St Thomas's News

Whakaute / Respect Auwhangaa / Resilience Takohanga / Responsibility

20 November 2026

Principal's Message

As we move closer to the end of the school year, the pace of school life certainly isn't slowing down. It has been another busy few weeks filled with learning, sporting events, performances, trips, and opportunities for our students to grow and shine.

One of our highlights this year has been our involvement in the Music Education New Zealand programme, with more than 10% of our students participating in music lessons during the school day. This gave St Thomas's School the highest participation rate among the 41 schools involved.

We were also proud to see our school choir perform at Auckland Town Hall as part of the New Zealand Choral Federation's *Kids Sing* event. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their talents on one of New Zealand's most iconic stages and a memorable experience for all involved.

As we celebrate another successful year, we warmly invite our school community to join us for our Annual Prizegiving Ceremony on Friday 11 December at 10am at Barfoot & Thompson Stadium. This special event recognises the achievements and growth of our students, and we would love to celebrate these accomplishments together.

Looking ahead, the 2027 term dates are now available and can also be found on our school website.

Tuesday 2 Feb 2027 (Meet the Teacher Day)		
Term	**First Day**	**Last Day**
Term 1	Wednesday 3 Feb 2027	Friday 9 Apr 2027
Term 2	Tuesday 27 Apr 2027	Friday 2 Jul 2027
Term 3	Monday 19 Jul 2027	Friday 24 Sep 2027
Term 4	Monday 11 Oct 2027	Wednesday 15 Dec 2027

We thank our students, staff and whānau for their continued commitment and support throughout the year. There is still plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks, and we are excited to finish the year strongly together.



Ngā mihi nui
Michael Maher
Principal

St Thomas's Shout Out

Ka pai to our fantastic ESOL team for putting on another unforgettable ESOL Market Day!

Upcoming Dates

November

24	Bay Suburbs Athletics
25	Year 3 Trip to Corban Estate
26	Year 3 Trip to Corban Estate
26	Year 7 Youthtown
27	Yr 1-3 Assembly 9.15am (School Hall)
30	School Photos for New Entrants

December

4	Year 7&8 Social (School Hall)
8	Year 8 Trip to Rangitoto Island
8	Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm (Staffroom)
10	Prizegiving Practice
11	Prizegiving Day (Barfoot & Thompson Stadium)
14	Colour Run
15	Last Day of Term 4 (School closes at 12:30pm, no school bus running at this time. All students must be picked up at 12.30pm as no staff will be on site after this time.)

February 2027

2	Meet the Teacher Day (times to be arranged)
3	First Day of Term 1

ESOL Market Day

For one morning last week, the ESOL room transformed into a bustling marketplace, filled with colourful stalls, homemade treats, games, books, crafts, and plenty of excitement.








Armed with their Buzz Money, students from Year 3 to Year 8 stepped into the market ready to buy, sell, swap, and explore. Some students became shopkeepers, carefully arranging their stalls and waiting for customers while others searched for the best bargains and tried their luck at the games.



For *Ian (*Year 4), the day was packed with highlights. After selling Lego and toys at his stall, he treated himself to cupcakes and popcorn. "My favourite stall was the cupcake stall," he said. He also enjoyed seeing his friend *Leo* who was kept busy serving customers throughout the day.



*Sophie's (*Year 7) market adventure began with collecting her Buzz Money and setting off to explore every corner of the room. After testing her skills at the shooting games and winning tickets for lollies, she shared her prizes with friends. She also enjoyed buying homemade cookies and was impressed by the creativity shown by other students. The biggest surprise came at the end of the day when she won the girls' raffle basket. "I was so happy and excited when my name was announced!" she said.



Not everyone spent all their money. *Wanyu* (Year 6) discovered that sometimes it pays to take a second look before making decisions. After seeing all the interesting items her friends had bought, she realised she had walked past some of the best bargains. "I still had 192 Buzz dollars left," she reflected. "I could have spent it!"

Meanwhile, *Kendra* (Year 6) and *Wanyu* enjoyed success on the other side of the counter. Together they created and sold handmade origami items, including dragon stars, forever stars, and their very popular dumpling squishy blind boxes. "People loved buying the dumpling blind boxes!"

Beyond the buying and selling, Market Day gave students the chance to practise maths, communication, problem-solving, and money management skills in a fun and meaningful way. Judging by the smiles, busy stalls, and excited chatter, it was another wonderful ESOL Market Day and one that students will remember for a long time.





Year 3-4 Athletics Day

Last week, our Year 3 and 4 students enjoyed a fantastic Athletics Day filled with plenty of sunshine, lots of laughs, and some healthy competition.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of events, including a fun obstacle course, 100m sprints, high jump, and shot put. Some students were aiming for personal bests while others were simply challenging themselves to give something new a go. Whatever the event, it was wonderful to see everyone putting their resilience to the test and striving to do their very best.

