



## Start of Year News - 24 January 2021

### Tena Koutou and Welcome Back

A huge welcome back to everyone. Our staff have been busy preparing for the new school year. We are eagerly waiting for our tamariki (children) to return to school, so we can see how much they have grown, and hear about the adventures they have had over the summer break.

Teacher Only Days have been planned for the 1st - 3rd of February. **The 2021 school year will begin at 8.55am on Thursday 4th of February.**

I would like to welcome all the new families to our St Joseph's School community. I am sure that you will value the time with us.

A special welcome to Miss. Caitlin O'Sullivan, Mrs. Gerardine Baxter, Mrs. Jacque Porter, and Miss. Lydia Payne who will join the St Joseph's team this year. I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to Ms. Liz Beattie who returns to St Joseph's after a term away on sick leave.

This year, Mrs Verweij is leading the Year 1-2 team. Mrs. Porter and Ms. Baxter will job-share in Timoney 1. Mrs. Fraser is on leave for the first month of term. We are very lucky to have Miss. Payne teaching in Timoney 3 while Mrs. Fraser is away. Miss. Payne is returning to St Joseph's School after teaching overseas for three years. A third teacher will be employed to teach in Timoney 2, in term 3, to manage the roll growth during the year. Mrs. Philpott (A1), Mrs. Tait (A2), and Mrs. Woods (A3) will teach in Ashby.

Ms. Burt (M2) continues to lead the Year 3-4 team. Ms. Burt will teach with Miss Byers (M1), Miss. O'Sullivan (M4), and Mrs. Taylor (M3) in Mercy. Mrs. Judge will also support the Mercy Team across the spaces.

Mrs. Kreft continues to lead the Year 5-6 team. Mrs. Kreft (K1) will teach in Kealy with Mrs. Crampton (K2). Miss. Thwaites (McA 1) will teach in McAuley 1 while Mrs. Walsh is on leave. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Ward will continue to teach in McAuley 2, similar to last year.

Ms. Johns is leading the Year 7-8 team this year. Ms. Johns (H1) will teach with Mrs. Vertogen and Ms. Cook (H2) in Hanrahan. Ms. Tucker and Mr. McGuire will teach in McAuley 3 and 4.

Our Learning Support Team is unchanged from last year. The team includes, Ms. O'Connell (Reading Recovery Teacher), Mrs. Cleese (ESOL Teacher), Mrs. Segar (ORS Teacher), as well as our teacher aides, Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. DeSilva, Mrs. Marshall, and Mrs. Ford.

Our Administration Team and Property Team continues unchanged. The team includes; Mrs. Knaggs (School Secretary), Maureen Anderson (Receptionist), Manja Pieters (Librarian), and Blair Roberts (Caretaker).

### Team and Homeroom Organisation

Classrooms have changed a lot over the last decade or more. Teachers are not isolated in the learning spaces anymore and are provided regular release from the homeroom to complete a range of other tasks and delegated responsibilities.

It is important that the organisational structures of the learning spaces are robust so that each team can successfully cater to the diverse needs of tamariki. Organisational structures also need to be resilient so that learning continues uninterrupted when impacted by the demands outside of the classroom. At St Joseph's School, we achieve this by operating in teams. Working as a team

means that success is not reliant on one teacher who is trying to cater to a wide range of tamariki, isolated in their classroom. Instead, working as a team means that:

- Teachers take collective responsibility for the tamariki in their team and the progress they make. They utilise their collective strengths, skills, and knowledge to implement a range of learning strategies that cater for the diverse needs of tamariki within the team.
- Teachers monitor student progress and share information about the academic, physical, spiritual, and social/emotional needs and progress of tamariki within the team. This enables all teachers in the team to respond appropriately to issues as they arise. At St Joseph's School, we try to use regular relievers who are familiar with tamariki and team programmes.
- The development of a team-wide programme ensures learning is consistent across the team and learners are provided similar learning opportunities no matter the teacher they are working with or what classroom they are working in.

The robustness and resilience of working in teaching teams is the first net we have to ensure that tamariki do not fall through a gap. Working in a team focuses our energy at the frontline - in the homerooms.

