



WELCOME FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND YEAR FOUR TEAM

Welcome back to all our families and an especially warm welcome to new families and staff who have joined us this year. Term One is well and truly underway and staff were back in January in preparation for the coming term including renewing their first aid certificates and having a day to unpack what learning looks like, feels like and sounds like at St Thomas's School. With a change of government comes changes to the education sector and National Standards are now disappearing from schools.



However, I wish to reassure parents that it will make little difference to how we approach our teaching, learning and assessing at St Thomas's School. Sound assessment and the ability to assess and improve educational progress and achievement for all children was and remains a critical part of effective teaching and learning in St Thomas's School. Indeed, one of the changes that the Ministry are proposing to introduce is 'real time reporting' for parents and St Thomas's School is one of the few primary schools which already has this in place.

General Information

School Website

Please visit our school website if you would like to know any school wide information. See the following link:

www.stthomas/school.nz

Communication Plan

Feedback from our community survey last year indicated that parents would appreciate a more cohesive communication approach from the school. We are always looking at ways to increase our home/school partnership and are currently developing a communication plan which will be shared with the community later this term.

Upcoming Events:

February

20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30-8.30pm, Boardroom)

21-23 Year 6 and 8 Camp

26 Year 4 trip to Kohi Beach

28 Year 5-6 Rippa Rugby

March

2 Year 7 Youthtown

6 Eastern Zones Boys Softball

8 Eastern Zones Girls Softball

8 School Picnic

9 Year 2 Beach Trip

12 Year 5-8 Swimming Sports

15 School Picnic
(rain date)

16 Year 7 Youthtown

20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30-8.30, Boardroom)

20 Bay Suburbs Softball

21 PTA AGM
(7.00pm, Staffroom)

26 Eastern Zones Swimming

27 Bay Suburbs Swimming

30 Good Friday

April

2-3 Easter

4 PTA meeting
(7.00pm, Staffroom)

13 Year 7 Youthtown

13 Last day of term



School Hours

Children are expected to be in class, prepared for the day by 8.55am. Please ensure you have your child at school in plenty of time.

For safety and supervision reasons no child should be on the school grounds before 8:00 and we discourage children being dropped off before 8.15am. Please Note: Classrooms may be locked until 8:30 as teachers are involved in meetings and daily preparations.

School finishes at 3pm and for safety and supervision reasons children are expected to leave the school grounds promptly.

Donations

The Board of Trustees at St Thomas's School has an ongoing commitment to ensure quality education programmes and resources are available for all students.

The Ministry of Education Operations grant meets the basic needs but we seek the support of parents and caregivers in ensuring there is extra funding available to enhance our programmes and enrich our student's learning experience.

In 2018 your donations will be used to support funding for the following:

- An extra teacher in the Juniors four days a week to support students in Years 1 -3
- Part time e-learning Co-ordinator
- Learning opportunities in the Talented and Gifted programme
- Extra teacher aides to support literacy and numeracy across the school
- Part time Sports Co-ordinator
- Support of our Te Reo Maori and Mandarin programme
- Programmes relating to enviro, mindfulness and peer support & mediation
- Teachers to support ESOL four days per week
- Part time writing support teacher
- Part time support teacher in Senior school

Without the generosity of your donations we will be unable to continue to fund these extra teachers/programmes. Donations above the suggested amount are very welcome.

Per child	\$395.00
(Third/Fourth child less 10%)	\$355.50

Parking

Please be aware of the parking signs around the school. These are there for the safety of all our children. Please do not park at the bus stop between 8.30am and 9.00am and note that this area is 5 minute parking at any other time of the day.



Staff Car Park

Do not enter our Staff Car Park as we do not want our young students involved in accidents.

Kea Crossing

Ensure your children cross the road either at the Kea Crossing on Allum Street or at the lights on the corner of Allum St and Kohimarama Road.

The Kea Crossing must be kept clear of cars and it is illegal to turn your car near the crossing when it is in operation.

Metro Link operate the School Bus: 09 373 9100. If you have any problems with the service call them.

Picking up Children during the School Day

If you need to pick up your child for an appointment during the school day please be aware that you cannot do this between 10.30 -10.50 and 12.30 – 1.30. Please arrange to collect them either before or after these times.

National Standards

The Government has announced that National Standards will be removed from 2018. Instead schools will focus on the progress and achievement of all children across the wider New Zealand Curriculum.

This change will better acknowledge the different ways and pace at which children learn, and support teachers to provide more learning opportunities based on what children already know and can do.

Schools will still be required to report to parents, at least twice a year, on their child's progress and achievement, especially in the foundational learning areas of maths, reading, and writing. But schools will no longer be required to use National Standards for this reporting.

Education Review Office (ERO) reports on a local community's schools will remain the best guide to their performance, the quality of their teaching and school leadership, and the steps they are taking to progress children's learning. These reports provide a much more comprehensive picture of the quality of your local schools than did National Standards data.

Information on the how children, or groups of children, are progressing and achieving nationally, will come from the National Monitoring of Student Achievement (NMSA). These studies test several thousand children each year on different areas of the curriculum. International studies will also help provide parents, whānau as well as schools and the Ministry, with valuable information on student progress and achievement. The new approach will be developed with sector experts, parents,



whānau, iwi and students during 2018. We expect this new system of progress assessment and reporting to come online gradually between 2018 and 2019.

Find out more about these [changes and about the new reporting requirements](#).

PTA

School Picnic

- 5-7.30pm on the school field, Thurs 8th of March (Thurs 15th of March is the rain date)
- Set up your own Picnic and picnic rug on the field and enjoy the view and socialising with other parents and teachers – while the kids have fun!
- Lots of new & exciting entertainment available including Pony Rides & Petting Zoo, Mini go-carts, Vertical Bungy, Mission Impossible inflatable, DJ Fetu, Face painting and lots more!
- Food will be available to purchase; Paella, Sausage Sizzle, Hot chips, Ice-creams, Sushi, Dumplings and Baking
- Keep an eye on FlexiBuzz and the PTA Facebook page for more details soon!

PTA AGM

- Will be held in the school office at 7pm on Thurs 22nd March – everyone welcome to come along and see what is involved with being a part of the PTA, and join if they want to.
- Our regular PTA meeting will follow at 7.30pm.
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Iceblock Friday's

- Are back for rest of Term 1!

Available from under the tree after school; \$2 ice blocks and \$3 ice-creams

Year Four Team's Welcome Message



Ngā mihi and welcome back to school for 2018. We would like to extend a special welcome to new children and whānau to Year 4. Your children are settling in well and we are looking forward to exciting term of learning.

Our Home/Whānau Room teachers are as follows:

M2: Mrs Sally Clothier - sclothier@stthomas.school.nz

Year Four Upcoming Events

Swimming: Wednesday's

Week 5

Monday 26th February: Kohi Beach Clean Up Trip

Friday 2nd March: M5 Assembly

Week 11

Friday 13th April: M2 Assembly

GENERAL INFORMATION



M3: Ms Amy Thurston (Year 4 Leader) athurston@stthomas.school.nz

M4: Miss Yasmin Gibson - ygibson@stthomas.school.nz

M5: Mrs Janet Rothery - jrothery@stthomas.school.nz

The Year 4 teachers will be working together in collaborative partnerships in Term One: Janet and Sally / Amy & Yasmin. Your Home/Whānau Room teacher is the first port of call if you need to address anything.

Please feel free to arrange a time to talk with your Home/Whānau Room teacher if you need to. **Pānui (Reading)**

We encourage reading at home every day. We visit the school library once a week. Getting an Auckland Library card and visiting your local library is a fantastic way to encourage reading at home.

Tuhituhi (Writing)

Our writing focus is Instructional Writing: recipes, instructions and procedures to complete a task. Cooking together with a recipe at home is a wonderful way to support our classroom focus.

Handwriting is important therefore some students may receive extra help in this area during Term One.

Pāngarau (Maths)

We will be working with the students to create and manage their own goals and using the St Thomas's Maths Progressions to support this. These show the various learning that is expected in the different areas of Mathematics. Students will have a copy in a folder and available for you to come and talk with your child about. We are focussing on Number Sequencing, Place Value and Fractions for the most part of the term and finishing off with a look at Time.

Kaupapa (Topic)

This term we are looking at CONNECTIONS. We have had Sustainable Coastlines come in and share a presentation. We will be visiting our local beach for a Beach Clean Up. Parent help will be required for this trip so please keep your eyes open for a notice soon. March 3rd marks the beginning of "Sea Week" which we will also base some learning around.

Physical Education

Fitness takes place at 9.00am, 3 times per week. Physical Education this term focuses on Swimming and Softball.

Swimming

Swimming is on Wednesday and is run by the coaches from Swim Magic at our school pool.



We will be developing the skills of striking, throwing and catching and then putting these skills together for in-school tournament afternoons.

Ngā Reo (Languages)

In Year 4 we integrate Te Reo Māori into much of our learning. Students will also have focussed lessons led by Whaea Nancy or the classroom teacher. We have a Mandarin teacher working in our school also and there may be opportunity for Mandarin lessons at some point throughout the year.

Whakahua Kupu (Spelling)

Once our class programmes are fully up and running, students will be bringing home 5-10 spelling words each week. Students may bring home a selection of words either from their Spell Writes, their own writing or from the spelling rule that has been the focus that week.