



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

### Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us since our last newsletter. **Kōwhai** welcomes Adam and Niya. We hope you have both enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

We also welcomed Sarah Gilmour's beautiful daughter to school yesterday as Room 12 met their teacher's new baby. This was an exciting event for both students and staff. It's turning out to be quite the year for staff babies at our school, with both Pru Naama (Room 9) and Gina Manning (Room 5) also going on parental leave next term.

### Health & well-being

We are certainly experiencing the early winter illnesses at the moment. This is having an impact on both students and staff.

Although we are very fortunate to have a wonderful pool of part-time teachers who are often able to do extra days for us, we often need to find extra relief staff to cover sickness. This is proving to be very challenging as the pool of relievers is very small and spread over a number of schools.

There may be occasions when we need to split classes across an Area or combine classes and have a teacher aide work in the space with a teacher. You may have seen in the news that some schools have already had to send classes home due to a lack of staff.

We hope to avoid that happening here and appreciate that you keep children home when they are unwell to avoid the spread of bugs and pick them up promptly from school if you get a call from the office team.

### Structured Literacy Approaches - a little more about what this means for writing

Handwriting and spelling skills are essential to writing success. The reason for this is that until a child automates these skills, carrying them out will occupy all of their working memory and prevent them from other, more creative aspects of their writing, such as the ideas they wish to express.

You could consider it similar to how a sound grasp of basic facts supports mathematics understanding.

There have been debates over the years about whether handwriting has been superseded by word processing. This has been unfortunate as evidence tells us clearly that for the majority of students, handwriting helps to reinforce spelling knowledge, and content knowledge, much more than typing does.

The teaching of these skills form an important part of our writing programmes. Handwriting is a top priority, particularly in the early years of school or when teaching our older students who have difficulties with their letter formation.

Handwriting and spelling also have significant benefits for reading development. I'll be sharing our school-wide spelling data at next week's Board meeting for discussion.

*Kay Teator*  
Principal

OUR WEBSITE

PARISH WEBSITE

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## Events

- Wednesday 29 May**  
Board of Trustees meeting, 7pm
- Friday 31 May**  
Teacher Only Day - school closed
- Monday 3 June**  
King's Birthday - school closed
- Saturday 22 June**  
PTA Fundraiser - Bingo Jingo Night 6:30pm, Lower Hutt Bowling Club

## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### Pentecost

On Sunday, the Church celebrated Pentecost. Pentecost is a very sacred and special time in the Bible and in the Church, when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost took place 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. The story in Acts 2:1-42 tells how the early followers of Christ came together on Pentecost.

The disciples then went out and spread the Good News around the world. Just like those disciples so long ago, we also have the Holy Spirit living within us, giving us that same courage and strength to spread Jesus' message to those in the world around us.



Kia ora koe, kia manaakitia ai koe e te Atua  
Janine O'Syke, Director of Religious Studies

## SEASONS FOR GROWTH

### Learning to live with change and loss

A further reminder about the successful education programme Seasons for Growth which will commence later this term. Our previous newsletter contains details about the programme. If you require further information or would like your child to take part, please email me [principal@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:principal@stpeterpaul.school.nz). Our programme coordinator, Anna Gerritsen, is happy to discuss any questions you may have or provide you with further information.



