



St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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1 February 2024

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou whānau, and a warm St Leo's blessing on you all

A very happy New Year to you all and a warm welcome back to another fantastic year at St. Leo's. We hope you have all had a restful, relaxing holiday, enjoyed the beautiful weather and are ready for the school year to begin. I too have had a lovely break with Shania, my family and my brother who joined us from Japan for Christmas and new years break! We also had a lovely time in Fiji and enjoyed the yummy food and had a relaxing time by the beach. Lots of fun, laughter and far too much food!

Here is a prayer to start the new year:

Blessed are you, Te Atua,

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude and hope as we begin this new school year at St Leo's Catholic School. We thank you for the gift of education and the opportunity to learn and grow in knowledge and faith.

Bless our students, teachers, staff, and families as we embark on this journey together. Guide us with your wisdom and grace, that we may create a nurturing and inclusive environment where all students feel valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Lord Jesus, you are the ultimate teacher and role model. We ask for your presence to be felt in every classroom, guiding our students to be kind, compassionate, and respectful towards one another. Help them to embrace the values of love, forgiveness, and understanding, so that they may become beacons of light in our community.

Holy Spirit, fill our school with your gifts and fruits. Grant our teachers the patience, creativity, and dedication to inspire and engage our students in their learning journey. May they be blessed with the ability to recognize and nurture the unique talents and abilities of each child entrusted to their care.

Loving God, we also lift up our parents and families. Grant them the wisdom and strength to support their children's education, and may they find comfort and peace in knowing that you are with them every step of the way.

Lord, we entrust this new school year into your loving hands. May it be a time of growth, discovery, and joy for all who are part of our school community. Help us to always remember that we are called to be your disciples, shining your light in the world.

*We offer this prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*



New Staff and Thank You

We welcome Mrs Ruth Christy, Mrs Kelly-Anne Fulmizi and Tima to St Leo's. We are so blessed to have them join us. All the staff have worked hard during the summer break which I thank them for; tidying classrooms and resource rooms which had years of unused resources and items. I would like to make a special mention of thanks to Tima, who has worked tirelessly preparing the grounds for the first day and Renee for looking after the gardens. The school looks wonderful and tidy.

New Pupils and International Students

We welcome Victoria Rea and Alessa Sebin who have started in St Clare and we are welcoming back Ezra George who is in St Catherine. We have also welcomed 3 international students who are in St Patrick. There will be more students starting during this month in the other classes.

Teacher Only Days

We had a fantastic time coming together to discuss and plan for the upcoming term and year. There's so much excitement and anticipation for the fun and new learning experiences that lie ahead. Our teachers had an incredible day at Hauraki Primary, where they gained valuable insights into the refreshed mathematics curriculum and discovered innovative approaches to teaching mathematics in line with the common practice model. Marie Hirst, our facilitator, shared a wealth of amazing ideas that left everyone inspired.

Family Picnic 16 February

Please lock in 16 February, 4-6pm, for our school picnic and an opportunity to get to know our St Leo's community. There will be a free sausage sizzle for the tamariki and drinks and ice blocks for sale at \$2 each. The picnic will be followed by the PTFA AGM.



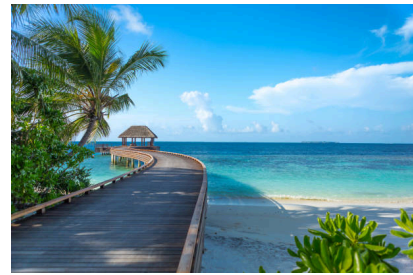
A few reminders for the upcoming days:

- We would like to remind you about hats. These are essential in this hot weather and children without hats will be asked to remain in the shade during outside play times.
- No vehicles are permitted to enter school grounds during school hours. The best places to park are on Owens Road or Victoria Road. Please be aware that there is a clear way area either side of the driveway on Owens Road that is regularly policed by Auckland Transport. Please do not park across neighbours driveways.
- All children are to be collected promptly after school unless enrolled in the After School Care programme.
- **No children are to be in the staff car park at any time.** Parents please walk your children around the administration building to exit the school on Victoria Road.
- Please ensure the correct school uniform is worn to and from school, including footwear. Last year a number of children were leaving the school grounds without their shoes on. We would like the children to take pride in their school uniform. Don't forget the sunhats.
- Bicycles and scooters are to be walked in and out of the grounds. Children riding bikes to school on a regular basis are encouraged to wear a safety vest. These can be obtained from the office.
- Pupil absences are to be phoned in by 9.30a.m. Alternatively you can send in absences via the school app. Messages may be left on the answer phone. The Ministry of Education requires us to recognise the reason for the absence so please be specific.

