



St Francis Xavier Catholic School

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

No.1 Term Rāpare-Thursday 10th Hui-tanguru February 2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of our School,



*Welcome to all the new students and their families to our school.
We hope that you are enjoying your new school and community.*

Our new students are Niya Ajeesh, Aroha Ann John, Kylie Aquino, Cory Baker, Calvin Bautista, Henry Brands, Amelia Brown, Scarlett Calma, Mateo Castro, Harry Chapman, Louis Chapman, Willa Chapman, Hudson Cox, Cain Cuddy-Williams, Eban Douglas, Edwin Emil, Lia Emil, Cassandra Ferrer, Gabriel Gidlayan, Eirene Gijo, Franz Gonzales, Declan Gray, Trystan Gray, Sofia Guglielmetti, Hunter Halliday, Noah Hayward, Ihaia Hotere, Nevan Jacob, Eva Jose, Emery Joseph, Cecilia Li, Elsie Mainland, Ariel Olsen, Krishna Patel, Kaia Pene, Amelia Sebastien, Aiden Sebastian, Mikha Sojo, Hannah Stomal, Eric Thomas, Aidan van den Berg, Amelia van den Berg, Neil Vineeth, Ollie Welch, Brianna Wendt, Malcolm Windelborn and Zariah Windelborn.



Principal's message:

Children at St Francis Xavier Catholic School have returned in great spirits and are working and playing happily at school. It is good to see them enjoying themselves as they catch up with friends old and new, and their new classroom teachers. Although mask wearing is the new normal for Years 4-6 children and teachers, it must be said that they are all trying very hard to do this. In fact, they are amazing.

We all know that there are a lot of challenges at present and we are also working hard to address these. Please be patient and understanding. As Blessed Suzanne Aubert said "Let us have such a big heart that everybody finds room in it."

As we get into the rhythm of a new school year and as advised last week, you will notice several changes to our daily organisation. For example, the children are having lunch and intervals with only half the school being released at one time. Today, I've decided to bullet point these and other points that may help you. I have framed these as Questions and Answers as it will be easier to read and refer to. Please note, we are living in a changing world so what is stated now may well be different as the week or month proceeds. If changes are made you will be informed of these. The changes we are making are "for the good of all."

Question: Do children in Years 1,2, and 3 have to wear a mask?

Answer: No. However, if you have a child in Year 3 it is recommended. If they don't want to wear it, then that is fine.

Question: Do children in Years 4-6 have to wear a mask?

Answer: Yes, mask wearing at Year 4-6 is a requirement from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

Question: What if my child refuses to wear a mask?

Answer: In our experience, all of the children, apart from a very small number who are exempt, are wearing the mask and it doesn't seem to be a big issue for them. In fact there is a very real acceptance that is what we need to do at this time and they are just getting on with it. This is fantastic!

If your child is struggling with the mask wearing requirement then please talk to either Mrs Jakicevich or Ms Dean about your concerns. If there is a valid reason why your child cannot wear a mask then you need to communicate this to us. Teachers will periodically give your child opportunities to step outside for a break from wearing a mask just as they have always done when a child needs to use the bathroom or get a drink. When the weather fines up there will be more opportunities to teach the children outdoors. Mask wearing is not required outside.

Question: Can my child be exempt from wearing a mask?

Answer: Yes, but obviously we would like children to wear a mask to eliminate the spread of the Covid virus. A small number of national organisations have previously administered exemption cards developed by the Ministry of Health. However, the new advice is to discuss your concerns with the school in the first instance.

Question: Will the school be vaccinating my child?

Answer: No

Question: Will the school be promoting vaccination?

Answer: No, it is our view that this is the role of the parent.

Question: Can I walk my child to their class if they are unsettled?

Answer: Yes, but please sign or scan in. We are suggesting that parents do not come into school unless it is necessary but if your child needs you, then you should be there for him / her.

Question: Do I need to wear a mask if I come into school?

Answer: Yes please, unless you have an exemption.

Question: Why is the school divided into two bubbles?

