

**Term 4 2025**

St Francis  
Catholic School

Board of Trustees Newsletter



How quickly the year has flown! As we approach the end of another busy and successful year, the Board would like to thank all our parents and whānau for the incredible support you've shown. Your time, energy and generosity have helped our children continue to thrive and grow.

We also wish to acknowledge our talented and dedicated staff. The strength of our school community, and the successes we celebrate are fostered in a positive learning environment where students, staff and whānau are all encouraged to contribute and feel valued.

Finally, we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Father John for the warm and positive way he supports our school and parish. We are truly fortunate to have his leadership in our community.

### **2025 Board of Trustees**

**Presiding Member:** Phil Joyce

**Principal:** Lisa Bateman

**Proprietor's Representatives:** Father John Webb,  
Stuart King, Phil Joyce, Susan Milne

**Parent Representatives:** Lisa Dixon, Patrick Gorringe,  
Nick Jones, Adrian Stevanon, Mike Connellan

**Staff Representative:** Olivia Neary

**Board Secretary:** Janet Skinner



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### **Catholic Special Character**

There have been many Catholic Special Character opportunities this year. Our teachers received awards at the annual Dedication Mass, our new teachers have completed qualifications in Catholic education, and all of our teachers have now completed professional development for the new RE curriculum. Three of our students received awards at the Catholic Caring Mass, and we've enjoyed events such as Grandparents Day Mass, the Kāhui Ako Māori Mass and Pasifika Mass, and we are looking forward to our Advent / Christmas / Nativity celebrations. Last weekend, we welcomed our new families at the Sunday Welcome Mass.

### **ERO report**

We're delighted to have had a very positive ERO report in October, which highlights the school's strong, values-driven leadership and inclusive culture that promotes belonging and achievement. Collaborative relationships between staff, whānau, and students support engaging learning environments and high expectations.

### **Key Priorities identified by our Senior Leadership Team, and endorsed by ERO:**

- Strengthen writing programmes to promote equitable and accelerated achievement.
- Refine internal assessment systems to better inform teaching and learning.
- Deepen integration of te reo Māori, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori across the school.

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### Student Achievement

With the ongoing changes to national education policy / curriculum continuing to unfold, we remain firmly focused on reading, writing, and maths as the foundations of learning. Our achievement levels remain strong, and we'll continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

Progress and Achievement Data – Below is our Mid Year data for learners who had already achieved the expected standards for the academic year in June.

Percentage of students at or above the expected end of year level	Reading	Writing	Maths
Y2	72%	63%	78%
Y3	76%	76%	62%
Y4	97%	79%	95%
Y5	84%	61%	73%
Y6	86%	71%	71%
Overall	84%	70%	76%

Same time 2024	Reading	Writing	Maths
Y2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Y3 cohort, when in Y2	92%	76%	100%
Y4 cohort, when in Y3	93%	75%	80%
Y5 cohort, when in Y4	83%	76%	79%
Y6 cohort, when in Y5	80%	60%	71%

We look forward to the End of Year Data being published in November. We expect to see our usual high levels of 'achieving at or above the expectation' across the curriculum.

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### Property

You may have noticed the lovely new deck beside the church, providing extra play space and seating for students, and a great asset for the parish community. This project was funded through school fundraising, parish support, and a community grant. Special thanks to Stuart King for coordinating this project.

### Strategic Objectives

Parent and staff surveys are helping shape our new 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, currently in development. Below is a summary of progress on our 2023–2025 goals, all of which have now been completed, or will be by the end of 2025.

- School-wide rebrand implemented
- Increased student agency – self regulation, independence, empowerment etc
- Focus on mental health and wellbeing
- Literacy improvement across the school
- Development of local curriculum and new RE and Aotearoa NZ Histories areas
- Review of behaviour management documentation



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#### Policy Review

Our policies are reviewed regularly at each Board meeting. You can access them at SchoolDocs (Username: *stfrancis* | Password: *brave*). Recent reviews include Abuse Recognition and Reporting, Child Protection, and Safety Checking.

#### Board Meetings

Our next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25 November at 6.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend. Meeting minutes are available from the school office, and any questions can be directed to our Chair **Phil Joyce** ([pjoyce@fyersjoyce.co.nz](mailto:pjoyce@fyersjoyce.co.nz)).

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Together, we make our school a truly special place for our tamariki to learn and grow.

Ngā manaakitanga,

St Francis Catholic School

Board of Trustees