What made the day especially memorable was seeing our school values in action. Across the field, students cheered on their peers, celebrated achievements, and showed great sportsmanship throughout every event.

By the end of the day, there were plenty of tired legs, happy faces, and achievements to celebrate. A big well done to everyone who took part and helped make it such a great day of fun, effort, and team spirit.
















Touch Rugby Tournaments

What a fantastic term of touch rugby we have had at St Thomas's! We have had two awesome tournaments take place this term, with our Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 teams both getting out on the fields and representing our school.

Both tournaments provided some fantastic opportunities for our students to put their skills to the test, compete against other schools and enjoy some great team sport. We saw some brilliant performances across all of our teams, with plenty of exciting tries, impressive attacking plays and some fantastic defensive efforts.

Our Year 5/6 students had a great day out, showing enthusiasm, teamwork and plenty of determination throughout their games. Our Year 7/8 students also put in an outstanding effort, particularly considering the challenging weather conditions they had to battle through. Despite the rain and wind, the students continued to push hard, stay positive and give every game their best.

We had some fantastic results across both tournaments and couldn't be prouder of the way all our students represented St Thomas's. It was especially awesome to see the development of our players, the encouragement between teammates and the sportsmanship shown throughout the competitions.

A huge thank you to all our coaches, managers, parent helpers and supporters who helped make both tournaments possible. Your time and support are always hugely appreciated!

Ka pai, team! What an awesome term of touch rugby!



Bay Suburbs Athletics

What an awesome day we had at the Bay Suburbs Athletics Tournament yesterday! Our students put on an outstanding performance, achieving some fantastic results across the events and making us incredibly proud.

A real highlight of the day was our relay teams, with every single one finishing in the top three! This is an amazing achievement and a reflection of the speed, teamwork and determination shown by our students. Alongside the fantastic results, it was great to see everyone giving their best, encouraging their teammates and showing such positive sportsmanship throughout the day. We were also very lucky with the weather, managing to get through the entire event without the rain making an appearance!

A huge congratulations to all of our athletes. You represented St Thomas School so well and should be incredibly proud of what you achieved. A big thank you to our coaches, staff and parent helpers who supported the team and helped make the day such a success. Ka pai, team! What a fantastic day!







2026 Primary School Table Tennis Tournament

On Thursday 12 November, eight students proudly represented St Thomas's School at the 2026 Primary School Table Tennis Tournament in Auckland. Competing alongside 142 players from schools across the region, our students demonstrated determination, sportsmanship and enthusiasm throughout the day.



A special congratulations to *Louis Wan* who achieved an outstanding result by progressing through eight rounds to finish among the Top 32 Boys' Singles players in the tournament.

All of our participants embraced the challenge, enjoyed the experience and represented our school with pride. Well done to everyone involved on a fantastic day of competition and achievement!

Year 2 Visit Ambury Farm

There was plenty of excitement in the air on Thursday as our Year 2 students set off on their much-anticipated trip to Ambury Farm. The bus ride was filled with lively conversations as students eagerly discussed all the different animals they hoped to see during the day.

Upon arrival, students were welcomed by the farm educators and quickly got hands-on with a range of engaging learning experiences. One of the highlights of the day was discovering where milk comes from and watching a cow being milked. Students learned about the journey milk takes from the farm to the supermarket before putting their new knowledge into practice by making their very own butter.

Armed with a container of cream and a marble, students shook enthusiastically until the cream transformed into butter. The best part was, of course, tasting their hard work, and everyone agreed it was delicious!

After lunch, students explored the farm and spent time meeting a variety of animals. They fed sheep, chickens and goats, while also seeing horses and baby goats. Two particular favourites were the playful goats Ronaldo and Messi, along with the adorable baby lambs.

The day was filled with fun, laughter and learning as students gained a greater understanding of life on the farm and how animals are cared for. It was a memorable experience that brought classroom learning to life and created many wonderful memories for our Year 2 students.



Sustainability Orienteering Challenge

Last week, a team of four Year 8 students participated in the Sustainability Orienteering Challenge organised by Auckland Council for intermediate-aged students.

Teams navigated to a series of coordinates, solving environmental challenges and puzzles at each location to earn points before moving on to the next checkpoint. The goal was to accumulate as many points as possible within a two-hour timeframe.



The challenge required teamwork, problem-solving, communication and the ability to work effectively under time pressure. Our Year 8 team represented St Thomas's School with pride, achieving an impressive 15th place out of more than 40 participating teams.

A special thank you to our wonderful parent volunteer who made this opportunity possible by supporting the team on the day.

