

13 February 2026

Principal's Message

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Welcome Back

Welcome to all our returning families and those who have joined us for the first time. It is a joy to see our students bouncing in the gates on their return and we are lucky to have such lovely weather at the start of the academic year.

Project Update

We have had a productive summer break completing several major projects.

Work on our new canopy and artificial turf is making good progress despite some hold ups due to weather. On completion in March, this will add a fantastic new space for our students and community to use and is a great example of the continuous improvement which drives St Thomas's School forward. Please see pictures on next page.

Contractors also re-cabled the entire school and installed new IT infrastructure over the holidays. This future proofs the network for many years ahead and allows improved connectivity across the school. Our painting company painted the exterior of the senior block which has refreshed this area and it looks like a new building again.

Health and Safety

Hats: Students must bring their school hats to school and wear them while outside.

Bikes & Scooters: Students must wear correct size helmets to and from school. If students arrive without helmets they will be asked to leave their bikes/scooters in school for parents to pick up the next day.

Road Crossing: Please use the Kiwi Crossing or cross at the traffic lights. Do not ask your child to run across the road.

School Grounds: We ask all parents and students to leave the school grounds by 3:30pm at the latest as we have contractors and trucks moving around our site.

I look forward to seeing you at our School Picnic next Friday 20 February.

Ngā mihi nui

Michael Maher
Principal



**Congratulations to all our
Year 8 Leaders on a
fantastic start to the year!**

Upcoming Dates

February

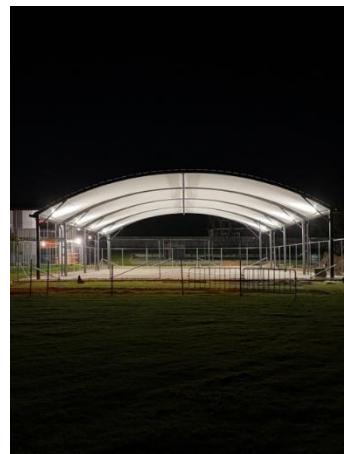
- 20 PTA Picnic 4.30pm – 7.00pm
- 24 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 25-27 Yr 6 Camp – Camp Adair

March

- 05 Eastern Zone Softball
- 10 Yr 5-8 Swimming Sports
- 17 Bay Suburbs Softball
- 17 Yr 7-8 Immunisations
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting (6.30pm staffroom)
- 18 S7 & S8 Howick Historical Village Trip
- 19 M6 Howick Historical Village Trip
- 23 Eastern Zone Orienteering
- 24 Eastern Zone Swimming
- 26 Student Led Learning Conferences
- 27 Bay Suburbs Swimming

April

- 02 Last Day of Term 1
- 20 First Day of Term 2
- 27 ANZAC Day Holiday



5.00am with canopy lights switched on and concrete trucks on their way for edging.

Out of Zone Ballot: Siblings of Current Students

This is a reminder to families who have previously enrolled a child as Out of Zone and who have siblings to enrol for 2026, you will need to complete the Out of Zone application online. **Please note that this is only for siblings who will start in Year 1 or 0 this year.** Here is the link to the form: [Out of Zone Enrolment Form](#).

For families that have moved out of zone while your child has been attending St Thomas's School and you have another child that you would like to enrol in Year 1 or 0 for 2026, you will need to do this also. The deadline for these applications is 20 March 2026. The Ballot will be on 24 March 2026 and you will be notified of the results by the end of that week.

Reporting Student Absences

We would like to remind all parents/caregivers that reporting absences is important for the safety and wellbeing of students. We aim to deal with all unexplained absences as quickly as possible each morning.

To minimise the number of unexplained absences, it is helpful if parents/caregivers take a few moments to advise the school of an absence **by 9.00am** through our Hero App. ***It is not necessary to email the class teacher.***

Absences must be reported each day unless the office has been advised in advance of the duration of an absence. You must state the reason for absence i.e. sick, doctor's appointment, holiday or bereavement.

Our gate is locked at 8.55am and we do have a lot of students arriving 5 minutes late. Please note, the school roll is taken at 8.55am ready to start the learning programme at 9.00am. While we may try several alternative phone numbers to contact a parent, if calls are not answered, where possible we will leave a voice message. If your phone numbers change, can you please advise the office.

Any students arriving late to school must report to the office and sign in, so that their safe arrival can be recorded. All late arrivals are recorded, should your child be late on a regular basis follow up action will be taken.