The schools' online planning and file-sharing systems enable teachers to record student information and share planning in a way that monitors student progress or issues day by day so that they can respond to the needs of tamariki as they arise. Online planning, assessment processes also ensure that the Leadership Team can monitor tamariki's progress. This means that support can be provided and resources can be targeted when and where needed.

On Wednesday the 10th of February, the school will it's annual Back to School BBQ and Information Evening. This event will not only provide parents with an opportunity to come together and reconnect with the school community but will also provide parents with an opportunity to meet our teams and find out more about the learning programmes.

The BBQ starts at 5.00 pm. It will be followed by two opportunities for parents to meet the teaching teams. The first session will begin at 6.00 pm. The second session will begin at 6.30 pm. Meet the Team sessions will take place in the following locations.

- Year 0-2 - Ashby 1
- Year 3-4 - Mercy 2
- Year 5-6 - McAuley 1
- Year 7-8 - Hanrahan 1

### **Neighbourhood Update**

Things are looking a little different on the parish side of the fence. During the last few weeks, contractors have been demolishing the presbytery, associated outer building, Timoney Hall, and the swimming pool. This work has been completed to remove any hazards posed by the derelict property. As a result, the shingle area near the parish centre is fenced off and is unavailable for parking.

I am sure that many of you will have heard of the homicide that took place on a property that backs onto the school. A number of parents have asked for advice on how to manage this issue with tamariki returning to school.

The short answer is that we need to keep reality in check. The reality is that the homicide has not had any effect on the school, and has not involved the school in any way. The incident does not pose any risk to the school, its staff, or tamariki. The site has been cleared and the person suspected of the homicide has been removed from the premises.

As parents, it is important that we manage the information tamariki are exposed to. Access to negative information can create unnecessary anxiety for many tamariki. The same goes for the ongoing issues with Covid. Although tamariki need to be aware of the hazards around them, we need to keep reminding them that they are safe and the adults around them have everything under control. By working together we can keep our children safe and happy.

## **Covid Update**

New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1 and everyone is doing the right thing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we're pleased to say it's business as usual.

Unfortunately, we have to expect COVID cases to emerge but we can be reassured by the speed, breadth, and depth of the health response. As noted by Minister Hipkins, New Zealand is top equal with Australia in the world as having the highest rates of testing per positive case. We know that the approaches being taken in the MIQ are at a very tight forensic level.

According to the Lowy Institute, New Zealand has been ranked the best at responding to the COVID-19 outbreak out of nearly 100 countries.

We continue to have a large amount of control over how we can prevent the spread of COVID. For our school we will:

- display QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App
- keep our visitor register, attendance register, and timetables up to date
- be monitoring for illness and asking anyone who is unwell to remain at home, or to go home
- encourage people with relevant symptoms to seek medical advice through Healthline or their GP and get tested for COVID if recommended to do so
- reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying
- reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette
- ensure the school is regularly cleaned and kept hygienic

## **Parent Information and Communication**

St Joseph's School is a great place to teach and learn. By working together we can ensure that our tamariki are happy and safe. The school has a number of parent information pamphlets relating to the issues listed below. The information is available on the school's website. Alternatively, you can click on the links below.

- ❖ [School Uniform](#)
- ❖ [Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\)](#)
- ❖ [Road Safety](#)
- ❖ [Attendance and Supervision](#)
- ❖ [Home Learning](#)
- ❖ [Guidance on your 2021 School Account](#)
- ❖ [Home and School Communication](#)
- ❖ [Behaviour Management](#)

The school has a range of communication strategies it uses to keep parents informed. These tools include:

**Weekly Newsletter** - The school newsletter is our primary communication tool. The newsletter is distributed electronically each Thursday. The newsletter contains important information that allows parents to keep up with the latest news. The newsletter is sent out using the school's HERO app. If you are unable to open the PDF, you can download it from the school's website.

**Website** - [www.stjopapa.school.nz](http://www.stjopapa.school.nz) - The school's website includes all the information you could want to know about the school, ranging from board policies to school lunches. All newsletters are also archived on the website for easy access and reference when required.

**Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/SJSPapanui/](https://www.facebook.com/SJSPapanui/) - Facebook is an effective tool for celebrating events and students' success. The school's Facebook page is regularly updated with fun photos and information on what is happening at St Joseph's School. It is important that our school community maintains a safe cyber environment for our tamariki by ensuring that all comments made on the page are positive.

