



Newsletter 10 February 2025

Kia Ora, Welcome, Hello, Nǐ hǎo, Talofa Lava, Hallo, Salut, Namaste, Bonjour, Bula Vinaka, Guten Tag, Shalom, Cìào, おはよう (Ohayou), 안녕 Ahn Nyeong, Olá, Privat!, Xin Chào, Kia Orana, Malo e Lelei, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Sat Shari Akal, Melo Ni, Halo Ola Keta, Mauri, Fakaalofa Atu, Salam, Welkom.

Key dates

Wed 12 February	PTFA meeting	7pm in the staffroom
Wed 19 February	HPPA Softball Field day	Team at Meadowlands Reserve
Fri 21 February	Start of Year Mass	9am in Parish Church
Tues 25 February	Swimming trials from 11.30am at Lloyd Elsmore	
Tues 25 February	BOT meeting	7pm in the staffroom
Wed 5 March	Ash Wednesday Mass at 9am for Rms 1,10,11 and 12 Liturgy for Kitea team (time TBC)	
Fri 28 February	Family Fun Night/Colour Run	More info to follow
Wed 19 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews	More info to follow
Thurs 20 March	PHOTOLIFE in school	More info to follow
Fri 21 March	HPPA Interschool Swimming Sports	Swim team at Lloyd Elsmore
Thurs 27 March	Waka Ama and Te Ao Maori fun day	Rms 10 and 12 at Okahu Bay
Fri 28 March	Waka Ama and Te Ao Maori fun day	Rms 1 and 11 at Okahu Bay
Wed 2 April	Cultural festival at Sancta Maria	Dance group performing
Thurs 3 April	Cultural festival at Sancta Maria	Dance group performing
Fri 11 April	Last day of Term 1	

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Please report absences to the school office through the school app or website:

<https://www.stmarks.school.nz/absences.html> or call: 09 576 5296

Kia Ora St Mark's Catholic School whānau

It's been a wonderful start to the new school year and it's awesome to see the children focused and engaged in their learning activities. The school certainly feels calm, settled and happy with confident, caring learners who are following in the footsteps of Jesus through our ABCs and 3Rs - ka pai tamariki!

We extend 3 very warm St Mark's specials to the newest learners to our school family:

Room 4 Aaron, Akein, Annorah, Avamai, Charlie, Elenoa, Inudi, Jay-Jay, Jazzyl, Calvin, Maxwell, Miguel, Noah, Ollie, Salome, Yamato
Room 10 Hanna
Room 12 Annelise (who has been welcomed back after a period of time away)
New staff Mrs Vanessa Hancock (teacher), Mrs Candice Simmonds (teacher in training)

This week, I have spoken to the children about 'giving things a go' and doing 'ordinary things, extraordinarily well'. Already we have children trialling for the school swim team and softball teams. We have had children take an active role in class prayer and liturgical celebrations. Kapa Haka has recommenced and we are pleased to see lots of new members. Senior students are volunteering as road patrol leaders and applying to be PALS and our children are making new friendships and connections - this is just fantastic.

Our inquiry focus for 2025 is inspired by the theme of the Catholic Church's Year of Jubilee, "**Pilgrims of Hope - Manene o te Tūmanako**". Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years.

This Year of Jubilee in the universal Church calls us to embrace, and be renewed in, the hope of Christ—a hope that does not disappoint. We are embarking on a particular time of pilgrimage, and as the Holy Father has reminded us, Jesus, 'is the destination of our pilgrimage'. He is both the way, and the path to be travelled.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli - Diocese of Melbourne, Australia

Throughout 2025, learning will be focused around these key questions:

- How do WE become beacons of hope in a troubled world and share the joy of the Gospel with others?
- What is Jesus calling US to do whenever there is a need to bring about peace, justice and hope in our local environment and the wider world?
- How do WE become more like Jesus - using our heads, hearts and hands to see, hear and act
- What does a fair and just world look like? How can WE contribute to making the world a much better place for all of God's wonderful creation.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to pop into classrooms to say a quick "hi" to your child's new teacher during the first few days of term. School interviews are scheduled for later in the term. These interviews provide the opportunity for teachers to share and discuss your child's individual learning, achievement and progress and for you to share more about your child's interests at home.

We are looking forward to the Family Fun Night/ BYO picnic on Friday 28 February. Once again, we are incorporating a colour run into this event due to the success of last year's event. Please book your spot in the colour run through KINDO (\$5 entry fee). This event is open to the whole family, however pre-schoolers must be accompanied by a paying adult. Please also remember this is a BYO event (picnic, seating and shade) but BYO does not extend to alcohol, smoking or vaping - these are strictly prohibited.

Our School's Catholic Identity



"We can lighten difficult burdens by our thoughtfulness, a kind smile and a little service."
Euphrasie Barbier (foundress of Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each school year begins by learning about the special *MISSION* charism of St Mark's and thinking about the ways we follow in the footsteps of Jesus through our ABCs and 3Rs. Sister Euphrasie Barbier's dream was to bring faith, education and love to the poor and the marginalised. God is on a 'Mission' in each one of us! God's mission is not impossible - it requires us to use our heads, hands and hearts to do HIS work in sharing the Good News to those we meet.

PROPERTY ENHANCEMENTS

Completed works:

During the summer break, the library, teacher resource room and Rooms 4, 4a and 5 had new carpets and vinyl installed. Rooms 1-3 were completely revamped and modernised with extensive interior painting, new autex wall coverings and new carpets. Rooms 1 -3 will have new cabinets installed later this month.

