more! Let us come together and show our support for our Tongan sisters & brothers.

In the meantime, please check out and donate to our Give A Little page in raising funds to support the mahi of church agencies on the ground in Tonga:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/catholics4tonga>

Prayer for Tonga and the Pacific

Loving God,
We hold before you in our hearts
The people of Tonga in this time of need.
We know that the communities of the Pacific often
experience fragility.
Now, with a volcanic explosion leading to both a Tsunami
And degradation of land and water through ash,
We ask that your people find strength
and feel closer to you than ever.
They are communities of great faith.
May they turn to you for peace and
reassurance.
May they turn to each other for comfort and community.
And may they turn to us for support and solidarity.
We all share this mysterious world
Which you have entrusted to our care, as one family.
May your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage
And fill us with the gift of Hope.
Amen.