- We would like to remind parents that we have some children who have severe life threatening food allergies. We ask families to assist us to protect these children by avoiding having nuts in school lunches. This includes whole nuts, products containing nuts, nutella and peanut butter. We appreciate this is an inconvenience but ask for your cooperation in this matter. We also ask parents not to bring cakes or sweets to school to share with the class on your child's birthday.

Summer Holiday Photos

We would like to make a display in the foyer about what the children did on their holidays. If you have a photo you could send in for our display we would appreciate it. If you send in a physical photo it will be returned otherwise please email us your photo.



Ma te atua manaaki

God Bless,

Vimi Chandra

Other notices

Sushi

Sushi orders - these will start again from **14 Feb**. If you would like to order sushi please pick up your order form from the office and return by 9am on Tuesday for lunch Wednesday. \$4.50 per pack in cash please. You may order weekly or for the whole term. There will be 9 weeks.

Before & After school care

Bookings are open for these now. Please make sure you book in advance as if no one is booked there may be no one here to supervise the children.

Before school care 7.30 - 8.30 \$6 per session or \$10 for two or more (please let us know if you would like to book your child in for breakfast).

After school care 3pm - 5pm - \$12 per session or \$20 for two or more. Afternoon tea provided. Both held in the library.

Facebook parents group

A St Leo's families 2024 Facebook has been set up as another means of communication. Please join up this group so you don't miss out on important notices (Skool Loop is another way to get communications).

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1078081553512011/>

Skool Loop <https://skoolloop.com/en-nz/>

Music lessons

If you are carrying on with Dominic's private music lessons please be sure and let him know if you have not yet or you will lose your spot.



Stationery payments

Thank you to those of you who have paid for your stationery already. If you have not yet done so please could you pay this as soon as possible.

Splash Polo

Last week an email was sent to all parents to see if we could get together a Splash Polo team. If your child would like to play please let me know. They play on Sunday afternoon at the Millenium Centre. For more information look here.

<https://www.northharbourwaterpolo.co.nz/events-competitions/flippa-ball>

Timetable of events

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 6 February | Waitangi Day |
| Wednesday 7 February | Assembly 10.15am |
| Tuesday 13 February | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 14 February | Music with Dominic |
| Thursday 15 February | Year 6 Waterwise |
| Friday 16 February | School picnic 4pm - 6pm PTFA AGM 6pm |
| Tuesday 20 February | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 21 February | Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am BOT meeting 6.30pm |
| Thursday 22 February | Waterwise |
| Tuesday 27 February | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 28 February | Music with Dominic |
| Thursday 29 February | Waterwise |
| Friday 1 March | School swimming sports Takapuna pools |
| Tuesday 5 March | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 6 March | Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am |
| Thursday 7 March | Waterwise |
| Tuesday 12 March | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 13 March | Music with Dominic |
| Thursday 14 March | Waterwise |
| Friday 15 March | Peninsula Swimming sports |
| Tuesday 19 March | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 20 March | Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am |
| Thursday 21 March | Waterwise |
| Saturday 23 March | Belmont Primary Fair |
| Tuesday 26 March | Music lessons with Dominic Parent Teacher Conferences - school finishes 1pm |
| Wednesday 27 March | Music with Dominic |
| Thursday 28 March | NO waterwise |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Friday 29 March - Tuesday 2 April (inclusive) | Easter holiday |
| Wednesday 3 April | Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am |
| Thursday 4 April | Waterwise |
| Tuesday 9 April | Music lessons with Dominic |
| Wednesday 10 April | Music with Dominic |
| Thursday 11 August | Waterwise |
| Friday 12 August | End of term |

2024 Term dates

Term 1 ends Friday 12 April

Term 2 starts Wednesday 29 April

PTFA NEWS

Family picnic on Friday 16 February 4pm - 6pm. This will be followed by the PTFA AGM where we will need to elect a new chairperson (or job share), and secretary.

Waterwise Instructors Course

St Leo's needs new Waterwise Instructors – come join the team!

St Leo's is lucky enough to be part of the Devonport Peninsula Waterwise Programme which teaches all our Year 6 children water safety while learning to sail and kayak. Based at Narrow Neck beach, we run our sessions on Thursday mornings in Term 1, part of Term 2 and a few sessions in Term 4.

