

11 April 2025

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

As we wrap up Term 1, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly exciting and rewarding start to the school year. Our students have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to step out of their comfort zones — and it's been a joy to witness.

Throughout the term, our students have experienced a wide range of enriching activities that have helped build not just their knowledge, but their confidence, friendships, and sense of belonging. Highlights include the Year 1–4 swimming lessons, where our tamariki made great strides in water confidence and safety. Our senior students in Years 6 and 8 had unforgettable experiences at camp developing resilience and teamwork. Our Spaceward Bound experience brought learning to life in a whole new way, sparking wonder and deep engagement with science and the world beyond our planet. We've also had an incredible range of specialist teaching this term, across Visual Art, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Languages, Garden to Table, and STEAM — all offering students the chance to explore, create, and grow their talents in meaningful ways.

Sport has been a big part of the term too, with softball, swimming sports, and rugby coaching sessions helping to build skills, confidence, and school spirit. The PTA picnic was another highlight, bringing our school community together to connect and celebrate - we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our amazing PTA and our parent community. Another standout moment was our Student-Led Learning Conferences, which gave our learners the chance to share their goals, progress, and passions directly with whānau - a powerful moment of partnership between home and school.

We are proud of all that's been achieved in Term 1. It's been a term filled with energy, learning, and connection. Thank you to our incredible staff for their dedication, to our students for their enthusiasm, and to our whānau for your ongoing support.

Have a safe and restful break, and we look forward to an even more exciting Term 2 ahead!

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



*To the team from Spaceward
Bound for the amazing interactive
experiences for our students*

Upcoming Dates

April

28 First Day of Term 2

May

12 Junior Assembly (J11 & J12 hosting)
10am (school hall)
Senior Assembly (M4 hosting)
11.45am (school hall)
12-13 Photolife School Photos
13 Eastern Zone Yr 7 Boys Football
15 Eastern Zone Yr 8 Boys Football
20 Bay Suburbs Football
20 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6.30pm staffroom)
22 Eastern Zone Girls Football
26 Junior Formal Assembly
9.15am – 9.45am (school hall)
Senior Formal Assembly
10.00am – 10.30pm (school hall)
30 Teacher Only Day
(School closed to students)

June

03 King's Birthday Holiday



Curriculum Refresh and Reporting Changes

As you may be aware, New Zealand's national curriculum has undergone a significant refresh this year. These changes aim to strengthen teaching and learning across the country. As part of this refresh, the Ministry of Education has introduced new learning progressions for how learning is delivered in schools.

What does this mean for you and your child?

The refreshed curriculum has essentially shifted the expectations for student achievement—what was previously considered "at expectation" has now moved forward by approximately one year. As a result, it is anticipated some unsettled achievement data across New Zealand primary schools over the next couple of years.

Will my child's reporting be different?

- Reporting this year and beyond will be based on the new curriculum progressions, which means that previous goals and achievement levels are no longer used for measuring progress.
- While you won't be able to see the older progression goals on current reports, historic reports will still include past teacher comments and overall achievement graphs. These graphs will continue to show how your child has progressed throughout their time at our school and will be visible on your child's report after our mid-year Overall Teacher Judgements (OTJ's) assessments have been made.
- Please be assured that our teachers are working diligently to align their teaching with the refreshed curriculum and support students through this transition.

Looking ahead

The government are currently seeking new assessment tools which they expect to have by the end of 2025 and are these are expected to be in use New Zealand wide in 2026.

They have yet to provide guidance on when they expect achievement data to stabilise under the new system. As soon as we receive this information, we will share it with our school community.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this period of change together. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's progress in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the leadership team.

Vegetable Garden Makeover

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers and Oke Charity, not to mention our hardworking students, who constructed our much improved vegetable garden last Friday. We are now looking forward to getting in there and planting seeds in the greenhouse for germination, and fruits and vegetables in the new garden beds to harvest and cook with.



STS News

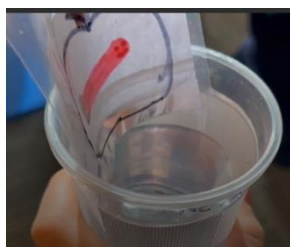
To watch the 21st episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

STEAM - Term 1 – 2025

Lights, Camera, STEAM!