In progress:

We look forward to extending our junior play area with the addition of mud kitchens and playhouses. New soccer goals and rugby posts are to be installed in the next few weeks. Rooms 1 -3 will have new cabinets installed later this month.

PARKING SAFETY

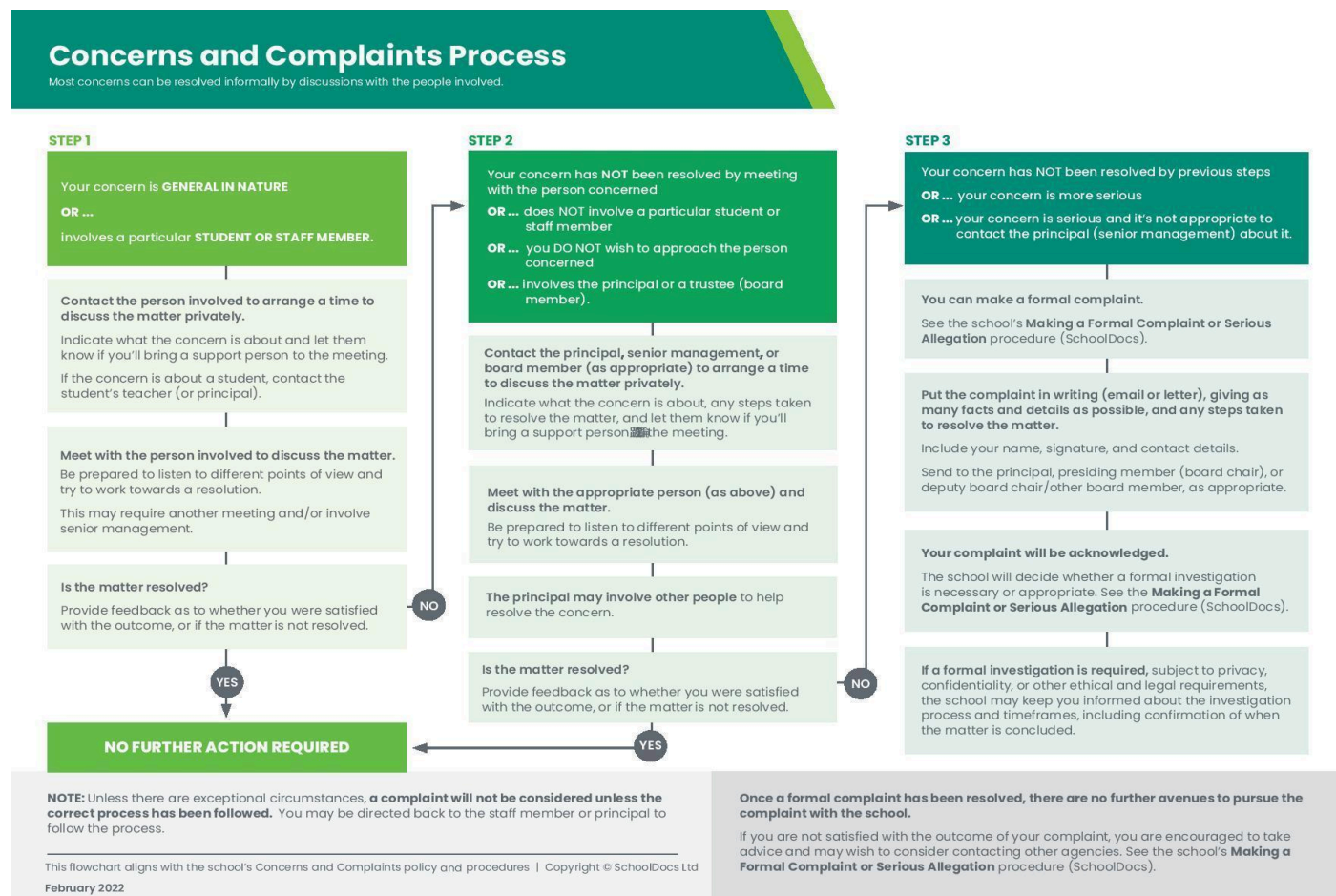
We are very fortunate to be able to park so closely to the school and to have access to a large parking area. When entering the site, please remember to drive slowly (5 -10kms) and to be patient as others reverse into, and exit from, individual parking spots. Please also remember that the shared driveway with the retirement village is a one way system - no-one should be driving up this driveway at any time. During school drop-off and pick-up times, all traffic exiting the shared driveway, should turn left as this assists traffic flow and is much safer for everyone.

REVISED PICK-UP PLAN

You will have received information about the revised pick-up plan. We will monitor the success of this and conduct a short survey in the next few weeks. Alternative arrangements can be negotiated if any person who collects your child has mobility issues or there are other factors for consideration.

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Schools are not perfect places and we acknowledge that from time to time there may be cause for concern. Most concerns can be resolved informally through respectful discussion. Please reference the flowchart below outlining St Mark's Catholic School's Concerns and Complaints Process.



If you have any concerns whatsoever about any aspect of your child's learning and/or wellbeing at school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance or arrange a time to see myself, Mrs Hodgeson (Special Education Coordinator) or one of our Learning Team leaders, Jess Robinson (Kitea Team) or Ushnathi Leaver (Whakatere Team).

Your friend in Christ
Tracey Kopua

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