As a Waterwise instructor, you help to teach our children water confidence and basic sailing and kayaking skills. While a few children learn these skills from their family, for many it is entirely new. Seeing them develop confidence and challenge themselves outside of the classroom throughout Year 6 is an immensely rewarding experience.

Over the last few years St Leo's has benefited from a very dedicated group of volunteer instructors, many of whom no longer have children at the school. Every year we need some more parents to train as instructors so that we don't compromise our ability to continue to offer the Waterwise programme at our school. If there are not enough instructors, St Leo's will simply be unable to run our sessions in the future. This year, 2024, we will only have 3 instructors with children still at St Leo's so it is time now to start training up parents who currently have children in years 2, 3 and 4.

The schedule for the next Waterwise Instructor Training course is **attached**. This will commence on the **10th April** with an evening session and will have trainees from all the schools in the Devonport Peninsula. I realise the time commitment required to do the course looks daunting but once it is completed your time is only needed on Thursday mornings. Most of our parent instructors have work commitments and we are able to factor that into our schedule so you don't have to make every session.

The course is extremely fun and provides a great opportunity to challenge yourself and make new friends. St Leo's instructors are heavily involved in the training course so if you have any questions please get in touch with me or corner one of the instructors (Aston, Clare or Fiona) in the school playground. Renee will point you in their direction.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Michelle Scott Email: scottmichelle@xtra.co.nz

Instructor Course 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Wednesday April 10th | 7pm-9pm | Info Evening |
| Tuesday 30 th April | 9am-3pm | On Water Capsize |
| Saturday 4 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Tuesday 7 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Saturday 11 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Tuesday 14 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Saturday 18 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Tuesday 21 st May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Saturday 25 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Tuesday 28 th May | 9am-3pm | On Water |
| Tuesday 4 th June | Save Day | |
| Tuesday 4 th June | 7pm-9pm | Theory Test |
| Saturday 8 th June | Save Day | |
| Saturday 15 th June | | Practical Test |



Message from Auckland Transport

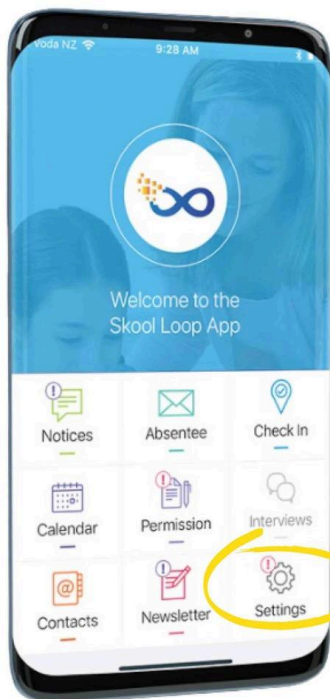
As you know, rubbish trucks visit our school and neighbouring areas daily to collect trash and recycling. While these routine pickups are necessary, they can also pose safety risks to children walking to and from school that we must be mindful of.

Drivers may not see a small child who walks behind or too close to these large vehicles with limited visibility. To help keep our students safe, I strongly encourage you to go over a few key tips with your children:

- Walk on the walkways only, not on the road. If there is no walkway, walk as far from the road/traffic as possible.
- Cross streets at pedestrian crossings or intersections. Look both ways before crossing.
- When a vehicle is backing up, such as a rubbish truck, stay far back until it has completed the manoeuvre. Never walk behind it.
- If possible wear bright or reflective clothing so you are visible.
- Remove headphones so you can hear traffic and vehicles around you.
- Obey traffic signs/signals.
- Walk, don't run. Rushing can lead to accidents.

Please discuss these safety tips with your child and remind them to be alert and aware when walking, especially around large trucks or vehicles. Doing our part to follow good safety habits can help prevent accidents. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important issue.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO NOTICE GROUPS



TO JOIN YOUR SKOOL LOOP APP NOTICE GROUPS, SIMPLY FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

- > Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
- > Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
- > Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
- > You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

NEED MORE INFO?

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Call Skool Loop NZ on 0800 238 379



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OPEN DAY

Enrolments for Years 7, 8, and 9 in 2025
Limited enrolments at other levels

Thursday 7th March 2024 | 9:30am or 1:45pm

Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour of the school

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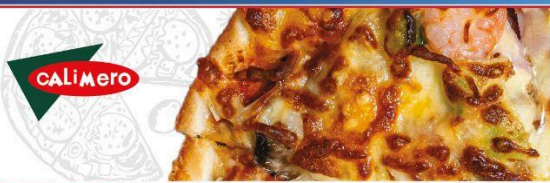
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