A Visitor of a Different Feather



This week, an unexpected guest made an early morning appearance around the school grounds. While we are accustomed to seeing tūī, sparrows and other local birdlife, this visitor was a little more colourful than most!

A peacock was spotted exploring the school, much to the delight of students and staff alike. Its arrival was a timely reminder that as our gardens and forest areas continue to mature, they are attracting an increasing variety of wildlife.

Perhaps our visitor was simply passing through, or perhaps it was stopping by to inspect our environmental efforts. Either way, its appearance was a welcome surprise and another encouraging sign that nature is finding a home at St Thomas's.

Sun Safety - School Hats Required

As we move into the warmer months, a reminder that school hats are compulsory for all students during Terms 4 and Term 1. This is an important part of our SunSmart policy and helps protect students from harmful UV exposure while participating in outdoor learning, sport and play.

Students who do not have a school hat will be required to remain in shaded areas during break times. To ensure your child can fully participate in outdoor activities, please make sure they bring their school hat to school each day.

If your child does not yet have a school hat, these are available for purchase from the School Office for $15.50.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our students safe in the sun throughout the summer months.

STS News

To watch the 63rd episode of the series, click HERE.

To watch the 62nd episode of the series, click HERE.

To watch the 61st episode of the series, click HERE.

Please See Our Website for Details About:

Clubs and activities:
https://www.stthomas.school.nz/clubs-and-activities/

Community notices:
https://www.stthomas.school.nz/community-notices/

School holiday programme:
https://www.stthomas.week.nz/school-holiday-programmes/

Music lessons right at school 🎶 Complement your child's school experience with music lessons! Piano, guitar, bass, drums, and violin lessons available at school, helping students build confidence, creativity, and lifelong skills. 👉 **Enrol here:** https://musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment

ST THOMAS'S INTERMEDIATE

What's been happening in our Intermediate School

'A MOMENT IN TIME' INQUIRY PROJECT

Throughout Term 3, each student in our Intermediate school rotated among the 6 teachers to learn about a different historical 'moment in time'. Through the learning, they also experienced the inquiry process wiht each teacher.

For the first few weeks of Term 4, the students completed their own inquiry. They chose a historical moment that they were interested in learning more about, and the impact it has had on life today. We saw a variety of topics such as the sinking of the Titanic, 9/11, and Gallipoli to name a few. They created a question, researched the moment using a variety of sources, and described the impact their moment had on life today.

Each student created a presentation showcasing their learning, and also completed a piece of writing using a genre of their choice, putting all of their years learning into practice. They then shared their work in small groups, celebrating their successes with their peers.

LINKS TO STUDENT WORK:

Ella Ferreira: Ella wrote an essay on the Black Death [Link]

Seol Lee: Seol wrote a newspaper article on the sinking of the Titanic [Link]

Ah In Shin: Ah In completed her inquiry on the Trojan War. She created a presentation to share her learning [Link]

Helen Weng: Helen wrote a newspaper article on the history of the bread necklace [Link]











STS NEWS

STUDENT VOICES. SCHOOL STORIES. OUR COMMUNITY.





CREATED BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

Your paragraph text

ON AIR

INFORM | INSPIRE | CONNECT

2025 PLAYLIST ON YouTube

CLICK HERE

2026 PLAYLIST ON YouTube

CLICK HERE

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL KOHIMARAMA AUCKLAND

PTA NEWS

The PTA is on Facebook & Instagram @ StThomasSchoolPTA

Mark Your Calendar: Term 4

CALENDAR ART	CHRISTMAS MEATS	COLOUR RUN
23 Nov	now - 10 Dec	Mon 14 Dec

Picnic on the Green Feb 2027

CALLING ALL STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS!

Do your kids love making, crafting or coming up with cool things to sell? Then it's time to get creative over the summer holidays!

We're planning ***kids' market tables*** at our school picnic in February, giving students the chance to run their very own little shop and sell their creations, treats and treasures!
Tables will be available to hire at an affordable price, so everyone can get involved!

THINK YOUR CHILD WOULD LOVE THIS?
Let the PTA know so we can gauge interest!
stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

CALENDAR ART!

CALENDARS ***DIARIES*** ***MOUSE MATS*** ***GREETING CARDS*** ***SKETCH PADS***

LAST CHANCE! ORDERS CLOSE: MONDAY 23 NOV!

Visit: ***KIDSARTWORKS.COM***
Entrance Code: ***KZ1056***
Enter: ***CHILD'S ROOM & NAME***



END-OF-YEAR UNIFORM DRIVE

SECOND-HAND DONATIONS NEEDED

Kid's outgrown their uniforms? Donate them to the PTA!
You can drop them off anytime to the school office.

2026 COLOUR RUN!

14 DECEMBER | **STARTS AT 1:30 PM** | **SCHOOL FIELD** | **PARENTS WELCOME TO WATCH!**






$5 PER CHILD

Want to help another child join in? Sponsor them by adding an extra $5

WHAT TO BRING

White T-Shirt *Goggles* *Towel* *Change of Clothes*

It's the most colourful day of the year! Get ready to run, dance, skip or cartwheel your way though a rainbow explosion of fun!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL PTA

Have yourself a very
MAPARI CHRISTMAS

A delicious fundraiser with Mapari Meats and the PTA

MAPARI-MADE HAM



WHOLE CHAMPAGNE — $240
approx 10kg

HALF CHAMPAGNE — $125
approx 5kg

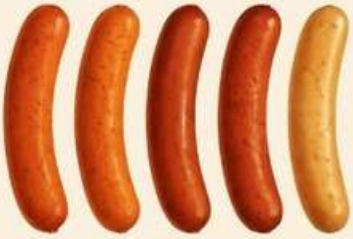
HAM GLAZE — $10
delicious glaze for your ham

MEAT BOX — $145



1 whole chicken
1kg marinaded buffalo wings
1kg pork loin roast
10 satay chicken kebabs
5 smokey bacon maple sausages
5 gourmet beef sausages

SAUSAGE BOX — $95



Variety of 5 delicious flavours,
6 sausages per flavour

ORDER

- Pay deposit* via Kindo

**deposit is non-refundable*

Last orders:
Thurs, 10 Dec

PICK-UP

- Go to Mapari Meats
- Pay remaining amount

Must collect between:
18-24 Dec

FARM GATE TO YOUR PLATE
EST 21
MAPARI MEATS

Auckland's premium butcher.
Quality cuts, local flavour & expert service.
And proud supporter of St Thomas's School PTA.
101 Lunn Ave, Stonefields

ST THOMAS'S SCHOOL PTA

Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Website: kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

KELLY CLUB ST THOMAS'S UPDATE

What's been happening...

We've had such a lovely week celebrating our Diwali Delight theme at Kelly Club! The kids got creative building colourful diyas out of Lego and had heaps of fun showing off their dance moves during musical statues. We also headed into the kitchen to whip up some yummy fruit custard cups together.





What's happening in the Holidays!



OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE! *Conditions apply
BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

Santa's Adding Ellerslie to His Nice List



And this Christmas, he's making a special stop in the village!

Make a date with **Santa** & discover a little Christmas **magic** in the heart of Ellerslie Village.

Santa will be welcoming visitors to his grotto with a limited number of sessions.

Book now to secure your preferred time with Santa

Your visit includes:
Time with Santa
A family Christmas photo
Digital copies by email

Dates*:
Saturday 28 Nov | 10am-1pm
Saturday 5 Dec | 10am-1pm
Friday 11 Dec | 1-4pm

Booking and more information
ellerslievillage.co.nz

*Dates and times subject to change. New dates will be added where we can. Check website for details

AGES
5+



The GAME

JOIN NOW!!

HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMP

21 - 23 DEC 2026
11 - 29 JAN 2027

Join us these school holidays for fun-filled tennis sessions focused on skill development, match play, games, and plenty of fun on court with our coaching team.

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

$50.00 (Club members)
$55.00 (Non members)

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

www.thegame.net.nz

ŌRĀKEI TENNIS CLUB

2 KUPE STREET, ORAKEI

St Heliers Community Centre

CHRISTMAS MARKET

20 NOVEMBER	FREE ENTRY	4PM OPEN

100 St Heliers Bay Road

FOOD / CRAFT / GIFTS / SANTA



ST HELIERS CHURCH & COMMUNITY CENTRE
REACHING OUT • WELCOMING IN

sthelierscentre.org.nz

KOHIMARAMA YACHT CLUB

AGES 9 TO 12 BOOKINGS OPEN



LEARN TO SAIL THESE HOLIDAYS

Building confident, resilient, happy kids.

WHEN
17, 18, 21, 22, 23 Dec
9am to 4pm

WHERE
Kohi Beach
Kohimarama Yacht Club

WHO
Kids 9 to 12
No sailing experience needed

RESILIENT

Wind, waves, a capsize. Whatever the day throws at them, they deal with it and sail on.

INDEPENDENT

Captain of their own ship. Every call is theirs, and how it goes is up to them.

WATER CONFIDENT

Reading wind, tide and weather. They come away with a feel for the sea, respect for it, and a big grin.

Safety first. Yachting NZ qualified coaches, one coach to every five kids, lifejackets and helmets, and rescue boats on the water all day. Sailors must be water confident and able to swim 50 m in their sailing gear and lifejacket; that is the first thing we check on day one.

BOOK NOW. PLACES ARE LIMITED.

kyc.org.nz/learntosail-schoolholiday

Jess Harrison | LTS@kyc.org.nz | 021 646 401