



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

2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church - Every 25 years, A jubilee Year takes place in the Catholic Church. It is a special Holy Year, a time for forgiveness and new beginnings. We are encouraged to make a particular effort to come closer to God, reach out with love to one another and to appreciate and protect God's creation.



Ash Wednesday - Ash Wednesday is coming up soon. You are welcome to join us at our liturgy on Wednesday the 5th of March at 2.00pm in the Church. If you have any palms from Palm Sunday last year can you please send them to school for burning (Ash Wednesday ashes are made from the Palm Sunday palms).

Parish News - Sacramental Programme forms are available at the school office.

Donation Tax Refund Time is fast approaching - get your charitable Donations in before the end of March to recover 1/3 in the form of a Donation Tax Refund. We are seeking your kind generosity towards our exciting deck project - refer to the "Buy a Brick" campaign below.

The "**Buy the Brick**" campaign continues in order to replenish the Parish's building repairs & maintenance fund, as well as to fund the proposed new deck and built-in surround seating. So, be part of history, forever be immortalised and get yourself and/or your loved ones a Brick. 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 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) - 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.



Garden to Table -We are very lucky at St Francis to run the Garden to Table programme for all Year 5 and 6 students. This awesome programme helps empower tamariki to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal, and affordable kai. If any whanau has extra lemons or tomatoes at home, Garden to Table would love a donation for upcoming recipes. Please drop off to Kate Hanly in the Garden to Table Room.

Successful Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - A huge thank you to our school community for supporting our sausage sizzle at Bunnings Grey Lynn on Saturday. Over \$1000 was raised to purchase new equipment to support our Garden to Table programme! This fantastic result wouldn't have been possible without an amazing group of parents (and students) giving up their time to help with organisation, cooking and serving.




We'd also like to acknowledge the wonderful connection a school parent has established for us with Bunnings, leading to their generous support of our school vegetable garden. Last week Bunnings Grey Lynn provided seedlings, soil and an upgrade for some of our vegetable garden beds. We are incredibly grateful for this partnership and look forward to our ongoing relationship with Bunnings Grey Lynn!



 **Run Club is Back!**  Run Club is back for the term! Join us every Wednesday morning at 8:00am inside the school gate. All kids are welcome, and parents are encouraged to join in—whether to run alongside or cheer



the kids on! This term, we'll be focusing on building up to the triathlon, with our final session on Wednesday, 26th March. To stay updated with weekly messages, please contact Anne McGregor on 021 866 108 to be added to the Run Club WhatsApp group. See you on the track! 

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/>

Well done – to Dominic Franich (Room 4) for giving up his weekend to raise money for the Heart Foundation with his Uncle.



Attendance Dues – Information live on the parent app.

Payable for 2025 school year:

\$133.00 per term (\$532.00 per year) including GST.

Attendance Dues can be paid in full at the beginning of the school year, per term or by regular installment. For financial assistance please contact lisab@stfrancis.school.nz

Voluntary Donations: Building Contributions (Tax deductible)

1 child – \$30.00 per term (\$120.00 per year)

2 children – \$50.00 per term (\$200.00 per year)

3 children or more – \$70.00 per term (\$280.00 per year)

Special Character Contributions:

\$15.00 per term (\$60.00 per year)

Internet Banking – St Francis Catholic School A/C 12 3020 0386688 00

Particulars – Attendance Dues. Reference – Surname



ATTENDANCE DUES

Providing for Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese

Attendance Dues are used to pay for building related costs at Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese. Paying Attendance Dues is a condition of enrolment for all students attending New Zealand Catholic Schools. Attendance Dues are compulsory – there is a legal requirement for parents and caregivers to pay Attendance Dues under the Education and Training Act 2020.

ATTENDANCE DUES ARE:		
2025	2024	2023
per term incl GST	\$133	\$133
per term excl GST	\$122	\$122

For more information:
<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/2/>
Phone: (09) 360 3040 Email: ac@ca.org.nz

No flow, & no splash at mat time | For us, and our children after us.

St Francis Whānau – Get Ready to Party!

Date: Next Friday, March 7

Dress up theme: Summer Beach Party! Think tropical vibes, surfers, lifeguards, or anything fun that brings the beach to life. Adults, feel free to dress up too!

Bring your own picnic and drinks, or you can order Domino's pizzas and drinks via Kindo.

Disco Details:

Families are welcome to stay from 3pm—bring a picnic and relax until it's time to disco.

Disco Sessions:

- Years 1-3: 5:30pm – 6:15pm (Pizza pick-up: 5:00pm – 5:30pm)
- Years 4-6: 6:30pm – 7:15pm (Pizza pick-up: 6:00pm – 6:30pm)

We Need Your Help!

We're still looking for helpers, especially from the junior school. If you can lend a hand, please reach out to Caroline Botting (021 300 205). If you have access to or own a classic car, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Caroline. Parents MUST stay at the school disco. This is not a drop-off and pick up event..



Pizza for Disco Dinner!

Orders Open on Kindo Today – Wednesday 26th Feb

Next Friday we will have Pizzas available to collect at two time slots –

- Before the Junior Disco (collection time 5.00pm – 5.30pm) and
- Before Senior Disco (collection time 6.00pm-6.30pm).

There will be Mini (\$7) or Large (\$12) whole pizzas available in –

- Cheese
- Ham & Cheese
- Gluten Free / Vegan Dietary Options (Large Only)
- There will also be Sprite / Juice / Water available to order.

Ordering must be done via Kindo before ordering closes 8pm Wednesday 5th March.

Please make sure that you update your ordering details in Kindo to your child's name – not under parents names, and the child/ren must be connected to their 2025 class. Please make sure you select the correct timing for when you want to enjoy your pizza.

We ask that everyone take home all pizza boxes to minimise the impact of recycling / rubbish for the school.

Orders close 8pm Wednesday 5th March. No late orders, so please get your orders in before ordering closes.

Canopy Update – As noted last week, the fabrication process for the new canopy commences this month with final installation and Council sign-off planned before the end of April.

Next Project – Decking and Seating next to the School upper court and Church. In conjunction with the Church, we are planning on decking the currently unused no-man's land between the School upper turfed court and the Church. The plan is to have built-in bench seating around the perimeter of the deck and around the existing Kauri tree. This will utilise this great space for the School Community parents and kids as well as the Church parishioners for socialising. Accordingly, we are seeking much needed donations to fund this exciting new project, which again



are tax deductible, and can take the form of a “Brick(s)” (refer above). The rudimentary picture above is a “non-artists” impression from Stuart.

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 former 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.



Inner City Auckland Schools cluster free event
Cybersafety parents talk hosted by Bayfield School, Herne Bay

We want our school and our community to be a safe place for all children. Our tamariki are growing up in rapidly changing times, and the risk, frequency, and severity of online harm are increasing. We need to tackle this as a community.

As such, we have organised Filmmaker, Author, and Speaker Rob Cope, Producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover:

- **Cyberbullying** – How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- **Social media** – How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety
- **Gaming and the developing brain** – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- **Online predators** – The methods they use, how to spot them

- And other more adult topics that aren't appropriate for this newsletter

Solutions

- **Filters** – Which filters are best and how to install them
- **Smartphones** – How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- **Boundaries** – How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- **3 golden rules** – The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- **Talking to your kids** – How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage** – Reconnecting as a family.

Here is a promotional video for you to watch [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

The talk will be held at Bayfield School on Monday the 3rd of March from 7 pm–9 pm. Light snacks will be available. Please note this talk is for **adults only** and is **not suitable** for children or teens to attend.

"We have now reached the point where it is irresponsible of us as parents, teachers, health professionals, and policymakers to continue to put these devices, which are designed to elicit addictive-like qualities, in our kids' hands and then expect them to be accountable for their own wellbeing." Dr Samantha Marsh – University of Auckland Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, July 2023

Included in your free ticket is a one-year complimentary subscription to "Parenting in an Online World 101" from Rob and team at Our Kids Online. This is a cybersafety parenting course, designed specifically for NZ families. It usually costs \$99 per family. So show up and get it for free! Course details can be found here [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)

Please sign up here to RSVP

(<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/our-kids-online-parent-evening/auckland/herne-bay>)

St. Francis Dads' Support Group Endless Summer pub crawl – Back by popular demand and before the end of daylight savings, the St. Francis Dads will have a pub crawl on Friday, 4 April – for all new, existing and past St. Francis Dads – everyone is invited. The fun and shenanigans will commence at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club from 5pm, where it will be onwards and upwards to Amblers, Nomads, Cupid Bar and of course Wapiti. To find out where we are on the night and for any queries, please contact Stuart on 027 818 2403.

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 Dads' 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>



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

- Term 1 - Monday 3 February - Friday 11 April
(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 -

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

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday liturgy at 2.00pm - All welcome

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

Friday 7 March - School Disco and Picnic

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, Foodie Friday, 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.

GAIN FUTURE READY SKILLS

- STEAM EDUCATION
- PROBLEM SOLVING
- TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION
- CRITICAL THINKING
- CREATIVITY & INNOVATION
- COLLABORATION & TEAMWORK
- ADAPTABILITY & RESILIENCE

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

JUNIOR ENGINEER
Term 4 Topic: Prehistoric Perspectives

History's Science & Progress
Students & Engineers (STEM)

In Term 4 our Junior Engineers will explore Prehistoric Perspectives, incorporating 3D modelling and paleontological data gathering to create prehistoric structures and bring them to life by building historical models of dinosaurs, machines and artifacts with robots, LEGO!

FRIDAYS
Junior Engineer
Year 0-6

Start date: 25 October
Class time: 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Location: Garden to Table
Lesson Cost: \$0!

www.bricks4kids.co.nz | 0800 LEGO 4 K | info@bricks4kids.co.nz

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS & PROBLEM 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, Drum 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've both fun and educational! Learning music supports all areas of learning through developing confidence, creativity, concentration and so much more!

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

RoyWhite

RAY WHITE PT CHEVALIER

Premium service is our priority. Your locally based team bringing unmatched knowledge and a stellar track record, ensuring seamless property solutions tailored to you. Trust us for the best outcome in renting, buying & selling.



338 Pt Chevalier Road
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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Email: panchelectrical@gmail.com

Call Michael 021 654 999



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0800 77 22 64
or go to
www.cbmnz.org.nz/kyle

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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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numberworksnowords.com/nz

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RESULTS

ENGLISH & MATHS
Free assessment
Book now!