**Conversations** - If you would like to talk to someone about your school account, update your contact details or make a payment, you can contact the school office. The school office is open from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm each weekday during the school term.

If you would like to talk to someone regarding your child's learning, an event, an incident that has occurred at school, or would like more information about learning, then your first port of call should be your child's homeroom teacher. Teachers are very busy in the morning preparing for the day so we recommended that if you want to pop in for a quick chat, that you pop into the classroom after 3.00 pm. If you want to have a discussion about an issue in more depth, it is recommended that parents make an appointment with the teacher or team leader. This way they can ensure that the appropriate information is available and that the discussion takes place at a time and place that avoids any disruption. Teachers and team leaders can be contacted by phone through the school office or by email.

**HERO** - Hero is a digital application that works on your digital device. HERO provides the school with the ability to release information to parents and caregivers in an efficient manner. This year, the school will use HERO to report learner achievement. Further information about online reporting will be provided later in Term 1.

Parents can learn how to download the app and link to the school's HERO system by following the instruction on the Home and School Communication document - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/104/>. If you are having trouble uploading or connecting to HERO, help is available in our School Library every Wednesday from 2.45 pm to 3.15 pm.

### **Home Learning**

Due to the first two weeks of the school term being short weeks, home learning will not start until week 3 of term 1. For more information about the school's Home Learning Programme, please click on this link - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/107/>. The teams will cover the details of the programme at the Meet the Team evening on Wednesday 10th of February.

### **Little Joes**

If you have a new entrant child who will be starting school in term two, Mrs. Beattie will be in contact with you shortly. Little Joe's will begin in week 3 of term 1. Little Joe's provides parents and preschool tamariki with a smooth transition to primary school. Parents are provided with all they need to know about the school, while the tamariki have an opportunity to become familiar with our school, meet their prospective classmates, and develop a rapport with all of the Timoney teaching team.

### **Road Patrol**

The morning is a very busy time for teachers as they prepare for the school day. As a result, the morning road crossing depends greatly on the kind support of parents to supervise the crossing guards. Our crossing guards are very well trained so supervision is easy. We would be interested in hearing from parents who are able to volunteer 25 minutes once a week between 8.30 am and 8.55 am. Volunteers can work as a team sharing the duty if this is easier. If you can help out, please contact Liz Beattie, she can be contacted by email [liz.beattie@stjopapa.school.nz](mailto:liz.beattie@stjopapa.school.nz) or you can leave a message with Pauline in the office.

### **What is Coming Up**

Thursday 4th January - School term begins

Friday 5th January - Mihi Whakatau and Waitangi Liturgy

Monday 8 February - School is closed as it is Waitangi Day observed

Wednesday 10 February - Back to School BBQ and Meet the Teams Evening

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 February - Year 7 Camp at Hanmer Springs

Wednesday 17 February - Ash Wednesday

Monday 22 February - Year 7-8 Technology begins

Monday 22 February - School Swimming Lessons begin and continue to Friday 5th of March

## **Year 1-2 News**

Teachers have been very busy planning for the start of this year and we are excited to meet with our parents and learners when school starts. On the fourth school day of this year, we are planning to have a Back to School BBQ. There will be opportunities to meet the teaching team. We are planning to share useful information at these meetings.

We want to thank parents in advance for making sure that your child(ren) has got the correct uniform with black shoes and a sun hat. Also, thank you for using the stationery list and purchasing all the equipment your child(ren) need. Please help us by clearly labelling everything so if possessions get lost, we can return it to the owner.

We are looking forward to a great year!

## **Year 3-4 Team News**

We are all looking forward to seeing everyone back at school for our new school year and we extend a warm welcome to all new learners and their families. We trust that you had a wonderful break and were able to enjoy some relaxing time with your families and friends.

This term our inquiry learning begins as we immerse ourselves into the concept "Changemakers." The team will be focusing on encouraging our learners to ask the questions - essentially providing their own inquiry. Our learners may work in pairs or in small groups when exploring their problems. Our learners could assist one another throughout the learning process, which will enable them to share and build upon ideas as well as articulate how they arrived at a solution.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Back to School BBQ and information evening (Wednesday 10th of February). This opportunity will really assist in developing a positive tone for the year ahead. We really value the importance of forming and maintaining a strong partnership between home and school.

Remember to keep an eye on the school newsletter. It will keep you up to date with what is going on and events that are coming up. Teachers are happy to discuss your child with you and appreciate appointments being made, so a suitable time can be set aside. We look forward to a very productive year with your child and we appreciate your continuing support.

## **Year 5-6 News**

It is wonderful to be back. We have an enthusiastic team of teachers looking forward to the children's return. While Mrs. Walsh is on leave Miss.Thwaites will be teaching in McAuley 1. We will provide more details regarding the Year 5-6 programme at the Meet the Team evening.

The Year 5-6 camps will take place from Monday August 30th to Wednesday 1st September. The Year 5 Camp will take place at Living Springs and the Year 6 Camp will take place at Woodend Christian Camp.

## **Year 7-8 News**

After a restful holiday period, the teachers in McAuley and Hanrahan are excited to be back in our learning spaces. We hope the children have had an opportunity to relax with their families and are ready to return to school refreshed. We have a busy term filled with exciting events.

We have two camps to look forward to; Week 3 at Hanmer Springs for the Year 7 learners, and Week 7 at Wainui for the Year 8's.

Technology at Breens Intermediate also starts in Week 3, we look forward to introducing the Year 7 learners to this programme.

As we look at the different aspects of the concept 'Changemakers' throughout the year, we will be encouraging learners to be change makers themselves, challenging them to be the best leaders they can be.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Back to School BBQ, where you can meet the team in person and receive key information for the year ahead.

Dates for upcoming events can be found in the school newsletter, and more specific information, when needed, will be communicated weekly via HERO. Teachers are always happy to meet with you and your child to discuss their learning and goals, preferably by appointment.

As a team, we look forward to working alongside you and your children this year, and the exciting opportunities that will ensure their school years are memorable.

## Return to School Checklist

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**Do you know when your child should return to school?**

The school year will begin on **Thursday 4th of February 2021**. Tamariki should not arrive at school before 8.15 am at the earliest. All tamariki and parents must remain in the front courtyard until the 8.30 am bell is sounded. It is recommended that tamariki arrive at school between 8.30 am and 8.45 am. The class bell will ring at 8.55 am. For more information on attendance and supervision, please click on this link - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/104/>.

**Do you know your child's homeroom and their teacher?**

Tamariki should go straight to their homeroom when they arrive after the 8.30 am bell is sounded. All families were advised of their child's homeroom teacher and homeroom at the end of 2020. If you are unsure of this information, please call the office.

**Have you ordered or purchased school stationery?**

Stationery can either be purchased online through the Officemax "My school" website - <https://www.myschool.co.nz> or it can be purchased from any reputable stationery retailer. A stationery list can be downloaded from the school's website - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/106/>. It is important that parents do not substitute stationery items as they have been selected by the teaching team for a reason.

**Does your child have the correct footwear?**

Students are required to wear black school shoes with leather uppers and rubber soles. Active-wear school shoes may be worn as an alternative, however, they must have a black upper and sole. They must not have a white sole or noticeable branding. In summer, students have the option of wearing black Roman-style sandals. Students are encouraged to wear sports shoes (trainers) when they are wearing their sports uniforms. These are changed into when at school and should not be worn during class time.

**Does your child have a uniform sun hat?**

St Joseph's School Papanui is a SunSafe School. All tamariki are required to wear a royal blue, wide brim sun hat when outside in Terms 1 and 4. Uniform sun hats can be purchased from Mainland Uniforms or The Warehouse. Year 7 and 8 learners have the option of purchasing a Senior Cap at the school office (\$25). Tamariki without a sun hat are required to play under the verandah during break times.

**Does your child fit their uniform?**

During Term 1 and 4, tamariki are required to wear their summer uniform. Details on the summer uniform can be found on the school's website - <http://www.stjopapa.school.nz/Web/45/>. Uniform items can be purchased from Mainland Uniforms, 511 Wairakei Road, or online at [www.mainlanduniforms.co.nz](http://www.mainlanduniforms.co.nz)

**Have you provided the school with updated contact information?**

It is important that the school has accurate contact information so that we can keep you informed and act efficiently if there is an emergency. If your address or contact information has changed, please call the school office and let them know so these details can be updated on our student management system.