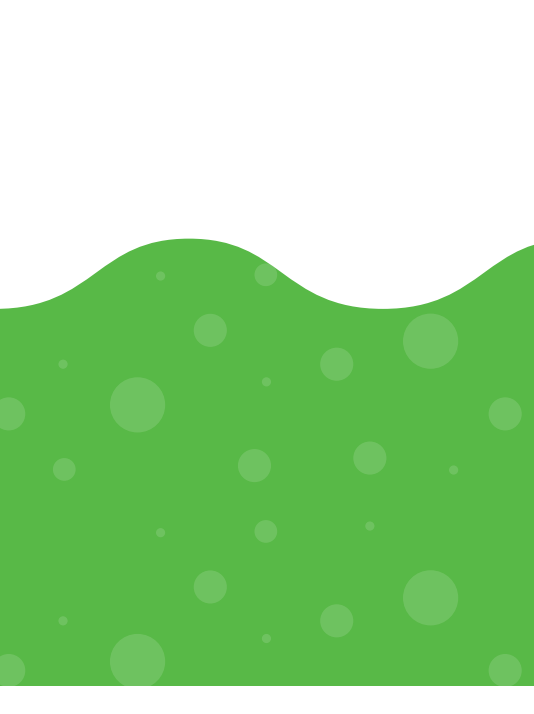
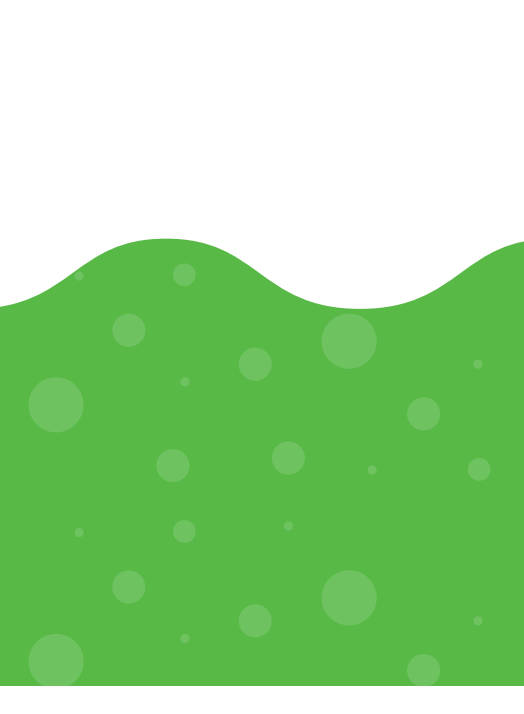
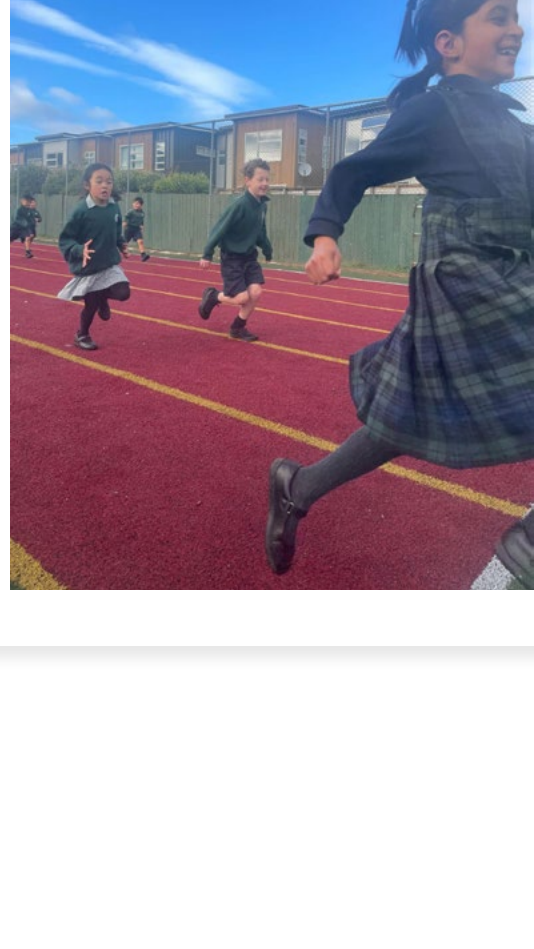
### Health and Physical Education

As part of their Health and Physical Education learning, Kōwhai students have been busy getting prepared for their fun run!

We have been learning lots of new skills and challenging our bodies to run a track all around the school. With help from some fabulous big kids we have had lots of opportunities to practise running and navigating obstacles.

Kōwhai learners have been learning that running in the fresh air boosts feel-good endorphins, improves our wellbeing and makes us happy!

Running has been such an enjoyable way to start our day and we can't wait for the fun run on Tuesday afternoon.

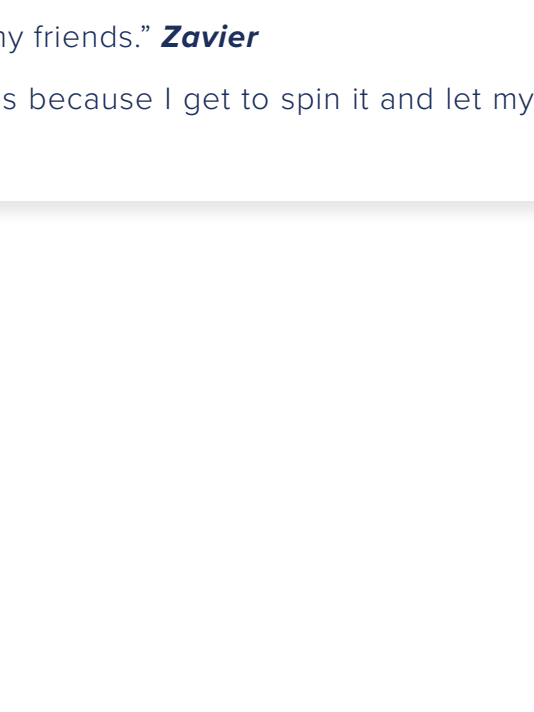
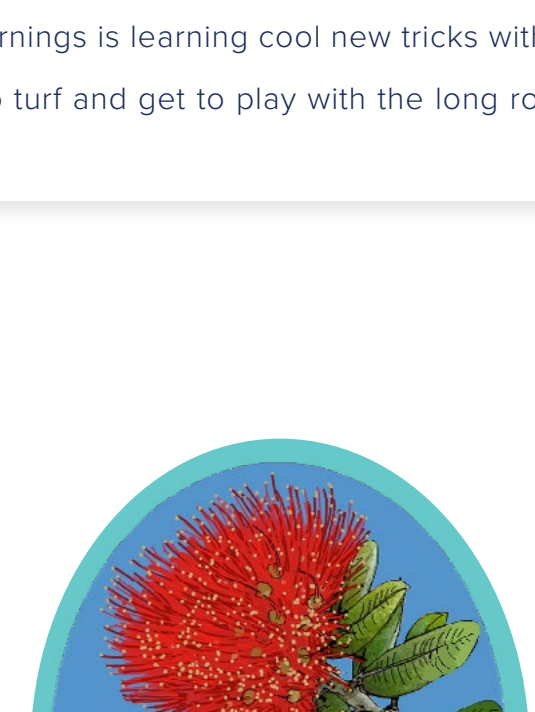
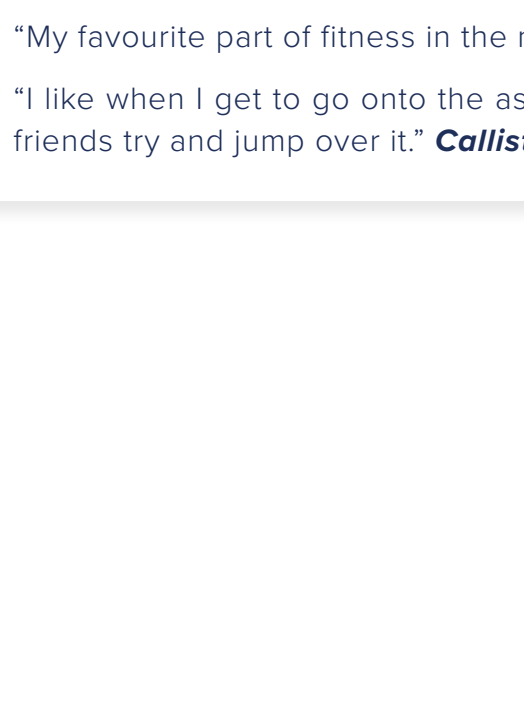


### Fitness - skipping

This week, Nikau started a new fitness focus - skipping! We have been learning lots of different ways of using a skipping rope, including buddy skipping, hula hoop skipping, big group skipping, and learning cool new tricks with the smaller ropes.

It has been great to see everyone giving new things a try and continuing to practise new skills even when it may be difficult.

Ka rawe!



"The giant skipping rope has been lots of fun because I get to jump over it while playing the wobbly worm with my friends." **Evelyn**

"I have really enjoyed using the hula hoops in the morning. I set a challenge of trying to spin the hula hoop on my body as long as possible, my best time so far is 2 minutes 56 seconds." **Milan**

"My favourite part of fitness in the mornings is learning cool new tricks with my friends." **Zavier**

"I like when I get to go onto the astro turf and get to play with the long ropes because I get to spin it and let my friends try and jump over it." **Callisto**



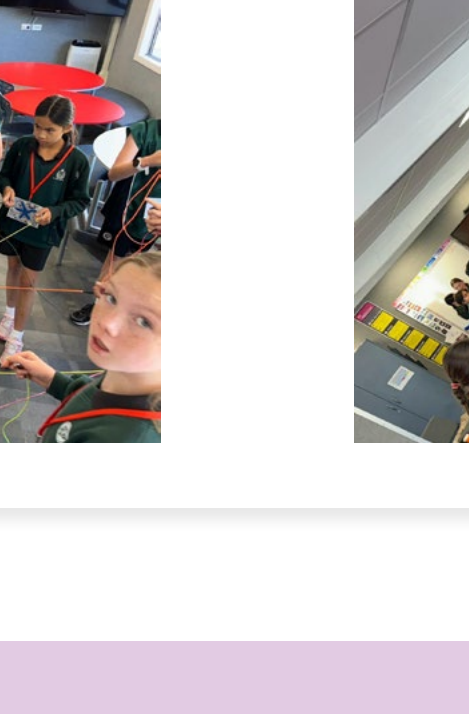
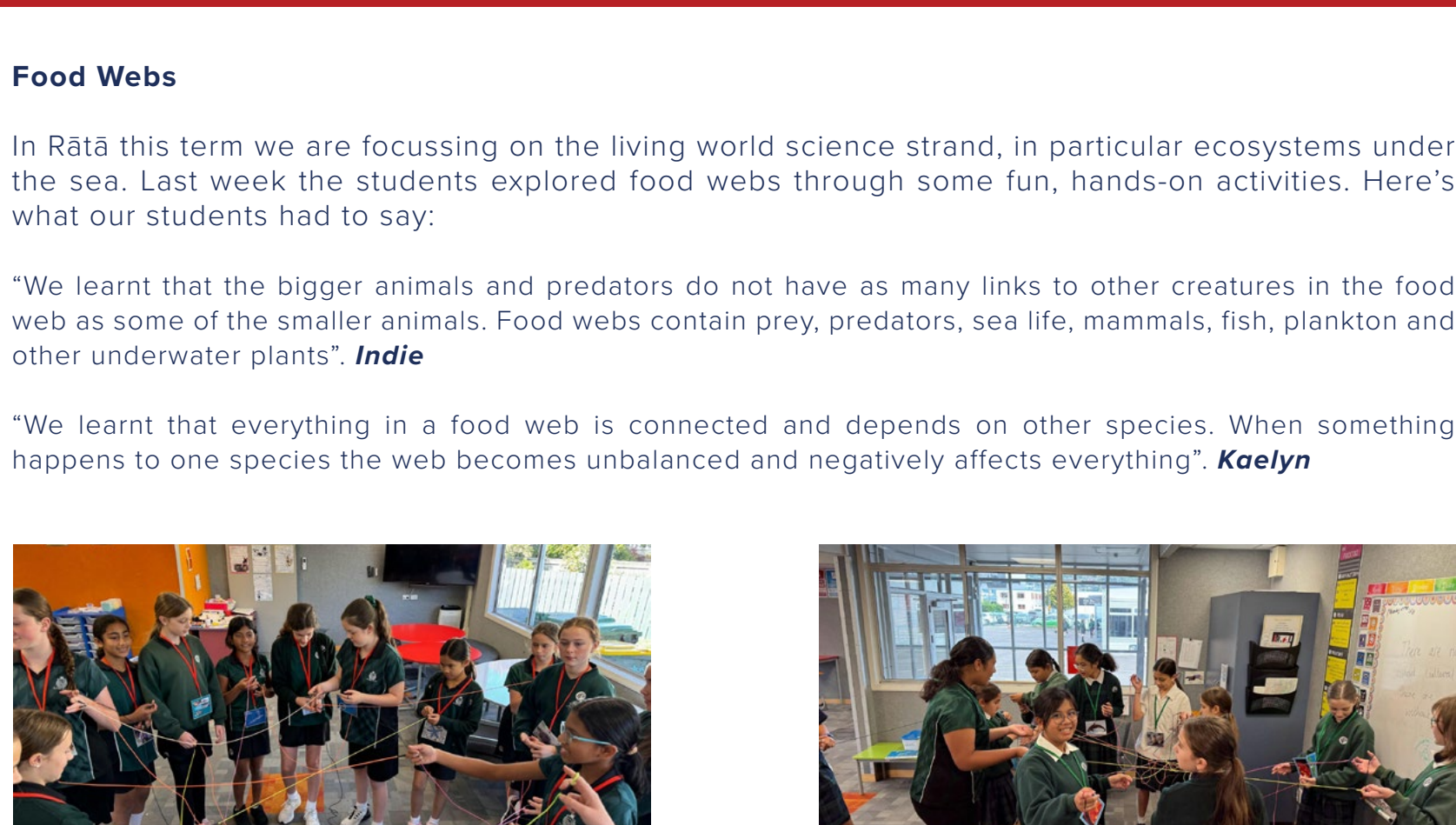
### Pentecost

Students in Pōhutukawa have been learning about the importance of Pentecost for Christians. Throughout the first three weeks of this term we have learnt a number of interesting facts. Important facts we have learnt include:

- Pentecost happened 50 days after Easter.
- Pentecost is known as the birthday of the church.
- The Holy Spirit gave strength, power and courage to the disciples.
- They were asked to "spread the Good News to the ends of the earth".
- As a result of Pentecost, the disciples could speak different languages.
- Mary was present at Pentecost.

After learning at a number of pieces of artwork that were based on Pentecost, we had to include at least one of the iconic symbols associated with the Holy Spirit such as a dove, wind, water or fire.

Here are some examples of our art. Please feel free to visit Pōhutukawa to look at the other great pieces of art.

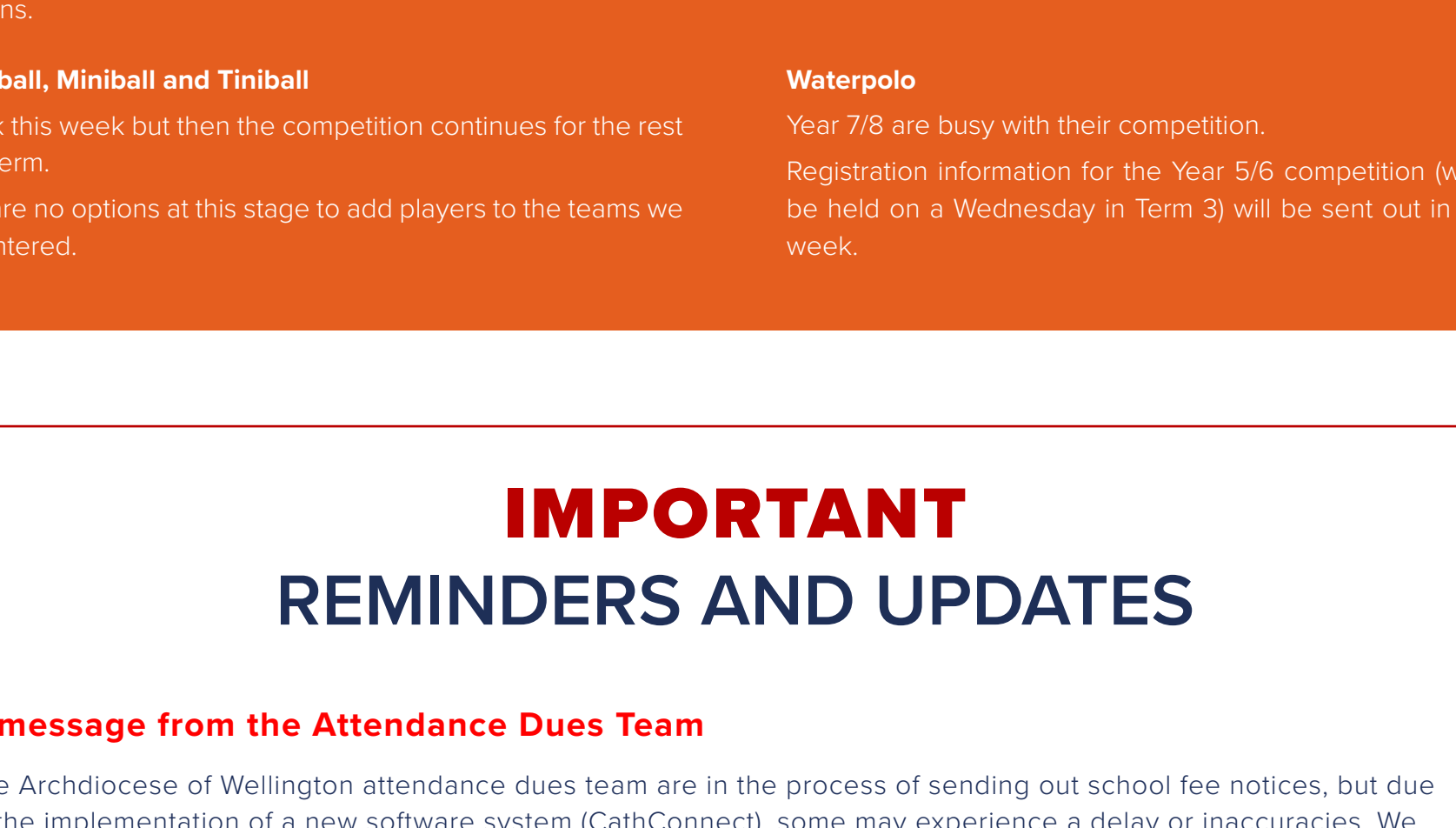


### Food Webs

In Rātā this term we are focussing on the living world science strand, in particular ecosystems under the sea. Last week the students explored food webs through some fun, hands-on activities. Here's what our students had to say:

"We learnt that the bigger animals and predators do not have as many links to other creatures in the food web as some of the smaller animals. Food webs contain prey, predators, sea life, mammals, fish, plankton and other underwater plants". **Indie**

"We understand that everything in a food web is connected and depends on other species. When something happens to one species the web becomes unbalanced and negatively affects everything". **Kaelyn**



## KURA AHUREA

Ngā kupu/kianga to practise at home. Kōrerohia simple kōrero with your whānau.

