



St Francis Catholic School

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



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Year 5/6 students - 'TE ARATAKI TEAM' - TAKE OVER THE NEWSLETTER!

This is our final week of the Te Arataki newsletter takeover! We have another packed-out final week, keeping you up to date with some of the exciting things Te Arataki and the rest of the school have been up to. Additionally, please complete the Wordle at the end of the newsletter as our final activity, which serves as a sneak peek of something coming up in Term 2 2026.

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.



Christmas Mass Timetable at St Francis Church:

- Advent Reconciliation: Rite 2 Tuesday 9 December at 7.30pm
- Christmas Eve Masses: Selwyn Village 3.30pm, Parish Family Mass 6pm, Croatian Mass 8.30pm
- Christmas morning Masses: English Mass 9am, Croatian Mass 11am

Buy a Brick - We are very grateful for the recent bricks donated. Our "Buy a 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.



All books (library and school readers) to be returned Friday 5th December.

The library will be closed from Week 10 for a stocktake. Even if the books are from last year, we will take them all! We have many gaps in our class set, so check behind sofas, under beds, on car floors, toy boxes and any crazy places you can think of.

Senior Playground Cover - Grant approved - The School Board of Trustees are happy to announce the successful grant application for \$3,956 from the Trillian Trust for a new cover (total cost \$4,951) over the senior playground to replace the existing damaged one. The new cover should be up before the beginning of Term 1. Thank you Mr King for your work on getting this grant (and all the other grants we have had in the last few years!)

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).

Garden Club update

The Garden Club went to Bunnings to buy plants to beautify the school and support Garden to Table. Thank you all for buying our products this year so we can be St Francis people caring for nature. We look forward to selling our products to you again in 2026.



Top attendance!

Congratulations to the following children, who received certificates last week for having the best attendance in the school for 2025:

- Sienna Figueira Rm8
- Theo Figueira Rm9
- Emily Joyce Rm7
- Joshua Kuplich Rm10
- Aura Han Rm3
- Brennan Burmester Rm8
- Sio Huhane Rm4

"Success in school begins with showing up."

Weetbix kids triathlon interview of Eddie Donald (Room 2) by Gino Johnstone & Nico

Gagna-Mariadas (Room 2) - Last Tuesday, 5 of our St Francis students attended the final Weetbix triathlon of the year. Here is what one of the participants, Eddie Donald, had to say about it all!

What do you do in the weetbix triathlon? A: You swim, bike and then run.

What did you enjoy about the triathlon Eddie? A: I enjoyed the swim because I was in the second group that started, but once I finished my swim, I was second out of my whole age group.

What was the worst bit about the triathlon? A: The worst part about the triathlon was waiting around after my event.

Was the weetbix at the breakfast tent good? A: It was awesome. I had my Weet-Bix with some milk, fruit and sugar .Overall the Weetbix kids triathlon was awesome.

So remember their number 1 saying, give it a try!



Brain Teasers by Aishah and Posey Room 4

I am full of holes but I can still hold water. What am I?... A sponge

I am tall when I'm young, I am short when I am old. What am I?... A candle

What can make an octopus laugh?... Ten tickles (tentacles)

Why did the skeleton not go to the party? Because it had nobody to go with...

Jokes by Room 4

Q-What did the Scar say to the bus driver? A-Mutasa (move fasta)

Q-How much does a chimney cost? A-Nothing it's on the house

Q-Why should you never give Elsa a balloon? A-She will let it go

Will you remember me in 1 year and 10 years? Knock knock. Who's there? You forgot me.

An interview with... our Gifted Art group teacher, Ms Heather Stewart

What inspired you to do mosaic art? A: Mrs Bateman wanted more colour around the school.

What images have inspired the children? A: We wanted some religious symbols and also some symbols of nature.

Have you ever been asked to create a specific piece for someone? A: Lots of times. Lots of people have asked me to paint a picture of their pet.