Should you wish to collect your child early from school, please come to the office and sign your child out. We do not let your children go home with someone that is not on the child's record card. Students cannot be signed out during morning break or lunchtime so if they have an appointment, please pick them up before morning break (10.30am – 10.50am) and lunch (12.30pm – 1.30pm).

If your child is unwell during the school day, they should go to sick bay. They must **not** phone or text their parents/caregivers themselves.

PTA NEWS

The PTA is on
Facebook & Instagram
@ StThomasSchoolPTA

 stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

EVERY
FRIDAY

ICE BLOCKS

From 3pm, under the
tree by the main gate

FEB
18

PTA MEETING

Starting @ 7pm
in the school staff room
Anyone is welcome to join!

FEB
20

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

SCHOOL FAMILY PICNIC

4:30 - 7pm
on the school field

Family Picnic 20 Feb @ 4:30PM

St Thomas's PICNIC ON THE GREEN

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

4:30 - 7PM

ON THE SCHOOL FIELD

Grab your friends, whānau & picnic supplies for an afternoon of fun!

Enjoy inflatables, carnival games, rides, sausages, pizza,

Mr. Whippy, food trucks and more.

BYO food and drinks welcome too.

PLEASE BRING CASH
many activities &
food will be
cash only



Picnic Volunteers Needed

We need your help!

We need extra parent & whānau
volunteers to lend a hand during the
picnic, set-up and/or clean-up.

We'd really appreciate any time you're
able to offer! Please get in touch if you
can help; email us at:
stthomasschoolpta@gmail.com

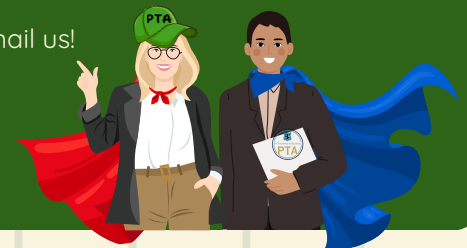
Join the PTA

Be a super role model! We all know that
being involved in your child's education
has a HUGE impact. The PTA is the
perfect place where your presence,
experience and ideas can help. Imagine
the difference you can make!

Not ready for a full commitment?

Join "Friends of the PTA". Joining means
you can lend a hand when you can
without the full commitment. You'll still be
making a big difference at our events.

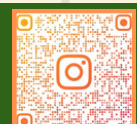
Email us!



Follow us on Instagram & Facebook

Search: @ StThomasSchoolIPTA

Whether you're ready to join the PTA or not, keep up to date on everything St Thomas's School
and PTA-related.



Instagram



Facebook

Allum Street Traffic

A big thanks to parents who are following the road rules and our repeated requests for caution on the roads during drop-off and pick-up times. We have noticed that mornings are a lot better with very few parents now making dangerous driving decisions and putting our students at risk.

The afternoon pick-up window is still a cause of concern for us however, with the main dangers being:

- Parents double-parking alongside the big tree to allow children out of, or into, their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles.
- Parents double-parking alongside other cars parked within the parking bays to allow children into their car – this blocks the flow of traffic down Allum Street and creates blind spots for other vehicles. It also puts students at risk of being hit by other moving vehicles.



- Parents parking on the yellow lines outside the staff carpark to wait for their children and/or allow children out of, or into, their car – this causes chaos in a number of ways and we will be having random visits from parking wardens to ticket this activity going forward. Yellow lines = no parking, it is very simple.



- Parents performing u-turns outside the school after picking up or picking up their children blocks the road, disrupts traffic flow in both directions, creates blind spots, puts our students and other motorists vehicles in danger and is generally inconsiderate to others and our repeated requests to help keep traffic flowing as freely as possible. Instead of u-turning, please proceed further down Allum Street and exit via another road or turn around where it is safe to do so.



- Parents running, or sending/calling, their children across the road instead of using the crossings. There is a Kea Crossing less than 50m down Allum Street and Traffic Light Crossing less than 50m up Allum Street from this point. Please use the crossings.



School Donation

The St Thomas's School donation in 2026 is \$495 per student.

Please note that a donation tax credit can be obtained from IRD for your donation. Donations can be paid via our [online shop](#).

The St Thomas's School community has high aspirations for the school and its students. The St Thomas's School Board recognises this and commits to providing significantly more than the basics which the government funds. The Board's main source of local funding is the school donation. Your donation is critically important to the school and will make a significant difference to your child's education at St Thomas's School. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Gate Times

If you are on the school grounds after school hours it is really important that you leave before 3.30pm.

