



St Francis Catholic School

We are a vibrant & empowering
Catholic school, creating **pathways**
of excellence for our tamariki.



P 09 846 4696 | office@stfrancis.school.nz | www.stfrancis.school.nz | 2 Montrose St, Pt Chevalier, Auckland | PO Box 44177

Parish News - Sacramental Programme 2025 - (important if you are expecting to send your child to a Catholic College in the future). Registrations are now open for this year's programme.

Criteria required prior to the programme commencing:

- Your child must be baptised Catholic, with a Baptism certificate
- Your child must have had their 9th birthday before the programme starts
- Your child must attend weekend Mass
- At least 1 parent must attend the adult sessions with Father John
- There will be no make-up classes so please ensure your child can make all the classes

Reconciliation (during Lent): Lesson 1 - 9 March, Lesson 2 - 16 March, Lesson 3 - 23 March, Service in the Church - 25 March @ 6.30pm

First Holy Communion: Lesson 1 - 1 June, Lesson 2 - 8 June, Lesson 3 - 15 June, Practice - 21 June in the Church @ 4.00pm, Mass - 22 June @ 9.00am

Confirmation: Lesson 1 - 2 November, Lesson 2 - 9 November, Lesson 3 - 16 November, Practice - 22 November in the Church @ 4.00pm, Mass with Bishop Steve - 23 November @ 9.00am

A donation of \$50 per child is required to cover the cost of resources throughout the programme.

Registration forms available from the back of the Church, the Parish office or the school office.

- The **"Buy the Brick" campaign** continues in order to replenish the Parish's building repairs & maintenance fund. So, be part of history, forever be immortalised and get yourself and/or your loved ones a Brick - refer below. We will be going to print with the next batch of plaques shortly (for donations of \$500+) - so please get in touch quickly with Stuart King and let him know what wording you want on it.



The St. Francis Parish bank account number is: 02-0108-0707331-003 and any queries, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403. And remember, all donations attract a **33% tax refund**.

- **Children's Liturgies** (a break-out session for kids involving a wee bit of gospel and heaps of colouring in and fun discussion) during Sunday Masses is back on during the School Term, recommencing this weekend, 9 February, in the Whanau room - so please come along and join our welcoming Parish community - it will be like a huge play date for the kids, **plus there's the yummy morning teas**. We are always looking for more **parent helpers** to run the Children Liturgy sessions (you only need to do once a term), so please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 if you'd like to join the Team - full guidance and instructions will be provided.
- **Birthday Chocolates** A reminder that all children can receive a chocolate bar the week of their birthday when they attend Mass at St. Francis Church - *not that they need any encouragement to attend Mass*.
- **Parish Morning Teas** Our wonderful welcoming and friendly Parish Morning Teas following Sunday morning Masses has resumed (during the School term), with the first for 2025 this Sunday, 9 February - it's a huge hit with the kids and parents alike. Please contact Stuart if you would like to be rostered on to help out and feel free to bring along any home baking, etc.

The Walking School Bus - even though the roadworks / traffic situation has returned to normal we are still going to carry on the Walking School Bus in the mornings, leaving from behind KFC. We will not be doing the Walking School Bus in the afternoons at this time.

If you would like your child to join the Walking School Bus, or if you would like to volunteer to help please contact Alice alice.larmer@gmail.com

School Canopy update - it's happening!

We are pleased to report that the canopy (*to cover the bottom 2 courts*) fabrication process commences this month, with final installation and Council sign-off planned before the end of April. Exciting times ahead!!!!



Touch Rugby – Term 1 2025 – Games are at Cox’s Bay, Westmere on Tuesday afternoons – starting Tuesday 18th February with the competition running for 7 weeks. There are grades for all year levels from Year 0 – 6. Spots fill up quickly and are on a first in, first served basis. No experience needed! This is a great summer team sport to be involved in! Fantastic for fitness, developing ball skills / coordination and teamwork! Children wear school PE gear and running shoes. Cost is \$450/team. We rely upon parents to help support the teams by coaching / managing – so would love to hear from anyone available. Please contact Annalies Donald on 027 467 7170 or annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz



Year 5 & 6 Basketball – Friday Afternoons – Any Year 5/6 children interested in playing basketball this term please contact Kate Hanly at hanly.kate@gmail.com Games are Friday afternoons at Ponsonby Intermediate. Places on teams will be first in, first served basis.

Weetbix Kids Tryathlon – East Auckland – Sunday 30th March 2025 – Its time to Swim, Bike, Run & Have FUN!! The Weetbix Kids TRYathlon is a great iconic NZ kids event (ages 6 – 15 years old) with the focus on participation and completion – every finisher gets a medal! There is also the option for children to enter as teams if they would prefer to do it with friends, or don’t feel comfortable doing all three disciplines. The event capacity is 3,000 children and ALWAYS sells out, so if you are keen entries need to be done ASAP to



ensure you get a spot at this popular event! If you would like more info or to join our school team, please contact Annalies Donald at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz For further event information, for times & distances etc please visit – <https://tryathlon.co.nz/>

Foodie Friday Helpers Needed for 2025 – We are looking for people who are keen to assist with our Foodie Fridays for 2025 – either as a one off or regular helper. Foodie Fridays are run a couple of times a term, however we have a large group of helpers, so it may only be once over the year that you assist, or as regular as you like – up to you! We require two parents helpers for each area of the school – Juniors / Middle / Seniors. It involves helping for approx. 1 hour from 12.30pm to set up, hand out pizzas and tidy up. Children love seeing family members helping, so please contact Annalies at annalies.donald@meshconsulting.co.nz if you would like to be involved to help with our Foodie Fridays for 2025!!





Free Quietspace Panels available - We have some leftover quietspace panels 1220mm x 2440mm of various thicknesses and colours from the School Hall ceiling soundproofing. They are also good for notice boards and can easily be cut. Pick-up from St. Francis School. Free to a good home - first in.

Kapa Haka - We are really fortunate to have Whaea Liv starting up Kapa Haka again from next week on Tuesdays. Please encourage your child to join in. Year 5/6 - 10 - 10.30am, Year 3/4 - 10.30 - 11am.

Spanish lessons - The Foreign Language School are wanting to continue coming to St Francis for after school classes which will be based loosely around covering the NCEA Level 1 Spanish and activities, play and games focus. Whilst the day is not confirmed yet (as they gauge interest) if you or anyone you know at the school is interested please contact José Figueira (father of Sienna and Theo) via email: josecoaching@gmail.com with your son and/or daughters names, class and age.

Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris - Lunchtime Soccer lessons with form All White, Billy Harris - Text him on 0272799042 for info and prices.

Private Music / Instrument Lessons - Ignite your child's creativity next school term with our in-school music lessons! In collaboration with Auckland's leading music education provider, the Music Education Centre, we have professional music lessons right at our school. Each lesson is designed to inspire and nurture your child's unique musical interests while making learning both fun and rewarding. With lessons held conveniently at school, it's an ideal option for busy families. Limited spots are available for 2025, so don't wait! For more information on instruments and availability, contact the Music Education Centre at 0800 89 39 39. <https://musiceducation.co.nz/> Leaflets went home this week and are in your child's school bag.

Parent Helpers wanted for the School Disco on Friday the 7th of March 2025.

Please contact Caroline Botting if you would like to help - carolinebotting@gmail.com or 021300205. There will be a Disco volunteers meeting at Nomad Bar (just across the road from school) this coming Tuesday, the 11th of February, at 6.30pm.

New Maths Programme at St Francis - Currently a new NZ Maths Curriculum is being introduced (<https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/nzc---mathematics-and-statistics-years-0-8/5637238338.p>) in response to declining maths results in some parts of the country (not at St Francis!!). The government has given us a choice of 4 different maths programmes we can use, and St Francis has chosen to go with Maths No Problem, a text book based programme developed using the Maths Curriculum from Singapore. While the teachers are still getting to know this new programme we have heard good things from other schools that have been using this programme for some time. For more information check out the Maths No Problem website - <https://mathsnoproblem.com/primary-mathematics-series/new-zealand-2025-edition>



St Francis Dads Support Group aka Darts Night - last Thursday of the month - The first darts session for 2025 will be on **27 February** from 8pm at the Pt Chev. Bowling Club. The quality of the darts playing maybe average, but it's awesome fun - the more the merrier. Please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 for more details and to join the Darts WhatsApp group. No darts experience required.