This term, students have been inspired by famous children's movies to explore creativity, engineering, and science through hands-on, imaginative projects. They designed and built moving toys, sock puppets, and marionette puppets, bringing characters to life through storytelling and mechanics. They investigated the science behind snowflakes and extreme ice events, experienced the magic of reflection and refraction first hand, and even created giant bubbles to explore surface tension in a fun and interactive way. Students also delved into the art of navigation, crafting traditional stick charts and uncovering how explorers once used the stars to guide their journeys.

It has been a fantastic term filled with curiosity, collaboration, and problem-solving. We can't wait to see where our next STEAM adventures **take us!**



Orienteering Sprint Series



We're excited to share that Luke White represented our school at the Orienteering Finals on Sunday 6 April! After an impressive 7th place in the Central Auckland Sprint earlier in the season, Luke continued to show great resilience and gave it his all on the day. We're super proud of his effort and the way he's committed to the sport this term – ka pai, Luke!

Bay Suburbs Swimming

We are incredibly proud of our students who represented St Thomas's School at the Bay Suburbs Swimming Competition on Friday 28 March at Sacred Heart Aquatic Centre. Our swimmers gave it their all, showing fantastic sportsmanship and determination in the pool.

A massive thank you to Miss Gosden for transporting 23 of our students to the event—your support is truly appreciated. Another big thank you to Megan, our parent helper for the day. We couldn't have done it without you both.

It was an amazing day in the pool, with over nine of our students placing in the top three — a fantastic achievement! We are so proud of every swimmer who gave their best effort and represented St Thomas's with pride.

Well done to all our competitors for their hard work and enthusiasm. You made St Thomas's proud.



Year 6 Sport at Selwyn College

The Year 6 students have had four awesome sport sessions led by Year 12 students at Selwyn College this term.

I liked the soccer netball hybrid, because it was fun getting to do them both together - *Tongji S9*

We played a rugby type game where you could pass forward. It was fun! - *Archie S10*

I enjoyed having really nice Year 12 leaders who explained the games well - *Jess S10*

We are very thankful to the Selwyn College students for teaching us how to play in a team - *Dayan S11*

I enjoyed playing capture the flag. It was a team effort as we all had to coordinate - *Oliver S10*

I liked how the coaches explained everything clearly - *Ah In S9*

I really liked playing fun games and meeting new people - *Isabelle S11*

I really enjoyed playing touch rugby - they gave really good and clear instructions - *Arshia S12*

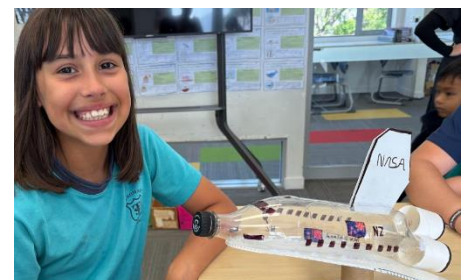
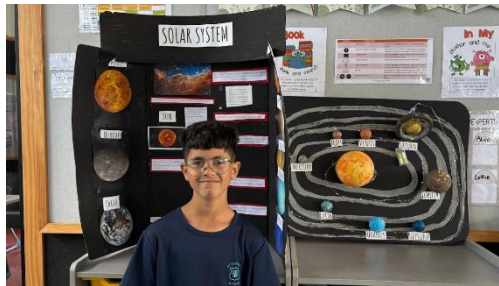


Year 5 Learning Projects

The Year 5's have been learning about Space this term. As part of this, they completed Home Learning Projects. Each student showed their creativity and passion through creating an item to represent their learning about Space Navigation and Planets.

Every project was impressive and we could see the hard work they all put into them. The students were excited to show off their masterpieces and learning with their parents at student-led conferences, and the rest of the school in Week 10.

Here are some photos of some of their fantastic creations:



Design a Label



St Thomas's School have produced their first season of honey and we are looking for a eye-catching label for our honey jars. The winning entry will be placed on the jar. The honey will be available for purchase later in the year.





HONEY LABEL COMPETITION

Are you an aspiring artist? This competition is your chance!
This competition is for year 6's and up. Students who choose to participate will design a label for our inaugural honey harvest. The honey is proudly STS grown and produced. Entries should include the school logo or name, and must be landscape.
So what are you waiting for?
Start designing now!
Any queries? See Mrs Snell!
Entries close on Friday 30th of May.

Teacher Vs Student Football game

Result 4:2 to the teachers.



Teacher Profile – Sara Haddon



Hi I am Sara Haddon, and as the new Visual Arts Teacher I wanted to give you a peek into a few of our art sessions. They usually start with a quick 5 minute pencil exercise focusing on the elements of art and gaining confidence using different pencil and drawing techniques. Then I introduce the skill, focus and process of the art lesson.