Thank you to all our parents for helping to build resilience in our young students by saying goodbye to them outside the gate and letting them walk into school on their own.

For a large school, we have only a very small road frontage area available for drop-offs and pick-ups. To ensure the health and safety of all our students, we rely on the support of our community to adhere to the following:

- Our school gates open at 8.15am. Students should not arrive at school before this time. Gates are locked again at 8.55am. Any student arriving after this time must sign in as late at the office before heading to their classroom.
- Our school gates open at 2.55pm and parents may come on site to collect their children from school if they wish. Gates are locked again at 3.30pm to allow our teachers uninterrupted time to meet and prepare for the following day's teaching and learning. Please note: outside of school hours, staff are not available to supervise students on the playground or provide first aid. For this reason, we request that all parents and students leave the site by 3.30pm when the gates close.
- Students should be collected promptly from school after 3pm. We have a large number of students who wait, unsupervised, for parents to collect them from outside our school office. This is a health and safety risk and we request that parents minimise this waiting time as much as possible.

Whānau Friday

On Fridays, whānau are welcomed onto the school site in the morning while our school gates are open. 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 before the 8.55am bell goes, so that we can begin our teaching and learning programme. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, parents drop off their children at the school gate. This helps with traffic flow outside the school and builds resilient and independent students.

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.school.nz/school-holiday-programmes/>

Music lessons right at school 🎵 Personalised lessons designed to support your child's confidence, focus, and learning — with no extra travel for families. 📌 **Enrol here:** <https://musiceducation.co.nz/pages/mis-enrolment>

MUSIC LESSONS

Right at school

Boost your child's confidence, focus, and learning through music.

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Our individualised music lessons are engaging, educational, and designed to strengthen cognitive, social, and musical skills.

All with zero extra travel for families!

Scan the QR to enrol

0800 89 39 39 Or call us!

musiceducation.co.nz



A fantastic opportunity for your child!

Shine Speech & Drama classes inspire confidence and imagination, helping students communicate effectively and build self-belief that helps them succeed in life.

SHINE SPEECH & DRAMA covers:

- public speaking
- acting skills
- voice (projection and articulation)
- reading aloud skills
- positive body language
- storytelling
- relationship skills
- Option to enter exams through Speech NZ and Trinity
- Shine Achievement Awards available for all students



Meet our Shine tutor at St Thomas's School - Fiona ICF Accredited Coach

Register [here](#) for Term 1 lessons, beginning **Thursday 12 February 2026**. Term fees are \$278 for group lessons with 8 lessons guaranteed per term. Sibling discount of 10% for any siblings enrolling.

Any questions please don't hesitate to call Nina on 021 160 919.



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 had a great first week of term at Kelly Club. With nice weather, we were able to play a great game of Cricket and Fruit Salad. On Wednesday morning, Leo and Oscar put together an incredible fort and had to get a picture with it.



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES?

More families now qualify for childcare subsidies and the rates have increased for those already qualified!

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz

What's happening next week!

		THEME: Lantern Festival Term 1 Week 3, 16th February 2026				Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club St Thomas's
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
7:00 - 8:15 am	Cup Towers & Structured Free Time	Target Practice & Structured Free Time	Homemade Brownies & Structured Free Time	Playdough & Structured Free Time	Lego Building & Structured Free Time	
8:15 - 8:30 am	Game: Kiwis & Kangaroos	Game: Kids Yoga	Game: Balloon Tag	Game: Limbo	Game: Rainbow Rush	
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 Mac & Cheese & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Homemade Brownies & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Yoghurt & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammies & Fruit	
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Game: Human Paper, Scissors, Rock	Game: Duck, Duck, Goose	Game: Staff Choice	Game: Follow the Sergeant	Game: Line Tag	
SENIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	SPORT Jianzi	COOKING Sweet Rice Dumplings	CRAFT Colourful Circle Lantern	GAME 5 Sticks	DISCOVERY Lightning In A Bottle	
JUNIORS 3:45 - 4:30 pm	DISCOVERY Lightning In A Bottle	COOKING Sweet Rice Dumplings	SPORT Catch the Dragons Tail	CRAFT Paper Lanterns	GAME 5 Sticks	
4:30 - 4:40 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:40 - 5:15 pm	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 Popcorn	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Vege Chips	Snack Time Crackers	

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BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz