

28 November 2025

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Health and Safety Update.

Concerns regarding the possibility of asbestos contamination in sand and Kmart products in homes and schools has caused a lot of unease across the country in recent weeks. At St Thomas's School we immediately reacted to the warnings and located a small amount of product (Three unopened 1.3kg containers and one opened container). This was tested and no traces of any contamination found. We also found some Kmart product (not the ones which were recalled) and in a cautionary measure had them tested and they also tested negative of contamination. Though none of these products were of any concern we asked the testing company to retain and destroy them.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccination rates for St Thomas's School (Auckland)

Measles cases have recently been identified across New Zealand and have already impacted two schools in our region. Measles spreads easily and can be serious for both children and adults. To support your preparedness, we have assessed what proportion of our school roll has evidence of measles immunity. As of 13 October 2025 698, (79.4%) of our school roll are recorded as fully immunised for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) (two doses after 12 months of age). For our school, 181 (20.6%) students appear not to have a record on the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) of having been fully immunised. This could be because:

1. The student has had MMR vaccinations in New Zealand, but these have not been uploaded on AIR.
2. The student has overseas vaccination records that need to be verified and uploaded to AIR.
3. The student has missed one or two doses of MMR vaccine.
4. The student and/or whānau have declined MMR vaccination.

Why are we sharing this data?

Individuals who are not considered immune to measles may need to stay home from school each time they are exposed, to prevent further spread. Please check your child's immunisation status to ensure it is up to date. Inform the school if we need to update your information.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



Thanks to all our road patrol and Kea Crossing leaders who have kept our students safe this year.

Upcoming Dates

December

- 01 Senior Assembly (Y8 Hosting) 11.45am (school hall)
- 03 Y8 Market Day
- 03 Y5 Maritime Museum Trip (M6)
- 04 Y8 Rangitoto Climb
- 05 House Activity Day
- 05 Parent's Afternoon Tea 2.00pm staffroom
- 10 Pizza Lunch and Mufti Day
- 11 Prizegiving Practice – B&T Stadium
- 12 End of Year Prizegiving – B&T Stadium 10.00am (Whānau to arrive from 9.30am, please be seated by 9.50am)
- 15 Meet your 2026 Teacher
- 15 Colour Run 1.30pm
- 16 Last Day of School (School closes at 12:30pm) (no school bus running at this time)

2026

January

- 30 Meet the teacher day (times to be arranged)

February

- 02 First day of Term 1
- 06 Waitangi Day Holiday
- 20 PTA Picnic
- 25 - 27 Year 6 Camp at Camp Adair

Year 6 Science Fair



On 19 November 2025, our Year 6 students proudly hosted a vibrant Science Fair for the whole school. Tamariki from Years 0 to 8 - and many of our whānau - came along to explore, question and discover the ideas behind each project. The classrooms buzzed with excitement as students shared their creativity, curiosity, and hard-earned learning. Below are a few reflections from our Year 6 scientists about their experience:

"We really enjoyed the Science Fair and how we got to teach students and parents about our projects. It was really fun, although our feet hurt from standing for a long time! We are thankful to everyone who listened to our presentations." - *Ariana and Samantha*

"I enjoyed making my Science Fair Board with my project buddy and presenting it to the Year 2s! They were very curious and asked lots of questions!" - *Oliver*

"What I liked about the Science Fair was all the little kids who came up to our stall asking about our Science Project and how it all worked. My favourite project was the investigation about the bacteria in the school. Even though I had to stand for the whole day, I had so much fun!" - *Indie*

"We loved showing our Science Boards to the students and giving them stickers! It was amazing to show them all of our hard work. We felt so happy sharing our projects!" - *Arshia and Mila*

ICAS Testing Results

Congratulations to the following students who achieved Distinction and High Distinction in our 2025 ICAS testing over Term 3.

Mathematics

Distinction

- Ethan Suppiah – Year 8
- Reddington Chen – Year 6
- Kate Yin – Year 5

Digital Technologies

Distinction

- Ethan Suppiah – Year 8
- Nile McLeon – Year 4

Writing

Distinction

- Alyssa Keh – Year 4

English

High Distinction

- Lydia Mitchelson – Year 5

Distinction

- Tommy Tran – Year 7
- Ava McBeth – Year 4

Spelling Bee

High Distinction

- Kate Yin

Distinction

- Henry Keh – Year 7
- Ava McBeth – Year 4

Science

Distinction

- Reddington Chen – Year 6

Rainbow's End for the Kea Crossing Students

Thank you to the Year 6 students who have done Kea Crossing duty this year! We had an awesome day out at Rainbow's End to celebrate.