### Ko te huarere i tēnei rangi? How's the weather?

<p>                 paki wera makariri hukapapa ua marangai mākiū tau te kahu pupuhi te hau Kei te pēhea te āhua o te rangi? Kei te mahana. Kei te pupuhi te hau.             </p>		<p>                 the weather? hot cold snowy rainy stormy wet foggy windy (the wind is blowing) What's the weather like today? It's warm. It's windy (the wind is blowing).             </p>
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## SPORTS NEWS

**Cross Country**  
Zone Cross Country - Years 4-6  
This is scheduled for Tuesday 28 May at Sladden Park, Petone. All parents have been notified and have had track maps supplied. Please email [pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz) if you have any questions.

**Basketball, Miniball and Tiniball**  
A break this week but then the competition continues for the rest of this term.  
There are no options at this stage to add players to the teams we have entered.

**Netball**  
The competition continues on a Saturday for Year 7/8 and Monday for Year 6.  
Please note we were unable to get enough players for a Year 5 team.

**Waterpolo**  
Year 7/8 are busy with their competition.  
Registration information for the Year 5/6 competition (which will be held on a Wednesday in Term 3) will be sent out in the next week.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

### A message from the Attendance Dues Team

The Archdiocese of Wellington attendance dues team are in the process of sending out school fee notices, but due to the implementation of a new software system (CathConnect), some may experience a delay or inaccuracies. We appreciate your patience as the team works diligently to distribute all statements and address your inquiries promptly. Thank you for your understanding during this transition.

### School Parent Portal

For families who are new to our school, the Parent Portal provides you with quick access to:

- your child's contact details – click on 'My Child'. Check contact details. Please advise the school office if there are any changes to be made.
- view your child's account (under accounts, download the statement to view your current balance)
- school policies & procedures (under contacts)
- view your child's attendance for the year to date (click on 'report an absence' then scroll down to view)
- be able to report an absence.

How to access this...

Please visit your app store for your phone, either Google Play or the Apple App Store and search for the app called @School Mobile or to login via the internet go to <https://www.atschool.co.nz>

You will then be able to use the username and password that you have been emailed to log in and see information about your child. If you have not received your user id and password please email [admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz) to have your login details sent to you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Teresa or Lisa in the school office.

### 2025 Enrolments

We welcome enrolments from our school community for 2025

If you, your family or friends are wishing to enrol a child at our school for next year and haven't done so already, please go to our school website and click on the 'Enrol Now' button at the top of the home page. Here you will find the next steps in our enrolment process detailed for you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lisa@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:lisa@stpeterpaul.school.nz) or 569 5759 ext 2.



### Uniform

A reminder that all students should now be in winter uniform. For the boys there is an option of wearing trousers. Girls should be wearing pinafores, culottes or intermediate skirts - **no summer dresses**.

We will still have a lot of second hand uniform. Please feel free to pop into the office to have a look or email our office team [admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz)

### Reporting an absence

It is a requirement for the Ministry that you inform the school if your child is going to be absent.

Please report all absences before 9am via the below options:

1. Through the school website.
2. Call the absence line 04 569 5759 option 1.
3. Email [absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz)

Could you please ensure you leave a reason for your child's absence. Thank you for your understanding.

Sushi and Subway delivered to school weekly

It's simple: all you need to do is register at [www.lunchonline.co.nz](https://www.lunchonline.co.nz) and follow four easy steps to get started!

- 1 Register an account
- 2 Add members including your child(ren), school and classroom
- 3 Make a payment so you have funds in your account before you order
- 4 Select your lunch and place an order

### PTA News

**PTA Annual General Meeting**  
The PTA Annual General Meeting is coming up!

An opportunity for parents to come and join our group to hear what is on the horizon, with new projects, fundraising and meet some other parents. Would be great to see you there, everyone is welcome!

When/where - Tuesday 11 June, 7pm at Ss Peter and Paul School staff room

### Bingo night

People can purchase their tickets in this link - [Ss Peter and Paul Musical Bingo Night](#) or you can use your Kindo school account.