



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Kia ora, Mālō e lelei, Talofa lava, ᠱᠠᠯᠤᠮᠤ (Selam), Kamusta, नमस्ते (Namaste), Kia orāna, and warm greetings.

Welcome back to all our St Therese families, and an especially warm welcome to those joining our community for the first time. It has been a wonderful start to the year. Our classes are already settled, students have stepped straight into their learning, and it's been a joy to see such strong engagement across the school. Over these first few days, teachers and students have been building relationships, establishing routines, and getting to know one another. At St Therese School there is a sense of calm, focus, and enthusiasm.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Charmaine D'lima, who has joined our staff this year. She has done an amazing job settling into our school community, and we are so grateful for the positive energy and professionalism she brings. We deeply appreciate her choosing to be part of our St Therese whānau.

As we begin the year, we want to reaffirm that learning is our core focus. Every child deserves an environment where they are supported, challenged, and encouraged to achieve their personal best. This requires strong partnership between home and school, and we deeply value the collaboration, communication, and shared commitment that our families bring. Together, we will continue to build strong learning habits, nurture focus, and guide our children to strive for excellence in all that they do.

We invite our community to join us for our St Therese Opening Mass at 11:00am on Friday, 13 February, in the St Therese Church. This special celebration will be followed by a shared lunch in classrooms at approximately 12:15pm. We ask each student to bring a plate of food to share, and kindly remind families that no school lunches will be provided on this day.

As we begin a new year together, we continue to walk in the spirit of St Thérèse of Lisieux and her Little Way — doing the small things well, with great love. This charism is at the heart of our school: showing kindness in the playground, approaching learning with courage, offering help without being asked, and striving for excellence in the everyday moments. It is these small, faithful actions that shape the character of our children and the strength of our community.

***Loving God,
Bless our school year ahead
and guide our students as they learn and grow.
Fill our classrooms with kindness, courage, and joy.
Strengthen our staff and families as we work together in faith.
May we follow St Thérèse's Little Way, doing all things with great
love.
Amen.***

Warm regards,
Laura Geaney



MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Malo e lelei

My name is Lute Ata and I have had the honour of being one of the elected parent representatives to the Board of Trustees since 2021. I am of Tongan descent, married to Manavahe, and a mother of two. My eldest Teresa is 22 years old and son Tavui is in Year 8 here at St Therese. Our family have been blessed to be a part of our St Therese Community since 2019.

I have worked in the research and data/information analysis field for over 20 years, where I have developed skills in information dissemination and insights. I am also very involved in my Pacific community, dedicated to empowering young people to succeed in their education. I look forward to working alongside the Board to ensure we continue to nurture faith and foster a positive learning environment that encourages excellence.

I have lived in the Mt Roskill area for almost 40 years and I am passionate about our community and this area.

Please feel free to say hello or pass on your ideas on how we can work together to contribute to St Therese's future direction.

'Ofa atu
Lute Ata



MEET OUR CLASSES FOR 2026



Our classrooms are already humming with purpose as students begin diving into their learning for the year. Teachers have been setting clear expectations, establishing strong routines, and guiding students into the habits that support focus, independence, and academic growth. It has been encouraging to see students responding so positively — engaging in discussions, contributing ideas, and approaching new challenges with confidence. This strong foundation sets us up well for a year of steady progress and meaningful learning.

At St Therese School, we believe strongly in the power of partnership between home and school. When families and teachers work together, learning is strengthened, wellbeing is supported, and students are set up to thrive. We encourage open communication throughout the year and warmly invite parents to reach out whenever they need to discuss their child's progress, learning needs, or anything else that supports their journey.



UNIFORMS AND HATS



At St Therese School, we take pride in our uniform as a sign of belonging, respect, and unity. It is important that all students come to school in the correct uniform each and every day.

Unfortunately, we have already noticed some concerns, including:

- Sports shoes and PE uniforms being worn Monday–Thursday
- Visible under-shirts
- Socks that are not a solid colour of black, navy blue, or white



To ensure clarity, please see the expectations below and help us maintain high standards across our school:

Monday to Thursday	Friday
St Therese School navy shirt St Therese School navy shorts St Therese School red polar fleece Black School Shoes (full black) Plain black/navy/white socks St Therese School socks are available for purchase from Prestidge Uniforms Wide-brimmed navy hat	PE Uniform (T-shirt and shorts) Sports Shoes Wide-brimmed navy hat

STATIONERY 2026



Thank you to all who have already paid for their child's 2026 stationery. Packs will be delivered directly to teachers for naming and distribution in class. Having stationery sorted early in the year gives students the strongest and smoothest start, helping them settle quickly into routines and learning.

If you have not yet made payment, we kindly ask that this is done promptly using the details below. If you have any concerns regarding payment, please contact Jane Kerr in the school office.

Years 1, 2, 3: \$100 (Stationery / Swimming lessons transport)

Year 4 – 8: \$160 (Stationery / Laptop / Swimming lessons transport)

Payment can be made online to:

St Therese School (Three Kings) Board – 12-3033-0353893-00

Please ensure you include your child's name.



COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Last year, it was wonderful to see our community embracing the HERO app, and we are excited to continue building on this momentum in 2026. This year, we will be using even more features within HERO to keep families connected to learning and school life. Teachers will be posting updates on their class pages to share whole-class learning, and you will also see posts on your child's individual page to highlight their personal progress.

To make the most of HERO, please ensure:

- The HERO app is downloaded on your device
- Notifications are turned on

If you need any help with HERO, please refer to the guidance sheet sent home on Tuesday, 3 February, or contact the school office for support. We are more than happy to assist you.