Staff Profile – Shannon Ovalle



I'm a passionate, fun, and creative person with a big heart for the ākonga in my care. I've been teaching for two and a half years across Years 3 – 5, with a particular passion for literacy. My love for teaching began back in High School when I travelled to Fiji to teach reading and writing to local students.

I also spent many years as a dance teacher, which helped foster my love of creativity and working with young people. I studied media and screen production at university. Outside the classroom I enjoy painting, photography and watching films. My favourite school subjects were Art, English, and Media

Staff Profile – Cleo Kirton



I am a former St Thomas's student and it's incredibly special to be working within this vibrant learning community. With all the exciting new spaces and opportunities around us, I'm committed to supporting my students, your children, to grow, succeed, and discover their strengths in a safe, welcoming environment.

I'm deeply passionate about literacy, languages, and the power of stories. I absolutely love books and reading, and one of my personal goals is to become a polyglot by 2030. I'm always eager to learn about other cultures. I believe in the importance of media literacy and I am an enthusiastic consumer of films, music and all kinds of creative media.

In my spare time, I'm an avid crocheter and often bring my love of storytelling to life by creating crochet versions of the fantasy characters I play in my Dungeons & Dragons games. I also enjoy experimenting in the kitchen and baking treats to share.

STS News

To watch the 30th episode of the series, click [HERE](#).

To watch the 31st 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-notice/>

School holiday programme:

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



Kids and smartphones—what's the big deal?

Join us for St Thomas's first **Smartphone Free Childhood** parent gathering.

Thursday 4 December

6:30–8pm

St Thomas's Staff Lounge

Access through the front office and up the stairs

This national charity supports parents in delaying giving smartphones to kids. We're getting together for a relaxed chat about the movement and how we can make it work for our community.

Hosted by St Thomas's parents and Smartphone Free Childhood ambassadors, Rebecca McBeth and Dr Katey Mitchelson. Rebecca is a journalist and editor working in the health technology sector. Katey is a child and adolescent psychologist.

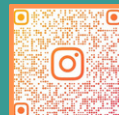
All parents, caregivers, and STS staff are warmly welcome. Come along and join the conversation.

www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.nz

PTA NEWS

The PTA is on
Facebook & Instagram
Follow us for the quickest way to see what's going on!
Search for: StThomasSchoolPTA

✉ stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com



Instagram



Facebook

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC
5

PARENT'S AFTERNOON TEA
2:00 - 2:50pm in the school staff room

DEC
15

COLOUR FUN RUN
On the school field from 1:30pm

ON
NOW

CHRISTMAS HAMS FUNDRAISER
Lock in your order now via a deposit on Kindo.
Orders until: 12 Dec
Pickup: 15 - 24 Dec

St Thomas's PTA presents...

COLOUR RUN

2025

Monday, 15 December
from 1:30pm on the school field

IT'S THE MOST COLOURFUL DAY OF THE YEAR!
Get ready to run, dance, skip or cartwheel your way through a rainbow explosion of fun.

\$5.00 per child - pay now via Kindo
You can also sponsor another child by donating an extra \$5.00

WHAT TO BRING:

- White /light coloured cotton shirt
- Towel
- Goggles (highly recommended)
- Change of clothes

Some surprise elements proudly donated by:

THE BAYS Swim Magic
St Thomas's students' special pricing:
New enrolments get 4 weeks at ½ price!

PTA Christmas Hams Fundraiser
Hams brought to you by Mapari Meats, the new high-end butchery at Stoneridge on Lunn Ave
Money raised goes towards our 2025 fundraising efforts.

🎄 Lock in your ham order today by paying the deposit* via Kindo. Last orders: **Friday, 12 December**
*Deposit is non-refundable

🎄 Pay the remaining amount upon pick-up at Mapari Meats. Must collect between: **15-24 December**
Stoneridge on Lunn Ave, Shop 13 - 101 Lunn Avenue

Mapari-Made Half Champagne Ham (approx. 5kg)
\$125 each

Mapari-Made Whole Champagne Ham (approx. 10kg)
\$240 each

MAPARI MEATS
ESTD 2021

PTA UNIFORM DRIVE SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS NEEDED

Have school uniforms that no longer fit?
Donate them to the PTA and help us turn
outgrown clothes into funds for our school
via our uniform sales!

Drop them off any time inside the school office

Next uniform sale:
Friday, 30 January 2026 @ Meet the Teacher day

**Parents and caregivers...
need a pick-me-up before school pickup?**

Come up to the staff room for a free
afternoon tea with hot drinks, biscuits, and a
chance to relax before picking up the kids.

Everyone is welcome,
Friday 5 September
2:00-2:55pm
in the staff room

Brought to you by the St Thomas's School PTA

JOIN OUR PTA WHĀNAU

We'd love for you to join us!

DO **SUPER!** THINGS
WITH THE PTA!

VOLUNTEER

CALLING ALL MUMS, DADS, AUNTIES,
UNCLES, NANAS & GRANDADS, BE A
POSITIVE ROLE MODEL...

JOIN OUR PTA WHĀNAU!

SHARE YOUR TALENT

YOU HAVE SUPER SKILLS
AND KNOWLEDGE
TO SHARE

SUPPORT US

HELP AT OUR EVENTS
BUT SKIP THE MEETINGS.
JOIN "FRIENDS OF THE PTA"

EMAIL US @ STTHOMASSCHOOLPTA@GMAIL.COM



Contact: Michaela Boag
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 are having so much fun with our Kids Choice theme this week! From epic Nerf Wars and creative clay animals, to yummy dirt pudding, our kids really know how to plan a week full of fun!



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

What's happening next week!



THEME: Tidy Kiwis!

Term 4 Week 9, 1 December 2025

Weekly Activities Plan
Kelly Club St Thomas

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00 - 8:15 am	Colouring Comp & Structured Free Time	Lego Building & Structured Free Time	Dance Battle & Structured Free Time	Kiwi Bird Masks & Structured Free Time	Homemade Cookies & Structured Free Time
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Chicken Tag	Game: Recycling Chaos	Game: Musical Statues	Game: Head it, Catch it	Game: Captains Coming
3:00 - 3:10 pm	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time	Sign In & Free Time
3:10 - 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Corn Chips, Salsa & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Spaghetti Bread Basket & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Cookies & Fruit
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Zip Zap Boing	Game: Rainbow Rush	Game: Crab Football	Game: Tug O War	Game: Jedi Dodgeball
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	COOKING Kiwi Muffins 	CRAFT New Zealand Collage 	GAME Kiwis & Worms 	DISCOVERY Giant Kiwi Memory 	SPORT Kiwi Release 
	COOKING Kiwi Muffins 	SPORT Kiwi Release 	CRAFT Climbing Gecko 	GAME Kiwi Relay Race 	DISCOVERY Giant Kiwi Memory 
4:30 - 4:40pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up
4:40 - 5:15pm	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
5:15- 5:30 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time
5:30- 6:00 pm	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Crackers	Snack Time Oreos	Snack Time Raisins	Snack Time Potato Stixs

E: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz

kellyclub.co.nz/stthomas

P: 021 080 33666



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz



A FUN PROGRAMME
THAT KIDS LOVE!

Tuesday 16 December **HALF DAY PROGRAMME**

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

*Conditions apply

ST THOMAS SCHOOL

Let's celebrate the last day of school for 2025 with an afternoon full of icy fun! School finishes early, so come join us for games like freeze tag, creative crafts, and delicious icy treats. It's the perfect way to kick off the holidays with friends—book online and join the fun!

Before School Care 1: \$17
7:00am – 8:30am (Incl Breakfast)

Before School Care 2: \$13
7:30am – 8:30am

School Day: \$20
12:30pm – 3:00pm

4:30pm Pick Up: \$39
12:30pm – 4:30pm

6pm Pick Up: \$45
12:30pm – 6:00pm

Contact: Ian Palmquist
Phone: 021 0803 3666

Email: stthomas@kellyclub.co.nz
Facebook: @KellyClubStThomas

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz