

# St Pius X Catholic School

## Te Kura O Hato Paea

# Newsletter #1



To Learn Love  
To Learn Wisdom  
The Way We Are

Thursday 4th February 2021

Week 1 Term 1



### Principal's Message

Tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui kia koutou.

Greetings and Blessings for 2021. We welcome Mr Keegan Fernandes to our staff as a teacher. We wish him every blessing as he embarks on what will be a wonderful teaching career I'm sure. We have a number of new children and we will put their photos in the newsletter next week. The purpose of this newsletter is to let you know about some of the changes this year and also some dates to note.

**Meet the Teacher times: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.** This is an opportunity to hear about class programmes, routines and expectations. We have found that attending these meetings has answered a lot of questions for parents and are very worthwhile.

The programme: Kea A and B -	Vanxays and Mrs Williams	3pm
Piwakawaka -	Miss B, Miss Millar, Mrs Garsed	3.20
Kārearea -	Mr Fernandes	3.40
Tara Iti -	Mrs Overmayer, Mr de Vega	4.pm
Tūi and Hoiho-	Mrs Hayde and Mr Easto	4.20

Parent interviews will be later in the term.

**School begins each day at 8.45am and finishes at 2.45pm.** It is really important for your child to start the day on time, particularly at our school as we start each day with prayer. If, for unavoidable reasons your child is going to be late, they **must** report to the office to sign in.

**Absent children.** We have electronic roll keeping so it is important that if your child is going to be late or away from school, please contact the school first thing in the morning. You can leave an absence through our website or on sSkool Loop app or on the answerphone, we also require a reason for their absence. The roll is taken at 8:50 each morning. Late children will be recorded as unexplained absences and will be entered into the system as such. So it is important to inform the school before 8:50am.

**Driveway Safety.** For the safety of our students and staff please **DO NOT** drive down the driveway before school and at home time. Please use the dedicated parking spaces when dropping your child off in the morning. The yellow lines are to remind people not to stop there, they are also the walking spaces for your children. I urge you to take care when dropping off and picking your child up.

**Full summer uniform is compulsory for all students.** That includes the school sunhat. Any student without a hat on during playtime and lunchtime, must stay in the specified shaded areas of the school grounds. Footwear must be flat soled sandals – preferably Roman sandals. They must be black, brown or blue. Hair must be neat and tidy. Long hair is to be tied back with blue or black hair ties. Children with pierced ears must wear plain studs only. Fingernail polish is not part of our school uniform, nor are ankle bracelets. Bangles and other jewellery are not encouraged for safety reasons, particularly on playground equipment. If there is a reason that your child must wear jewellery, please discuss this with either myself or the class teacher.

**School Lunch time.** We will continue with the lunch time schedule that we started last year. The bell will ring at 12:45pm then again at 1:15pm to mark the end of play and students will return to their classes to eat lunch in their dedicated spaces. The feedback I have had from teachers and also some parents is that it has helped ensure children are eating their lunch. The reasons we made this change initially was to have students more relaxed and focused on eating rather than thinking about getting outside to play, to ensure more food was eaten, increase fluid intake and have students return to class more quickly and settled and ready to learn. One of the by-products is there is less litter in the school grounds!

**All children are to have their stationery by the beginning of Week 3.** If there is difficulty in getting this please contact the office and we can arrange something.

Our Board of Trustees opted to take up the Government offer of paying \$150 dollars per student to cover costs associated with implementing the curriculum again this year. What this means is that things like swimming, footsteps, athletics, seesaw and other costs charged in the past at the start of the year, will not have to be paid by you the parents. If you want to find out more about this scheme, please look up the Ministry of Education website.

**Cell phones and toys.** Children are asked not to bring cell phones and toys to school. However, I do realise that some children have cell phones at school for emergencies. There is a box in the office where they are to put them at the start of the day. The rule is that if a child is seen using their phone without permission, it will be confiscated.

**A reminder - NO lollies, chewing gum or fizzy drinks are to be brought to or consumed at school.**

**Lunches .** Fridays only from Tommo's Bakery. Starting next Friday—12th February. The menu will be put on our website/facebook next week. **Please note there has been a price increase, the first in many years!** Please follow the instructions for ordering. There is also the option to order on line through [www.lunchorders.co.nz](http://www.lunchorders.co.nz) and these are available every day of the week.

**Newsletter.** We will continue to send our newsletter on-line. It can be accessed through our website, Seesaw, Skool Loopo and emails if we have them. Hard copies are available from the office . Our newsletters will continue to be sent out on Thursdays.

Finally, we will be putting a calendar out next week of dates to note. In the meantime, please note we have a school Mass next Friday 12th February and 'meet the teacher' on the 16th February.

God Bless  
Jane Rutherford



St Pius X

**Friends of the School**



*Friends of the School (FOTS) is a welcoming collaborative team of parents/caregivers. We organise fun social activities within our school community and fundraising to support and improve school resources.*

*All families are automatically members of FOTS when their child joins St Pius X School. We always value any offer of support whether it be in the form of time, skills, ideas or useful contacts.*

*FOTS meetings happen twice per term. All are welcome to attend.*

*NEXT MEETING: to be confirmed via newsletter and school FB page!*