



# St Francis Catholic School

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



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**St Patrick's Day** - This is celebrated each year on 17th March in honour of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. As a feast day in the Catholic Church, it celebrates St Patrick's missionary work in bringing the Christian faith to Ireland. Tradition says he used the shamrock to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). As a school community, we celebrated this special day yesterday, giving thanks for St Patrick's faith, courage, and commitment to sharing the Gospel. We will also be holding a school liturgy to mark this feast day alongside the feast of St Joseph, taking time together to reflect on the example both saints give us.



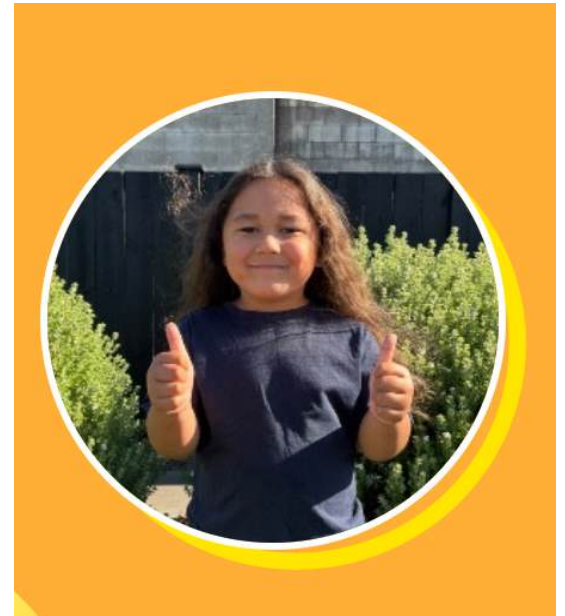
### Parish News – Tax season

Tax season is fast approaching – please get your Church tax deductible donations in before 31 March – maybe even get a brick. What a fantastic Gift idea for a loved one(s) – Personalised Church brick to be permanently remembered.



### Taven's (Room 1) fundraiser – Chop Champ

Taven (Room 1) is fundraising with 'shave for a cure' for Blood Cancer New Zealand by having his first ever haircut in April! After his cut, Taven is donating his hair to Freedom Hair, who make wigs for people affected by hair loss, for such reasons as cancer treatments. Leukaemia is very close to his family's hearts, and Blood Cancer NZ are an incredible charity. Taven's cousin and Aunty Sam were both diagnosed with leukaemia in 2022. In 2024, Taven's cousin went into remission, but Aunty Sam gained her angel wings. It's a big deal for Taven to be receiving his first haircut, but his family are so proud of his generous heart ❤️ If you want to donate to this amazing cause, please click the link [here](#)



### Upcoming Dress Ups – optional

See if you can work out from this wordle what we will be celebrating on Friday 20 March (the actual day is a Saturday) – We'll give you a clue – look at the poster to help you with you answer. <https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=kruvzb>



# Room 6's learning from Muriwai Beach

A Muriwai Beach poem by Lucy and Florentina

End of the water stretching far and wide

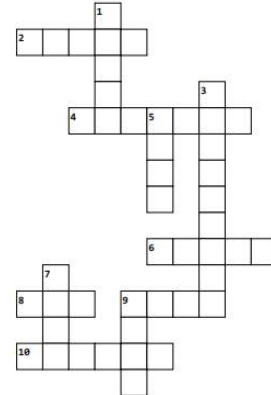
where black sand meets the roaring tide

the charcoal sky, a misty grey, and lonely cliffs that guard the bay

A breath of salt, a surging, free untamed, free expanse of lonely sea.

white winged gannets dive and soar above the wind and crashing shore

## Muriwai Beach Crossword



### Across

- 2. Something you should do in a rip.
- 4. A suit that keeps you warm in the ocean.
- 6. Something you can find on beaches to swim between.
- 8. A big, dangerous patch of water.
- 9. Something you will find on the floor on beaches.
- 10. A patch of rubbish floating in the middle of the ocean.

### Down

- 1. The second step to get out of a rip.
- 3. A person you find on beaches which saves people in the ocean.
- 5. You stand on a board and travel on top of the waves.
- 7. The third step to get out of a rip.
- 9. A sport you do in the water.

1. Hi today we are going to tell you about our trip to Muriwai.

2. First we arrived to school in Muffi, and lined outside the GTT room. It was a very Gloomy day.

3. Then we hit the road off to Muriwai. It was a long ride at least 45 minutes, but it was also a fun ride.

4. Once we got there, we met the Life Guards we were going to be with for the day. There was one called Alana, Karilla, Paige, and Kit.

5. They were really nice and sweet. My group was mainly with Karilla and Kit. They took us to the first aid kits.

6. There was a bunch of different things to look at. But they main thing we looked at was a de-fib. It practically just starts your heart again.

7. Then we looked at a Dool boat called an I.R.B. It stands for Inflatable Rescue Boat. The Life guards use it to save people.

8. Then Alana took us to look at some signs on how to keep safe in the water. It was cool!

9. We went with Paige after, and she showed us how to spot a rip. Calm patches, discolored water, cross waves.

10. Then we had to go in the water. Once we were in our wet suits, we walked down to the beach.

11. After we got out of the water, we headed back and got changed. Then we went with the people we came with and went back to school. And that's what we did on our trip to the beach. THE END

**QUIZ TIME**

- 1. What are the 4 Life Guards names?
- 2. What did Karilla and Kit take us to first?
- 3. How can you spot a rip?
- 4. What does I.R.B stand for?
- 5. How long did the drive take?

BY Mia Uhila Nate Silva, and Alice Kelly.

**Cross Country** – It's that time of year again, when we begin to prepare for our annual School Cross Country event. This will be taking place on Wednesday 6th May.

This is always a great opportunity for our students to challenge themselves, show perseverance, and support one another as they take part in this whole-school event.

To help the day run smoothly and safely, we are looking for parent volunteers to assist along the course and with supervision. If you are available to help on the day, we would greatly appreciate your support. Please email Dan Wright [danielw@stfrancis.school.nz](mailto:danielw@stfrancis.school.nz) if you can volunteer.



**Mothers Day Breakfast - A message for the Year 5 and 6 Mums** – you are cordially invited to the St Francis Mum's Mother's Day breakfast on Friday, 8 May – please

mark in the diary. Stuart will need a few Dads to help out on the day to assemble the yummy bacon/egg muffins from 7:30am – please contact him directly on 027 818 2403.

We are very grateful to New World Point Chevalier for providing the food.



**Pizza Foodie Friday final reminder** – **Kindo orders close tonight at 8.00pm.**

Slices are \$2 per slice and order options are:

- Ham & Cheese
- Cheese
- Gluten Free Cheese
- Gluten Free / Vegan Cheese



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There is the option to also order a juice box for \$2.50, and to 'Donate a Slice' which is an additional donation towards the school fundraising.

Orders must be made and paid for using the 'My Kindo' App or My Kindo website, which you will need to register for and load each child individually – connected with their 2026 classroom. Then complete & pay for their orders. Please make sure your orders are in your children's name and not the parent/caregiver. If you have any questions for the March Foodie Friday (or if you'd like to get involved as parent helper) please contact Angela Franich 021 857 446. No late orders will be included.

**Lost Property Amnesty** – We will be holding a Lost Property Amnesty this Friday. All lost property items will be placed on the front deck from 8:00am, and families are welcome to check them throughout the day.

The amnesty will close at 3:10 pm, and any unclaimed clothing remaining after this time will be added to our second-hand uniform supply. Please take a moment to check for any missing items.



**PMP helpers needed** –

Parents and grandparents, we are continuing our popular and highly valuable PMP programme on Thursday and Friday mornings in Terms 2 and 3. We need YOU! Commit to a weekly or less frequent casual slot.

Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) is a parent-led programme at St Francis School. It develops Y0-2 children's perceptions and understandings of distance, height, and space, as well as their memory. PMP is a step-by-step programme based on physical and sensory activities, repeated over two sessions. Teachers observe the children and note areas for development through the parallel classroom programme.



**Mums Catch Up** – We can't be letting all the dad's have the fun so the mums are arranging



**St Francis Dads' Support Group aka Darts Night** – Last Thursday of the month – The next stupendous darts session for 2026 is on Thursday, 26 March, 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.



**Dad's Golf session** – If there is enough interest, the Dads new golf date/venue is 27 March at 4pm at Huapai Golf Course (1261 Coatesville Riverhead Highway – around 20mins from School), 9 holes Ambrose, \$43 Green Fees.

Please RSVP to Stuart on 027 818 2403 or advise via the Dad's WhatsApp Group so we can track numbers and in order for him to give the Golf Course a heads-up. The more the merrier.

**Community message** - From the Pt Chev Sports Clubs / Bowling Club - There was an amazing turn out to the community meeting. A few calls to action so far for our community:

- \* Join as a member (eg: of the Tennis Club, Bowls Club, Croquet Club and/or Community Garden) to show the numbers of people that are involved
- \* Go to the Givealittle page to make a donation towards the legal fees & share this link far & wide
- \* Possible activity to do at home with the kids - Put some (respectful) pressure on the Anglican Trust to discontinue their claim - write a letter saying why you love the Pt Chev clubs so much or do a drawing / paint a picture. It could simply say: "Please don't try to take away our Tennis, Bowls and Croquet Clubs and our Community Garden, we love & need them." These will be collected from the school.

**Extra Curricular Activities -**

- Skills of Soccer with Billy Harris - Lunchtime Soccer lessons with former All White, Billy Harris - Text him on 0272799042 for info and prices.
- Term 1 After School Art Classes - We're excited to kick off Term 1 from the 2nd Week of Term with our new theme: Abstracted. Inspired by abstract art, children will explore how artists use shape, colour, form and expressive mark-making to communicate ideas and feelings - without needing to create a "perfect" picture. It's all about experimentation, confidence, and creative freedom. Our after school sessions are screen-free, hands-on, and designed to nurture creativity, problem-solving, and self-expression - while building confidence week by week. New to Creative Matters? We offer a single FREE trial class for new after-school students. Love it? Sign up for the term. To book a free trial: [admin@creativematters.co.nz](mailto:admin@creativematters.co.nz)

<https://www.creativematters.co.nz/after-school-art-classes>



**BIG RUGBY**

**ROUND UP**

**28 MARCH 2026**

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

- 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.

**Coming up this week (By Azriyah and Mamie Room 6)-**

- Thursday 19th March – St Patrick’s and St Joseph’s liturgy (in school)
- Friday 20th March – Odd socks day & foodie friday
- Sunday 22th March – Fifth week of lent

**Coming up this term -**

- Tuesday 24 March – BOT meeting 6.30pm
- Wednesday 25 March – Room 6 visiting the Pt Chev library
- Thursday 26 March – Year 5/6 Inner City Softball comp
- Friday 27 March – Assembly 2.15pm
- Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday
- Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April – Holy Week Celebrations
- Wednesday 1 April – Room 11 visiting the Pt Chev library
- Thursday 2 April – Holy Thursday, Last day of Term 1
- Friday 3 April – Good Friday

**Coming up next term -**

St Francis has talent begins... More info to follow!

- Monday 20 April – First day of Term 2
- Wednesday 22 April – Easter Mass 12.00pm
- Friday 24 April – Easter Walking School Bus (dress up)
- Monday 27 April – ANZAC weekend – School closed
- Wednesday 6 May – School Cross Country
- Thursday 7 May – Year 5/6 Inner City Swimming comp
- Friday 8 May – Year 5/6 Mother’s Day Breakfast, Assembly 2.15pm



**EXCITING NEWS!**  
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**After school care**  
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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.  
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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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