We work with examples, artists who influence this style, video examples, demonstrations and large board step by step processes. I try and set up experiences that allow for individuality, different abilities, new art experiences and success for everyone. Our Art room is now full of student art which we are very proud of. Eventually their art pieces will be returned to them via their class teacher.

We have got creative with water colour, zentangle patterns, painting acrylic realistic trees, using wool stitching with photos, paper collage, Mondrian primary colour panels, Tim Burton portraits, Van Gogh inspired sunflower collages and glue and chalk drawings, Japanese weaving, Banksy influenced stencilling posters, tinfoil and wire action sculpture - to name a few. The art sessions are 1 ½ hours and each class has approximately 6 sessions. I will try and share when I can. Here are a few insights to what we have been up to:

Term 1

Art Celebration

https://youtu.be/Xgd_A9NWBu

Year 4 - M4RI

Rangitoto Collage

https://youtu.be/QvOIM_jXQAQ

Year 5 - M6OV

Paper Faces

https://youtu.be/L_gIdj43MLc

Year 6 - S10

Ostrich Pastels

<https://youtu.be/UrR1ho0IBZ0>

Year 7 - S5

Van Gogh Sunflowers

https://youtu.be/Zp2z_AEzWmQ

Year 8 - S2

Wool Portraits

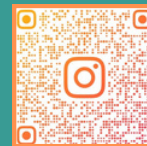
<https://youtu.be/9y25rx305QQ>

Tim Burton Portraits

<https://youtu.be/dwPuVeEH3Ls>

St Thomas's School PTA NEWS

Connect
WITH US



Instagram



Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY
FRIDAY

ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm, under the tree outside the office.
(weather allowing)

ON
NOW

YUMMY STICKERS

Start collecting now!

MAY
14

PTA MEETING

7pm in the school staff lounge

MAY
26

-ATHON

Donations: 30 April - 30 May

Testing date: 26 May

JUNE
13

PTA DISCO

Save the date!

AUG
9

QUIZ NIGHT

Collecting donations for the auction now!

QUIZ NIGHT PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED!

Can you help?

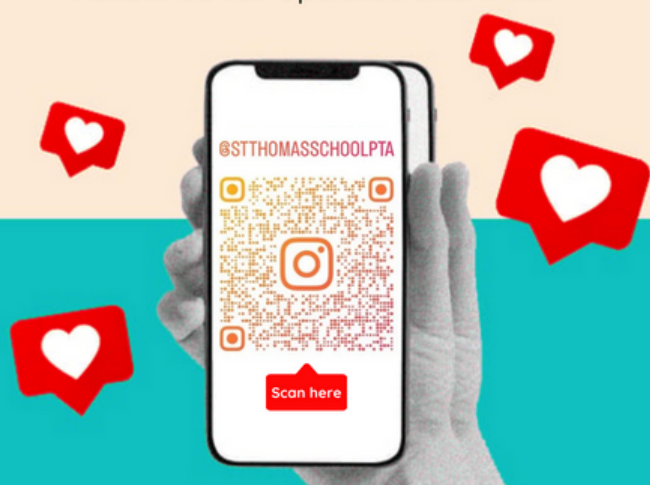
We need your help obtaining prize donations to make our event even more special and raise funds for St Thomas's STEAM program.

If you can contribute or know of businesses that might be interested, please get in touch with the PTA.



THE PTA IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

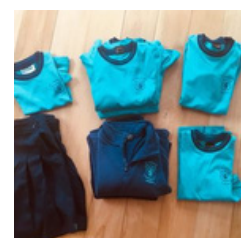
Follow us for updates and info!



SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Please donate your pre-loved uniform(s) for us to sell as part of our fundraising efforts!

We're always in need of more uniform items, so if you have any tucked away that no longer fit, we'd love to have them for our second-hand uniform sales events! Please drop them off to the school office.



YUMMY STICKERS

The Yummy sticker sports gear promotion is on now!

Start collecting your Yummy apple stickers and cut-out labels!

Collecting is easy!

- buy your Yummy apples
- peel off stickers / cut-out labels from bags
- stick them on a sticker/cut-out label chart
- once your sheet is ready, bring it into class or put on your classroom sheet



Sticker Sheet



Cut-out Sheet

ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

From 3pm every Friday
(weather permitting)

\$2 each or 3 for \$5

Under the tree outside the office



HELP THE PTA!

Our fundraising efforts for 2025 will go towards enhancing the STEAM programme with new equipment & resources. We'd love for you to join us!

Whether it's helping at events or sharing ideas, every bit helps. No big commitment - help as much as you're able.

If you're interested in getting involved or learning more, come along to the next PTA meeting or get in touch.



Email us at: stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



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...

This week, during hour of power, we discovered foam clouds, played some volleyball and put together a healthy green smoothie. Thursday, we also had a go at getting across our laser maze.



KELLY CLUB

CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH US!

Our end-of-year half-day programme is full of exciting activities that will guarantee your kids have a great time!

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

What's happening in the Holidays!

KELLY CLUB

APRIL 2025 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
ST THOMAS SCHOOL

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!

WEEK 1	<p>Mon 14 April</p> <p>HYBRID HOOPLA</p> <p>Let's see how wild things can get when crazy ideas collide! Create your own hybrid – it could be a zebra monster truck, uni-cats, or foot-baseball.</p>	<p>Tues 15 April</p> <p>TIME TRAVEL</p> <p>A day with no limits! See if you can be the first to invent a time machine and imagine moving through the ages of the past and exploring the future!</p>	<p>Wed 16 April</p> <p>MOTAT</p> <p>Join us for an awesome trip day to MOTAT to learn about transport and technology. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat.</p> <p>\$20 extra for the day.</p>	<p>Thurs 17 April</p> <p>EGGSTRAVAGANZA</p> <p>Hop along for our Easter 'Eggstravaganza'! Bring your looking eyes for our Great Easter Egg Hunt. Who knows what kind of goodies you may find!</p>	<p>Fri 18 April</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>
	<p>Mon 21 April</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>EASTER MONDAY</p>	<p>Tues 22 April</p> <p>GLITTER VS GOO</p> <p>Get ready for a day of sensory exploration! Let's mix up some goo and get messy. Don't forget to bring a change of clothes.</p>	<p>Wed 23 April</p> <p>KC'S GOT TALENT</p> <p>Today we're discovering the hidden talents that Kelly Club kids have on offer! We can't wait to see what you've got.</p>	<p>Thurs 24 April</p> <p>ANZAC HEROES</p> <p>Work together as a team to overcome challenges, big and small, and embody the spirit of our ANZAC heroes.</p>	<p>Fri 25 April</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</p> <p>ANZAC DAY</p>

Pricing:
FULL DAY: \$59 **HALF DAY:** \$41
7:00am – 6:00pm 7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm
SCHOOL DAY: \$49 **EVENT DAY:** Extra \$20
8:30am – 3:00pm

Contact: Ian Palmquist
Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Phone: 021 0803 3666
Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas
Address: 113 Allum St, Kohimarama

BOOK NOW AT
kellyclub.co.nz/st-thomas

Further information:
www.kellyclub.co.nz/hp#info



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

Public Notices

Please see our website for details about:

Clubs and activities:

Lunchtime Table Tennis - For Term 2 sessions will move to Fridays. The first session after the holidays will be on Friday 2 May 12.30pm.

For all other clubs and activities, please see:

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

Community notices:

<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/community-notices/>

School holiday programmes:

<https://www.stthomas.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

Holiday Soccer with Billy Harris

14 - 17 April, 9am- midday, Okahu Bay

All welcome. \$20 a day.