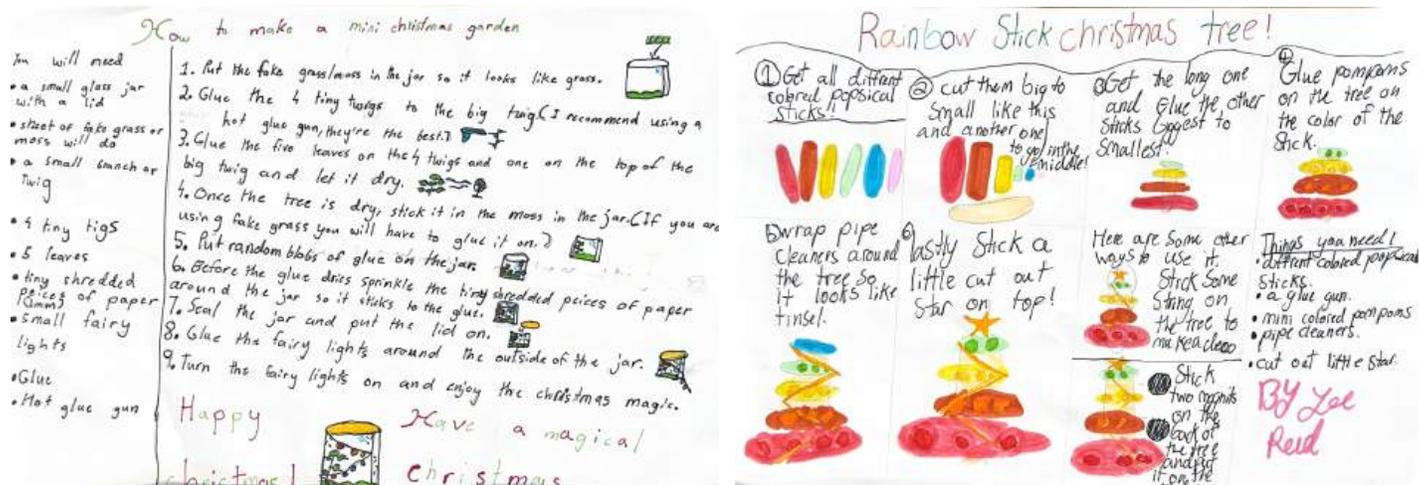
What type of art do you like? A: Pastel painting.

What are your plans for our art? A: When they're done we're going to place them somewhere where the children can enjoy them.

The entrepreneurial spirit is strong at St Francis – a group of Room 7 business people raised \$249.80 for charity last week.



Christmas Crafts by Elspeth Joyce & Zoe Reid (Room 2)



Te Ako Māori Word of the week:

miha
(mass)

St. Francis Dads' Support Group aka Darts Night - last Thursday of the

month - A good turnout of the faithful last Thursday for the last darts session for the year, including newbie Ben Dallimore. Munsie wins once again and retains both trophies (darts and money round) for 3 months - there was nothing jammy about that.

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.



GINGERBREAD MEN by Jackson McGregor (Room 2) poster by Caesar Holani & Nate Caine (Room 2) - For all you interested in Christmas baking, here is a recipe on how to make gingerbread men!

Ingredients:

- 350g plain flour, plus a bit extra for dusting
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 125 g butter
- 175 g brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 4 tbsp golden syrup
- Icing in whatever colours you like

What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C
2. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper
3. The flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon, and butter are whisked in a food processor until you have a mixture that resembles breadcrumbs.
4. Stir in the sugar.
5. Beat the egg and golden syrup together, then add them to the food processor. Whisk again until the mixture forms clumps.
6. Tip the dough out onto a clean surface. Knead until smooth, wrap in clingfilm and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
7. Roll the dough out on a surface lightly dusted with flour, so that it's about half a centimetre thick. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread twin shapes and place them carefully on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.
8. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly golden brown on top. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling.
9. When cooled, you can pair up your little figures and decorate them with the icing. You could make each set of gingerbread men identical, or you might want to make one a bit more untidy than the other.



Christmas Elves Play by Room 2

Elfena: Ah what a lovely day it is.

Santa: We need to make presents.

Ralph: I want Christmas cookies and milk.

Elfey: How many days till christmas?

Ralph: How should I know?

Santa: It's in 22 days.

Elfena: Shivers, we need to start making presents quickly.

Elfey: Oh cookies.

Ralph :Ok, let's get ready.

Elfena: We will meet at the workshop.