We will continue to use our school Facebook and Instagram pages to share celebrations, photos, and moments of learning. However, HERO will remain our main platform for communication and information throughout the year.



DROP OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES



We are very fortunate to have a dedicated drop-off and pick-up space on our school courts, away from the main road, which allows children to arrive and leave safely each day. To keep this running smoothly and ensure the safety of all students, we ask families to follow the expectations below.

Morning Drop-Off

- Please drive slowly when entering the school grounds.
- Students should walk directly to Breakfast Club (open 8:00–8:30am) or straight to their classroom once doors open at 8:30am.
- Students arriving after 8:50am must go to the St Therese School office for a late pass before heading to class.
- The gate next to the church and back gate remain open until 9am.

Afternoon Pick-Up – 3:00pm

- The front gates open at 2:30pm for cars to enter and park.
- All vehicles must park facing the church to follow our **one-way system**.
- Once parked, you may:
 - Stay in your car — the Principal will signal teachers when your child may come out, *or*
 - Walk to the classroom to collect your child directly.
- Please do not turn or manoeuvre your car around the court at 3pm — this creates unnecessary risk in a busy area with children moving through.



Navigators Pick-Up – 4:15pm.

- Students will be brought to the reception area by the supervising staff member.
- Please be prompt at 4:15pm and exit through the back gate, turning right toward Mt Albert Road or left toward Mt Roskill.

These systems are in place to ensure safety, consistency, and calm movement for students and staff. We appreciate your cooperation in making our school environment safe for everyone.

SCHOOL POLICIES – ACCESS AND TERM 1 REVIEWS



School policies are the guidelines that keep our school safe, consistent, and aligned in how we care for children, support learning, and respond to different situations. They ensure that everyone — students, staff, and families — understands our shared expectations and responsibilities.

Our policies are accessible to our whole community at any time through **SchoolDocs**. To view them, visit schooldocs.co.nz and use:

Username: sttherese

Password: therese



Each term, staff, our community, and our Board of Trustees review a selection of policies as part of a three-year review cycle. All families are warmly invited to read and comment on the Term 1 policies through the SchoolDocs website by clicking Current Review after logging in. Feedback submitted online goes directly to the Board for consideration before policies are finalised.

Term 1 Policies up for Review:

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

We encourage our community to take part in this process and share feedback — your voice plays an important role in shaping the policies that guide our school.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS



Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility.

As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. If your child is going to be absent for any reason it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you message us through HERO to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason.

We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent. However, without regular attendance your child will struggle to make progress.

If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation. We are committed to supporting your child to attend school.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage

The St Therese School Attendance Management Plan is also now available to view on our school website. You can find it under the School Documents menu on the St Therese School website. This plan outlines how we support, monitor, and work with whānau to ensure every student is attending regularly and fully engaged in their learning.

NAVIGATORS – HOMEWORK CLUB



Navigators is our school-led homework program, running Monday to Thursday until 4:15pm, at no cost, and led by staff in the school library. Navigators registration forms were sent home on Tuesday, 3 February. Thank you to all families who have already returned these.

At 3:00pm, students are released from class, provided with afternoon tea in the shade area, and then settled in the library for focused work time.

To ensure smooth operation and student safety, please note the following important points:

Registration

- A completed registration form is required for any child attending Navigators.
- Only students with returned forms will be allowed to attend.

Purpose of Navigators

Navigators is a learning-focused homework program, not a supervision service.

To uphold its purpose:

- Students who are enrolled must remain in the program until 4:15pm.
- Parents are asked not to collect students early
- At 4:15pm, the supervising staff member will walk all Navigators students to the reception area for collection.

These expectations ensure consistency, safety, and a productive learning environment for all students.

Gate & Pickup Procedures

To support safe traffic flow:

- School gates close at 3:30pm.
- They reopen at 3:50pm to allow cars to enter and park for Navigators pickup.
- Please collect your child/ren promptly at 4:15pm

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to provide a safe, structured, and supportive space for students to complete their homework and build strong learning habits.

TERM 1 EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Friday 13 th February	Opening Mass 11am in the church Followed by Shared Lunch and Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 18 th February	Ash Wednesday 9am in the church
Friday 20 th February	Cricket Lessons for all classes run by Auckland Cricket
Monday 23 rd February	Fire Drill during classtime
Wednesday 25 th February	R4 Sports Exchange Trip to Dominion Road School
Thursday 26 th February	Assembly led by Room 4 at 12:30pm in the school library
Friday 27 th February	R4 Cricket Lesson (with Auckland Cricket)
Tuesday 3 rd March	Mt Roskill Zone T-ball Event for Room 4 students
Tuesday 3 rd March	Batfirst Cricket Programme for Room 3 students
Wednesday 4 th March	Wheels Day
Thursday 5 th March	R4 Cricket Lesson (with Auckland Cricket)
Friday 6 th March	Football Taster Sessions for all classes
Thursday 12 th March	Parent Teacher Meetings from 1pm – 6pm Supervision of students available until 3pm upon request No Navigators on this day
Friday 13 th March	Junky Monkeys Loose Parts Play for all classes
Friday 13 th March	Assembly led by Room 3 at 2:15pm in the school library
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th March	Book Week
Monday 16 th March	Fire Drill during breaktime
Tuesday 17 th March	Mt Roskill Zone Ki o Rahi Event for R4 students
Friday 20 th March	Book Week Costume Day. Parade at 9am.
Friday 27 th March	Assembly led by Room 6 at 2:15pm in the school library
Thursday 2 nd April	Assembly led by Room 1 at 11:30am in the school library
Thursday 2 nd April	Stations of the Cross led by Room 6 at 12:15pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Last Day of Term 1. School Closes at 3pm

mark  your **Calendar**