Iron Bridge - Sponsorship Through Referral Programme:

Property Management Services - St Francis Catholic School is excited to share a unique 'Sponsorship Through Referral Programme' offered by Iron Bridge Property Management.

Through this special initiative, Iron Bridge - a family owned company - are offering discounted residential property management services to friends and family of the school community, while at the same time helping St Francis School.

How It Works:

- Refer someone who becomes a client for Iron Bridge Property Management services. The school will receive a \$500 cash contribution.
- Plus, the new client gets a generous 20% discount on our standard management fee.

We encourage the school community to spread the word about this opportunity through various channels. Please quote 'ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL / IRON BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP' when referring potential clients. Contact Marisa Johnstone (school parent) for more details:

Marisa@ironbridge.co.nz 022 633 5095 www.ironbridge.co.nz



Solace – Your Local Life Insurance Experts Wow those holidays whizzed past! Or did they drag on?? Either way, you've hopefully got a little more free time now to focus on life admin and getting the year off to a good start. This is the perfect time to check in on your financial goals and make sure that everything is in order. Life can be unpredictable, but having the right insurance in place can bring



peace of mind knowing you're prepared for whatever comes your way. At Solace we specialise in helping families like yours find the best life cover and health insurance options to fit your needs and budget. If you're not sure where to start, or just want to review your current coverage, we're here to help! And as previously promoted, if you (or anybody you refer) ends up taking out a protection plan following our guidance, Solace will make a contribution to our St Francis School Canopy project for the covered courts which is still looking for further support. Please spread the word on this opportunity, as we would love to ensure that our St Francis whanau are well protected from unexpected health events, as well as helping us to reach our targets for the covered courts. Contact Mike or Mareesa (parents of Finn and Archie) for more details:

mike@solacefinancial.co.nz 021 765 223 www.solacefinancial.co.nz Check out our 5 star reviews here: <https://tinyurl.com/Solacefinancial>

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FORMERLY ELIZABETH MICHAEL UNIFORMS

Elizabeth Michael Uniforms has just changed its name to Prestidges Schoolwear.

All of the great people, quality, service and style that you know and love about Elizabeth Michael will stay the same now that we are Prestidges Schoolwear and our shop will still be at 65 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland.
So this name change will not effect you as a customer.

If you have already registered as an Elizabeth Michael customer on-line this registration will still be valid on the Prestidges on-line store. If you have not registered to purchase uniform on-line just go to prestidges.co.nz and click Register then follow the simple instructions.

Please call 09 358 1680 or email us at uniforms@prestidges.co.nz if you have any questions.

BACK TO SCHOOL - EXTENDED SHOP HOURS

We close for Christmas at 12.00pm, Friday 20 December 2024
We re-open in the New Year on Monday 6 January 2025 at 9am

Monday - Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Thursday	9am - 7pm
<i>extended hrs - from now until 20 Feb 2025</i>	
Friday	9am - 4pm
Saturday	9am - 3pm
<i>extended hrs - from 11 Jan until 22 Feb 2025</i>	

PARKING - at the front of the building & also at the rear of the building - just off Exmouth St

65 New North Rd, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021
P: 09 358 1680 • uniforms@prestidgesco.nz • www.prestidgesl.co.nz

OfficeMax
MySCHOOL

Order their Back to School stationery now and **beat the rush!**

Class lists are ready to view at myschool.co.nz

Dates for 2025: (2 more government mandated Teacher Only Days to include soon)

- Term 1 - Monday 3 February - Friday 11 April
Public Holidays - School closed: Waitangi Day - Thursday 6 February
(Easter Holidays and ANZAC Day are in the school holidays)
- Term 2 - Monday 28 April - Friday 27 June
Public Holidays - School Closed: King's Birthday - Monday 2 June, Matariki - Friday 20 June
- Term 3 - Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
- Term 4 - Monday 6 October - Wednesday 17 December
Public Holidays - School Closed: Labour Day - Monday 27 October

