



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

Thank you to Year 5 and 6 for reluctantly giving back control of the school newsletter. You did a great job, and kept us entertained with your jokes, interviews and wordles.

Advent: Week 2 – Advent Week 2 is about HOPE and PREPARATION. Advent is the time before Christmas when we get ready for Jesus' birthday. It lasts four weeks, and each week has a special meaning.

- In Week 2, we light the second purple candle on the Advent wreath. This candle is called the "Bethlehem Candle" or the "Candle of Faith."
- It reminds us of hope—that God promised to send a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus.
- We also think about John the Baptist, who told people to get ready for Jesus by being kind and loving.



Explaining to children: "This week, we pray and do good things to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Just like you clean your room before a special guest comes, we clean our hearts by loving others and saying sorry for mistakes."

Parish News – **Sponsor a Christmas Gift** for Children spending Christmas at the 'Mother's of Divine Mercy' Women's Refuge next door – If you are able, please wrap and label your gifts with gender and age it is suitable for. Gifts can be left at the School Office until the last day of school. Thanks for your ongoing generosity.



St. Francis Parish Christmas Eve Family Mass – The wonderful children of St. Francis will lead the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please contact Stuart King on 027 818 2403 should you wish your angel to have a brief reading role, eg: a few sentences of a Prayer of the Faithful. There are only 3 reading roles left, so first in gets it. There are also a few kids required to carry up the Offertory. Stuart will forward the wording this week so the kids can practice their allocated reading role. Also, there will be an array of Christmassy costumes available on the day for those kids that want to dress-up, with Erin Joyce and Evie Atkinson-Burns being on hand to assist the kids as required.



Attendance Dues

This is a friendly reminder for parents and caregivers that Attendance Dues must be paid in full by 15 December 2025. Families who are paying by instalments are exempt from paying in full by the given date, but must commit to continuing payments until the account is paid in full. Please confirm your arrangement with the school office prior to the end of the school year. Failure to pay the account in full by 15 December 2025 may result in the Attendance Dues being sent to Auckland Common Fund Ltd (unless you contact the Principal or the Attendance Dues Office at the Diocese – 09 3603040).

Christmas Walking School Bus this Friday – Friday the 12th of December – 9.30am(ish). The children can dress up in their “christmas gear” rather than uniform – tinsel, christmas hats, santa costume, nativity costumes, angels, reindeer, mary and baby jesus etc etc. If the children don’t want to wear a costume / christmas gear, they could wear red, white or green (the theme of the Nativity play in the afternoon). Route through Pt Chev TBC.



Christmas Nativity Play this Friday – Friday the 12th of December at 1.45pm in the hall.

2026 Classroom visits next Monday - Monday the 15th of December - Year 1 - 5 children will be visiting their 2026 classrooms, getting to meet their new teacher and classmates. This is always an exciting time, but can also come with some anxiety (for children, and parents) about change. Please be assured that we have put a lot of time and thought into 2026 placements. You can help your child/children approach this change positively by discussing it in a reasonable and supportive manner, focusing on the positives. Remember being in a classroom with friends is important, but it isn't the most important thing. Children are at school to learn, so placing them with a suitable teacher / similar peers is very important!

Prizegiving Mass next Tuesday - Tuesday the 16th of December - Our annual gathering at St Benedict's Church for our Prizegiving Mass, led by Father John. **It is compulsory for Year 4 - 6 students to attend, and Year 1 - 3 students are highly encouraged.** If your Year 1 - 5 child is receiving an award at Prizegiving you will have been notified via email already. Please keep this a secret so the children are surprised on the night. Year 6 trophy winners will not be notified as they will all be in attendance anyway. Children need to be in full school uniform.

- During the school day - Year 6 students visit St Patrick's Cathedral and St Benedict's Church
- 5.30pm - Year 6 students and their families arrive at St Benedict's Church
- 5.45pm - All other students and families arrive at St Benedict's Church, children meet their teacher downstairs and sit with their teacher / class throughout the Mass
- 6.00pm - 7.30pm - Mass / Prizegiving

St Benedict's Church - 1 Saint Benedicts Street, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1010. Parking on side streets or in the carpark across the road.



Last day of School for 2025 - Wednesday the 17th of December - School finishes at 1.00pm



Molly, age 8

StepsGuy is on the beach and a monster and a dragon screamed at StepsGuy, Fantasy movie.

Congratulations - Room 3 submitted artwork for the StepsGuy Makes a Movie Competition. Molly Cummins' entry has been selected for the People's Choice Competition. Please give her a vote to be in to win a \$50 Warehouse voucher by hitting like/react. Link to vote:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1443034077199949&set=pcb.1443034437199913>

Congratulations to our champion football players – The Blue Wolves; Theo, Ari, Harry, Emerson, Bruno and John, who won their grade at Western Springs this season.