Answer: We have done this as a precaution. In the event that there is a case of Covid we are required to trace all of the immediate close contacts. It will be easier to do this if children have been restricted to class, whanau or half of the school.

Question: What will happen if my child is sick?

Answer: You should keep your child at home and have him/her tested if you feel he/she may have a virus. If your child becomes unwell whilst at school, we will contact you to collect your child and would appreciate you doing so as quickly as possible.

Question: What will happen if a child at school tests positive for the Covid virus?

Answer: The child will need to be tested straight away and then again on day 5 and day 8. The school will immediately contact the Ministry of Education who in turn will contact the Ministry of Health. The school will identify the close contacts of the child and the parents of those children will be contacted. (Do we have your latest contact details?) The close contact children will be required to go home and will need to be isolated for 10 days. If these children begin to display symptoms, they will need to be tested. The school will remain open unless the spread cannot be contained.

Question: What will happen if my child's teacher tests positive for Covid?

Answer: The school will once again contact the Ministry of Education and we will contact parents. The children and staff who have been in contact with the teacher will be required to isolate. Children will be provided with online learning.

Question: What do I do if either myself, a member of our household or a close contact has the virus?

Answer: Please advise us immediately. Your child is required to isolate for 10 days and monitor for symptoms.

Question: Can you double up the classrooms to avoid children being sent home if the teacher is unwell?

Answer: No. This is not possible as it will cause overcrowding and ventilation issues in a classroom.

Question: Who do I contact if I am concerned, anxious or worried about anything related to Covid or the school?

Answer: Please contact myself, or one of the Deputy Principals, Mrs Tracey Balks, Ms Jennie Dean or Mrs Glenys Jakicevich.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND LEAVING TIMES: Already we have noticed a number of children arriving at school late. Please ensure that children are at school for the start of the day. **Classes start at 8.45am** and it is helpful if children have time to get organised prior to this. Unless you have a medical appointment or similar, **please do not pick your children up before 2.50pm** as once again this disrupts the classroom learning.

Craig McKernan
Principal

School Accounts for 2022

The school accounts for 2022 will be emailed at the end of next week. If you haven't received your account by the middle of Week 4, please email me at office@sfx.school.nz to confirm that we have your correct contact details.

Thank you for those who have continued automatic payments through the holidays. These will be allocated to attendance dues. A letter will also be sent out describing our school donations and attendance dues.

Should you be experiencing any financial difficulties at any time during the school year, please come and see me, preferably early rather than later, so that we can discuss a confidential arrangement.

Many thanks
Deborah Rudolph - Office Manager



SCHOOL EVENTS

Dates and times for events are subject to change.
Please check this fortnightly newsletter for any changes.

February

15th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
18th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
22nd	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
25th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

March

1st	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
2nd		Ash Wednesday	
4th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am
8th		Waitangi Trip for Yr 5/6 – Rooms 1, 13 & 16	
9th		Waitangi Trip for Yr 5/6 – Rooms 18 & 12	
10th		Waitangi Trip for Yr 5/6 – Room 22	
11th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am 11th
15th	Swimming	Room 18 Leave at 9:00am Lesson at 9:15am Room 13 Leave at 10:00am Lesson at 10:15am Room 1 Leave at 11:00am Lesson at 11:15am	Room 16 Leave at 9:30am Lesson at 9:45am Room 22 Leave at 10:30am Lesson at 10:45am Room 12 Leave at 11:30am Lesson at 11:45am

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club brochures were sent home with students this week. Orders are due back at the school office by

Tuesday 22nd February.

Please check you have named the order form and entered this year's classroom number.

There are two ways to pay.

If paying by cash please pay the **EXACT** amount as change often gets lost on the way home with students.

For credit card payments you may register online with Scholastic's LOOP service for parents.

To register go to: scholastic.co.nz/loop

Book Club



THE Family Support room

It's all go in the Family Support room, but I am trying to limit drop ins and parents overlapping, so please try and txt or email first. 021 02833587

rosie@sfx.school.nz

Thanks - Rosie

