



24 February 2023

## Message from the Principal

Kia ora everyone!

The end of Week 4 and our first full week of school is complete. It has been great to finally have an uninterrupted week of teaching and learning and our staff are loving getting to know all of their new students.

Our on-site swimming lessons for students in Years 1-4 are now well underway and those missed due to school closure for the cyclone on Monday and Tuesday of Week 3 will be rescheduled for the end of this term. Glen, our Property Manager, has managed to resolve the issue with the pool heat pump and the pool is back to its normal 28 degrees which will keep swimmers and instructors happy over coming weeks.

On Friday next week, 3 March, we will be having our first mufti day and pizza lunch day. Orders can be placed now through our [Online Shop](#). Remember that orders close at 3pm on Thursday and we are unable to take late orders. There will be no theme for this mufti day, students can wear whatever they are comfortable in.

We are also looking forward to our first Year 5-8 school Swimming Sports since 2019 on Thursday next week (2 March). This is always a fun event and a great one to kick off our 2023 sports programme with. There is a limited amount of spectator seating and Whānau are invited to attend to support their children.

Have a lovely weekend!

**Claire Fromow**  
**Acting Principal**



## Upcoming Events

### February

- 28 Y7&8 immunisations
- 28 Y7&8 Eastern Zone softball

### March

- 01 BSLA Parent Information Morning  
9am – 10.30am (staffroom)
- 02 Y5-8 School Swimming Sports
- 03 Out of Zone Open Day  
9.30am to 10.30am (staffroom)
- 08 PTA AGM 7.00pm (staffroom)
- 10 Junior Assembly (J11 & J12 hosting)  
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (Year 8 hosting)  
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 15 Out of Zone Applications Close
- 16 Y7&8 Mountain to Sea trip
- 16 Y7&8 Eastern Zone swimming
- 17 Bay Suburbs swimming
- 21 Board of Trustees meeting  
(6.30 p.m. staffroom)
- 22 Y5&6 Bay Suburbs softball  
Y5 trip to Tahuna Torea
- 23 Y7&8 immunisation catch ups
- 31 Junior Assembly (J7 & J8 hosting)  
9.45am – 10.30am (school hall)
- Senior Assembly (S11 & S12 hosting)  
11.45am – 12.30pm (school hall)
- 31 Y7&8 Eastern Zone orienteering (TBC)

### April

- 06 **Last Day of Term 1**
- 24 Teacher Only Day



## School Drop-Offs and Pick-Ups

Our school gate opens at 8.15am each morning. Our expectation for all students is that they arrive at school between 8.15am and 8.55am. Monday-Thursday we request that parents say goodbye to their children at the school gate and that students walk to class unaccompanied, carrying their own school bags. This fosters independence, grows resilience (one of our school values), and enables staff and students to settle and be ready for teaching and learning when the final bell goes at 8.55am.

On Friday mornings (Whānau Friday), parents and families are welcome to come onsite and visit classrooms with their children. You can use this time to explore your child's classroom with them, look at work they have been doing or have a quick chat with their classroom teacher and other parents.

We request that all parents leave the school site promptly when the 8.55am bell goes so that we can begin our teaching and learning programme.

Our school gate opens at 3.50pm each afternoon. Parents are welcomed onsite to collect their children and socialise with other parents until 3.30pm when the gate closes again to allow our staff to participate in meetings and prepare for the next day of teaching. It is also a time when Glen can undertake property maintenance safely without students onsite.

If you are at the school after 3.30pm, please note that staff are not available to meet with you (unless by prior arrangement) or to assist with supervision. There are also no first aid services in the event of injuries.

If you wish to speak with your child's teacher about their progress or specific issues, please contact the teacher via email and arrange a time to meet.

## STS Water Polo 2023 (for students in Y6, Y7 and Y8)

St Thomas's School has run a successful intermediate water polo programme over the past few years and we are looking for our new training squad for 2023! Water polo is a rapidly growing sport in NZ and is fast paced, fun and great for fitness.

While the team itself is predominantly Year 7 & 8, we encourage anyone from Y6 and up to come along and give it a go. We've had a number of excellent college players who started their water polo journey at STS!

The squad trains on Friday mornings during Terms 2 & 3 and participate in an Eastern League competition which runs on Friday evenings. We also send a team to a number of intermediate tournaments that take place later in the year. We will be looking to run a "give it a go" session during Term 1 for those interested in seeing what it's all about. Water polo is played in a deep water pool so a reasonable level of swimming ability is required.

If your child is interested in seeing what it's all about or is wishing to play water polo for St Thomas's School during the 2023 season, [please click here to complete this form](#) by Friday 3 March.

The purpose of the form is to understand potential training requirements, enable communication on the give it a go session/s (and beyond), and to give an indication of your child's swimming and/or playing experience.

If you have any questions please reach out to Nicola Zonneveld (Manager) [nematthews@gmail.com](mailto:nematthews@gmail.com) or Josie Tait (Head Coach) [josietait@outlook.com](mailto:josietait@outlook.com).

We look forward to seeing you poolside!



## Extended Learning Program - STS News Crew

After a thorough application and interview process our **STS News Crew** for 2023 were selected!



Please meet:

### **Script Writers / Producers**

Alice - Year 8  
Yuna - Year 8  
Timothy - Year 8

### **Presenters**

Chloe - Year 8  
Vianna - Year 7

### **Editors**

Isaac - Year 6  
Dominic - Year 8



We are busy learning all about the ins and outs of journalism such as:

- The structure and general flow of a news show
- Storyboarding and scriptwriting techniques
- News story collection
- Tone and appropriate content
- Filming and editing skills

We can't wait to release our very first news show for 2023. Watch this space!



## Environmental Awareness at St Thomas's

One of our new initiatives this year at St Thomas's is a renewed focus on environmental awareness.

Students in Years 1-6 have been reconnecting with the outdoors and are learning to appreciate and be better observers of what is going on in the environment around them. The senior students this term are partaking in the Mountain to Sea marine programme and as part of that have spent a day at Kohimarama Beach in preparation for their visit to Goat Island later in the term.



Four Year 8 students have been appointed as Enviro Leaders for the year with the task of establishing school-wide enviro initiatives and educating students. Congratulations to our new Enviro Leaders who are Bonnie Tran, Mythri Ketheesan, Ollie Smith, and Alice Machado. The first order of business will be to reduce our rubbish in the school and to implement better recycling practices. A drive on litter-free lunches will begin shortly – please support your child in bringing plastic-wrapper free lunches to school. We would also like to re-institute Walking School Buses. If this is something you would like to be involved with please contact Alison Snell at [asnell@stthomas.school.nz](mailto:asnell@stthomas.school.nz).



## Naming Clothing and Bikes / scooters

We already have lost property that is not named. If clothing is not named, then we are unable to return the items to students. The name needs to be the students first and last name, not just initials. Please also name your child's togs and towel. We are noticing students are leaving uniform items, togs and towels in the pool changing rooms.

We have people coming in looking for bikes and scooters. It is very easy to return things if the items have their full name on it. We cannot do this if it is not named.

## Out of Zone Enrolments

We are now open for Out of Zone enrolments, especially for children who are Year 0 this year and turning 5 after May 1. If you know of any friends who are interested in joining our school please have them check out our website at [www.stthomas.school.nz/out-of-zone-enrolments/](http://www.stthomas.school.nz/out-of-zone-enrolments/) and complete the enrolment pack to go in the upcoming ballot.

We are holding an out of zone open morning on 3 March 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

## Bike Month March 2023

In coordination with Travelwise we are supporting Bike Month in March.

We will be holding a Wheels Wednesday on 29 March and students will be encouraged to ride to school. The theme will be "Be bright be seen". Students could wear a high vis vest or decorate their bikes.



## Walking School Bus

St Thomas's school, in conjunction with Auckland Transport (Travelwise) would like to encourage our own walking school bus. Travelwise will be at the crossing, on Thursday 16 March, with a mascot. They will be handing out information before and after school and will be holding an information meeting at a later date.

## Immunisations Schedule

Date	Tuesday 28/02/2023	Thursday 23/03/2023	Thursday 14/09/2023	Thursday 21/09/2023
Approx. time	8.30 am	TBA	11.30 am	TBA
Vaccination	HPV 1 Yr 8 Girls & Boys	HPV 1 Yr 8 Catch-up	HPV 2 Yr8 Girls & Boys	HPV 2 Yr 8 Catch-up
	Boostrix Yr 7		Boostrix Yr7 Catch-up	Boostrix Yr7 Catch-up