Staffing for 2026

Year 5 and 6 – Mr Wright (Room 8), Mrs Jones (Room 4) and Miss Albrecht (Room 6)

Year 3 and 4 – Mrs Hart (Room 3), Miss Kang (Room 5) and Mrs Evans / Mrs Waite (Room 7)

Year 2 – Mrs Wishart (Room 11), Miss Ryan (Room 10)

Year 1 and 2 – Miss Besselink (Room 9) – oldest Year 1 students and youngest Year 2 students – same amount of ‘weeks at school’

Year 1 – Miss Nilles (Room 12) and Miss Nadarajah (New Entrants)

- Having composite classes (e.g. Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6 together) means that we can have smaller class numbers and specialist teachers across our school. The cohorts that we put together are generally working at the same curriculum level, so being in a composite class is beneficial for teaching and learning as well. All round, a win-win situation!!

Junior School Fun Day – thank you to the parent helpers!!!!



Congratulations to our Kapa Haka group, Choir and Ukulele players who all performed at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Selwyn Village last Friday night. Thank you letter from Selwyn Village -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D_T_oPMcTqUuOvjig7OFw3YbZaGM~ch/view?usp=sharing

St. Francis Dads' Support Group aka Darts Night - last Thursday of the month to recommence in February 2026

- The next and **FIRST** stupendous darts session for 2026 is on Thursday, 26 February, from 8pm, at the Pt. Chev. Bowling Club. The more the merrier - all Dads are

very Welcome - no darts experience is necessary given the majority of us are woeful. Contact Stuart on 027 818 2403 to join the Dad's WhatsApp group.



Yet another Dad's session - Golf this time! - As a result of an unscientific poll taken last week at Darts, it was decided the St. Francis Dads deserve to have a golf session (accompanied by drinks). The shambolic affair will be held at 2pm on 20 February at Chamberlain public Golf course. It's a while away, but best to put it in the diary now so the fun won't be trumped by work or family. It's got "working from home" that afternoon written all over it. The plan is to play 9 holes Ambrose, which for those not in the know, means it will be a golf team format where all players on a team tee-off, and the best shot is selected for the team to play their next shot from. In short, it means muppets can play and no golf experience is required. Green fees for 9-holes is \$20 per person. Please RSVP to Stuart on 027 818 2403 so we can track numbers and in order for him to give the Golf Course a heads-up. The more the merrier.

Dates for 2026: (a couple of Teacher Only Days sometime in Term 3 and 4)

- Term 1 - Tuesday 3 February - Thursday 2 April. Public Holidays - Waitangi Day: Friday 6 February, Good Friday: Friday 3 April.
- Term 2 - Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July. Public Holiday - ANZAC Day: Monday 27 April, King's Birthday: Monday 1 June.
- Term 3 - Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September.
- Term 4 - Monday 12 October - Wednesday 16 December. Public Holiday - Labour Day: Monday 26 October.

2026 Back to school stationery – order now! We've teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to make your back to school shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5 \$1000 cash prizes*. Your child's class list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm – and OfficeMax MySchool will get it underway, with free delivery on orders over \$70*. You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Zip[#] is also available, so you can pay in 4 interest free payments over 6 weeks and still get your order right away. Plus, you'll be helping our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school. Quotes for WINZ are available by contacting 0800 724 440 or via email enquiry@myschool.co.nz. We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1. So go ahead and beat the back to school rush, order today with OfficeMax MySchool and give them the best start possible.

*#Zip Pay in 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to completion of satisfactory credit checks. For more information visit myschool.co.nz/zip. T&Cs and late fees apply. Zip Co NZ Finance Limited FSP 598969. *T&Cs apply, see myschool.co.nz for details.*



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

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



Pt Chev Drama Club comes to St Francis for 2026

– NZ Actress, Nicole Whippy, famous for Tina, Outrageous Fortunes and Shortland Street, will be hosting drama classes at St Francis next year on Thursdays after school. First in, first served!! Sign up below:

<https://enrolmy.com/point-chevalier-drama-club>

Coming up this term -

Friday 12 December – Christmas Walking School Bus 9.30am, Nativity Play 1.45pm

Sunday 14 December – Third week of Advent

Monday 15 December – Children visiting 2026 classes 11.30am – 12.30pm

Tuesday 16 December – Prizegiving Mass at St Benedict's Church 6.00pm, Y6 visit the Auckland Cathedral and St Ben's Church

Wednesday 17 December – Last day of school – **school finishes at 1.00pm**

**Point Chevalier
Drama Club.**

EXCITING NEWS!

AFTER-SCHOOL DRAMA CLASSES AT ST FRANCIS PRIMARY
STARTING 2026 | AGES 7+



Free Trial Classes - Register Now

<https://enrolmy.com/point-chevalier-drama-club>

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

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

Grey Lynn Ph 360 0816
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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

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**Mention this advert at the time of selling and you'll receive a 10% fee discount, plus we'll donate \$1,000 to St Francis School upon a successful sale. *T&Cs apply.*



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Jo de Beer | 027 469 4148
Linda Tomokino | 027 520 8062
Lawrence von Sturmer | 027 227 9294



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL
Ages 6-13
3-5 p.m. Mondays
STARTS WEEK 2 OF EVERY TERM
3pm supervised afternoon tea
3.30pm art starts

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