Elfey: Be there in a reindeer gallop.

Ralph: Let's get on the reindeers.

Elfena: Ok to the showers we go!

Santa: There's no time for that.

Elfey: So what were we talking about?

Elfena: You always forget everything.

Santa: Christmas cookies, we need to get wrapping.

Ralph: Let's get wrapping.

Elfena & Elfey: Yeah.

Santa: That's everyone on the list.

Elfey,Ralph,Elfena: All done.



Touch Rugby at Cox's Bay

Over the term, five St Francis teams have taken to Cox's Bay Reserve each week – rain or shine!

Many of our players are from the junior school or are trying touch rugby for the very first time.

It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they learn to pass (backwards!), take clean touches, work together as a team, and of course... RUN FAST.

On finals day, our Year 3 Flames put up a great fight and narrowly missed out on the win, while our Year 4 Jets came away victorious after a hard-fought game against determined opposition.

A huge well done to all our teams for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and awesome effort on the field!

Intercity Athletics - by Emily and Georgia Room 2

First race-800meters Sprints: From the girls of St Francis Isla Miskimmons was chosen to race, she had quite some competition. We cheered from the sideline like crazy maniacs! She came 4th. From the boys of St Francis Lachlan Gorringe. He came 2nd.

Second race-100meters Sprints: From 9 year old girls were-Posey S,Veida C and Emily MH. From 9 years old boys were-Axel C and Ryder C. From 10 years old the girls were-Florentina K,Alexandra N and Victoria N. From 10 years old boys were-Oscar M,Nico G and Charlie O. From 11 years old girls were-Isla M and Anthea P. From 11 years old boys were-Lachlan G,Gino J and Sam S.

200meters- From 9 year old girls were- Posey S,Veida C and Emily MH.

High jump- From 9 year old girls were- Emily MH. From 9 years old boys were-Eddie D. From 10+ years old the girls were-Addison C,Isla M. From 10+ years old boys were-Lachlan G,Sam S.

Long jump- From 9 year old girls were- Mia J and Lillian D. From 9 years old boys were- Ryder C. From 10+ years old the girls were-Florentina K,Georgia R. From 10 +years old boys were-Gino J and Declan R. Relays- Lachlan G,Gino J,Isla M and Emily MH . Overall our Inter City Athletics team did really well!!



A message for the Junior School from Mrs Wishart - Dear parents, at the end of this week "readers" will cease going home with junior classes so we can stocktake to check we still have complete class sets. Please help your child to check their school bags, book bags and bedrooms - all readers come back to us this week!!



Last Foodie Friday of 2025 - Ice blocks this Friday. Kindo orders close at 8.00pm tonight!!

Our aim is to get enough orders & donation orders so the whole school can enjoy an iceblock this Friday at morning tea!

Please get your orders through on Kindo before they close. Thank you for all your support for Foodie Friday this year, and a MASSIVE thank you to all the parents helpers that make it possible!

A reminder that all regular Foodie Friday funds go towards paying off the small loan we got from the Catholic Diocese to pay off our canopy.

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.

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Wordle

This is a Wordle, a Wordle is a game where you have to try to guess a certain word with *ONLY* 6 attempts, and you can try to guess or figure out the word with your classmates or family. The word has something to do with an event happening next year in term 2, we are very excited!

<https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=pochyovfz>



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>

Big things coming up in the next 2 weeks:

Year 6 Graduation Mass and Dinner – This Friday

4.45 PM – Parents and graduates arrive

5.00 PM – Mass at St Francis Parish

6.00 PM – 8:30 PM – Shared dinner in St Francis School Hall

8.30 PM – Clean up

Christmas Walking School Bus – 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.

2026 Classroom visits – 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 – 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 be notified the week before. Year 6 trophy winners will not be notified as they will all be in attendance anyway.

5.30pm - Year 6 students arrive

5.45pm - All other students and families arrive

6.00pm - 7.30pm - Mass / Prizegiving

Coming up this term -

Friday 5 December - Foodie Friday, Year 6 Grad Mass and Dinner 5.00pm

Sunday 7 December - Second week of Advent

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**

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

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Jackie Arroyo
M 021 975 642

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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.
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 3pm supervised afternoon tea
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