



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

To Love, To Learn and To Serve
Kia Aroha, Kia Akona, Kia Aro Atu

No. 4 Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the school,

Although some of us may have had reservations about how children would settle back to school, it was fantastic to see the children laughing, playing and enjoying catching up with friends and teachers again. We are blessed that the Covid-19 virus has been contained and schools are able to return to some degree of normality. At St Francis Xavier Catholic School, 88% of children have returned.

The children are responding well to the regular health and hygiene practices that we have implemented but you can certainly help us by ensuring that they continue these at home. (Especially the flushing of toilets!!)

Today, I especially want to thank you for supporting our safe practices. The signing into the school when dropping off and picking up children is a chore, but it is a necessary Ministry of Health requirement. We appreciate the effort that you are making. Waiting in the car park at the end of the day is certainly different but we are amazed at how fast and efficient the departures are now.

A Message from Teachers: Teachers at St Francis Xavier have asked that I express their thanks for the wonderful support and notes of encouragement that they received while teaching online during the lockdown period. Thank you.

Staffing: We welcome Michelle Matthews back to St Francis Xavier again. Michelle is a very experienced teacher and she has once again started a New Entrant class. The new children in Room 8 are very excited. We will soon be welcoming Nikki Love also. Nikki is a learning assistant who will be working alongside a student who is returning to our school.

Attendance Dues: As a community we are especially conscious of the hardship some families are experiencing with the loss of employment. The Bishops of New Zealand have requested that we send you this link to a letter for families: https://nzceo.schoolzineplus.com/file/media/1046/statement_for_families_of_catholic_schools_nzcbc_nzceo.pdf

In addition to this our Auckland Diocese have this to say:

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support as a result of the Covid-19 Virus with the payment of 2020 Attendance Dues for students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager on 09-360-3069 at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/covid-19-attendance-dues-assistance/>

Helping Others: Sometimes, families have offered support to other families by donating funds towards a child's Attendance Dues. If you would like to do this then please contact us.

PTFA Annual Meeting: Please note that the PTFA Annual General Meeting has been deferred until such time that we can hold a gathering of more than 10 people. We will advise you of the new date when the restrictions are lifted.

Craig McKernan
Principal

Uniforms

Now we are in the cooler months, all the children should be in winter uniform. We have many, many good quality uniform items, including footwear in our second-hand uniform pool. These are available for a small donation or koha. Email the office or Mrs J with your child's name, class, item, and size and our fabulous PTFA member, Kate McKenzie, will source a uniform for you. If you have any uniform queries, please email Mrs J on: glenys@sfx.school.nz

Please note: St Francis Xavier Catholic Church is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11.30am to 1.30pm for private prayer and Rite of Reconciliation. Only 10 people in the Church at a time. There will be an usher at the door.

Welcome to Ethan Aby, Peyton D'Souza, Indie Hill, Ainsley Mapa, Arthur Martin-Ellis, Kole Ruiz, Carter Shoebridge and Isabella Wackrow who started at our school this week.

Student Success

During term one, Te Rauroha Paki took part in the NZ Junior Harlequins Swimming Festival. He competed in 12 individual events in the 10 years and under age group, and is now one of the top 10 swimmers in New Zealand for 7 events.

Congratulations!



SCHOOL EVENTS

June

1st		Queen's Birthday holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
10th	1.30 pm	He Kakano Programme - First Session
16th		School Photos
17th	1.30 pm	He Kakano Programme - Second Session
24th	1.30 pm	He Kakano Programme - Third Session

July

3rd		Last day of Term 3
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Literacy Tips

Literacy Tip #4: Have fun with writing!

Writing can be a great time for children to express their funny, silly creativity. Find a picture online or in a book that sparks creativity. It could be an interesting looking creature or monster, a detailed setting like a fairytale forest or even a photo of a sporting event such as the rugby world cup. They may want to write a description or poem. They may even want to simply brainstorm a list of words and phrases that they think of.

Book of the week: I Roto i te Ngahere/ Down in the Forest (Picture Book)

by Yvonne Morrison