Text Billy to enrol for some or all the days. 027 279 9042

Smartphone Free

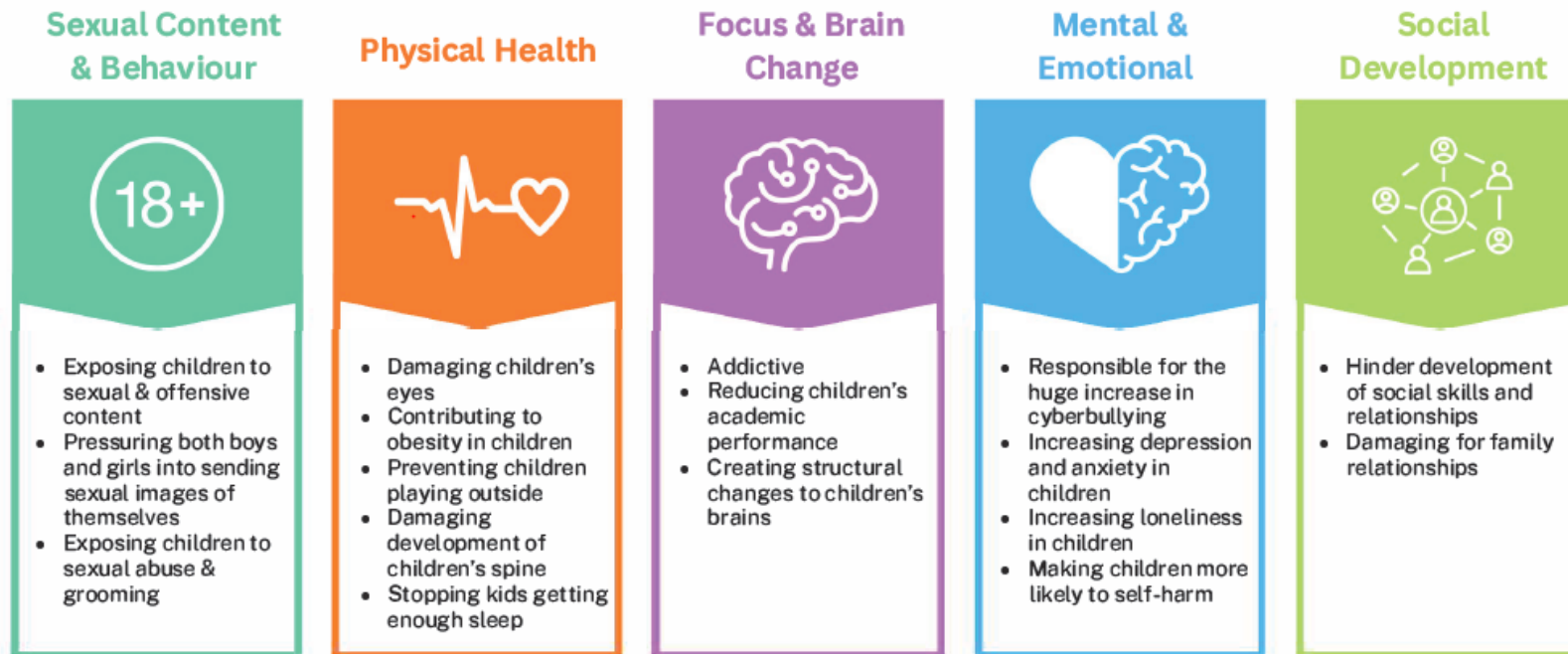
It is recommended that delaying smartphones and social media for your child as they move through school.

This document briefly highlights why it's advised to delay and share some beneficial alternatives.

For more information, visit www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.nz, a New Zealand charitable trust raising awareness and support.

"Research shows that this is not something we can argue back and forth about, saying it's just a correlation. There is now substantial evidence that social media is causing anxiety and depression." –

Nathan Wallis Neuroscientist Educator



Our tamariki and rangatahi are growing up in a digital world, where technology offers many benefits. However, adult smartphones are often given to them too soon, rather than being a final option.

We support a gradual introduction to technology and offer some alternative options for consideration.

Every child and family is unique. We hope this information helps strengthen our school community.



DeMobile Phone - AGM M6

In order to buy with confidence, Tone Down Tech has acquired safety and compliance testing for the AGM M6. TDT is the only supplier of the AGM M6 in NZ to have a certified NZ/Australian power adaptor.



Flip phone - AGM M8

- The best rugged flip phone on the market.
- Perfect first phone for kids
- Drop, dust and water proof
- FM radio and torch.
- Basic camera.
- No internet.



Nokia 5710

Other notable specs of the Nokia 5710 are:

- 0.3MP back camera
- 3.5mm audio connector
- Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth v5.0
- microUSB v2.0



Nokia 2660

The Nokia 2660 Flip phone from Personal Digital displays the incoming caller ID when the lid is closed. This phone features very loud speakers, which makes it a good phone for listening to music, talking on the phone



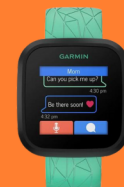
Nokia 3210

Paying homage to the original Nokia 3210 design, Nokia Icon has been rebuilt from ground up. Long battery life, back camera and Bluetooth connectivity.



Kid-Safe Smartphone – Galaxy A15 5G

Designed in collaboration with Samsung, the Kid-Safe Smartphone is perfect for providing your child with a remarkably safe and clean digital experience.



Bounce Garmin Jr

Two-way text and voice messaging via the Garmin Jr.™ app on your compatible smartphone. Real-time location tracking, tracks steps, sleep, activity and more.