Coming up this term -

Thursday 6 February - Waitangi Day - Public Holiday - No school

Friday 7 February - Waitangi Liturgy in the Church 11.30am

Tuesday 25 February - BOT meeting

Wednesday 26 February - Year 5/6 Bike Skills

Friday 28 February - 2.15pm Assembly, Year 5/6 Bike Skills

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6 March - Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket Comp - Victoria Park

Friday 7 March - School Disco

Sunday 9 March - The first Sunday of Lent

Thursday 13 March - Year 6 Beach Education Day

Friday 21 March - 2.15pm Assembly

Tuesday 25 March - BOT meeting

Thursday 27 March - Year 5/6 Interschool Softball Comp - Cox's Bay

Friday 11 April - 2.15pm Assembly, last day of Term 1

Lisa Bateman lisab@stfrancis.school.nz or principal@stfrancis.school.nz

bricks 4 kidz **ST FRANCIS SCHOOL**

AFTER SCHOOL LEGO® STEAM CLASSES

Bricks 4 Kidz After School STEAM programmes are essential in equipping students with future-ready skills and a strong educational foundation which empowers them to excel academically and thrive in an AI-driven, technology-focused world.

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STEAM EDUCATION: HANDS-ON STEAM LEARNING | PROBLEM SOLVING | TECHNOLOGY & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE | CREATIVITY & INNOVATION | EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE & SOCIAL SKILLS | IMAGINATION & SELF-EXPRESSION

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

JUNIOR ENGINEER
 Term 4 Topic: Prehistoric Perspectives
 History | Science | Problem Solving | Engineering skills

In Term 4, our Junior Engineers will explore Prehistoric Perspectives, transforming into historians and paleontologists while mastering hands-on engineering. Students will dive into STEAM concepts and bring history to life by building motorised models of prehistoric creatures and artifacts with robotic LEGO®.

FRIDAYS
 Junior Engineer Year 0-6
 Start date: 25 October
 Class time: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
 Location: Garden to Table
 Lesson Cost: \$28

www.bricks4kidz.co.nz | 0800 LEGO 4 K | info@bricks4kidz.co.nz

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEMS SOLVERS

Creative Matters

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASS
 At St Francis Catholic School

MONDAYS 3-5pm
 Starting in week 2 every term



for more information and to book:
creativematters.co.nz

MUSIC education centre

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

The Music Education Centre offers specialist music tuition for a range of instruments including Piano, Guitar, Drums and more!

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Have your child's music lesson right at their school and give them the opportunity to develop their skills through our individualised lessons that're both fun and educational!
 Learning music supports all areas of learning through developing confidence, creativity, concentration and so much more!

To enrol, please visit www.musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment

175 1850 2025
 St Mary's College

ST MARY'S COLLEGE
2025 OPEN DAY
 Thursday 6 March 2025

Two sessions available, commencing 2.30pm & 6.00pm
 Both sessions deliver the same information



Join our Mercy Family
 Enrolments for 2026 open Monday 10 February for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at other year levels
 St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
 Enrolment and application information are available on our website
www.stmaryak.school.nz
 11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland
 A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13

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team.ptchevalier@raywhite.com
www.rwptchevalier.co.nz

Lawrence von Sturmer | 027 227 9294
Jo de Beer | 027 469 4148
Semanie Cato | 021 803 137



After school care 3.00 - 6.00pm Mon to Fri
Holiday programme 8.00am - 6.00pm Mon to Fri
For all enquiries contact:
Jackie Arroyo
M 021 975 642

MSD Approved
Children safety - Onsite care with qualified staff
Venue - School hall is comforting venue for the children
WINZ OSCAR Subsidy Available
Fun - Interactive and stimulating activities, including afternoon tea and homework assistance
Sports - Kids keep fit playing soccer, rugby, cricket, basketball, badminton, and other sport activities.
stfrancispchev@skids.co.nz
www.skids.co.nz/locations/st_francis_pt_chevalier

To Enrol: www.skids.co.nz & Select Find your local Skids



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Phone: 815 0696

www.veterinarycare.co.nz

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Creative Matters

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASS

AT ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

MONDAYS 3-5pm
Starting in week 2 every term



for more information and to book:
creativematters.co.nz

**Your children are amazing
already. We just help
them prove it.**

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