



# Week 1 Term 1 February 2022

School website [www.stmarys.ac.nz](http://www.stmarys.ac.nz)

School Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui)

School App From the Google Apps / Play Store: SchoolAppsNZ St Mary's School

Welcome back!

I hope you have all had a chance to unwind and spend time with your whanau. As a staff we have come back with optimism that this year will be outstanding!

We have many planned learning opportunities to engage and add richness to your child's learning. I am so proud of our wonderful staff who have worked hard to put together the years programme.

I am so impressed with the way our staff and students alike are managing their days with mask wearing. Ka pai Team!

**Newsletters will be fortnightly.** Any notices that come up during that time will be loaded up to our App, Facebook page and emailed out to you.

We will be putting out a quick survey next week to gather your preferences around meeting the teacher interviews. We are hoping to offer a variety of options.

Mā te Atua e manaaki

Jacqui Luxton

We are currently working on a **school continuity plan**. This plan will have three phases and will outline how we will manage the school when positive cases are in Whanganui and in our school community.



Our priority is to keep open as long as possible and keep continuity of learning.

This is a very tricky space for all of us but we do need to have a plan for all possibilities.

As soon as we have completed the plan we will be sharing it with you so that you are aware of the possible scenarios.

We continue to follow the guidelines and our priority is to keep our community.

#### Current Plans:

<b>Outdoor teaching spaces</b>	<p>We will be taking advantage of our beautiful weather, although sadly it looks like rain next week, and getting creative with outdoor teaching spaces. Students do not need to wear masks outside which I know will be appreciated. If we are unable to teach outside because of weather we will be slotting in many opportunities for students to get outside for a break from masks and some fresh air.</p> <p>We will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using new gazebos so we can create some outdoor teaching spaces.</li> <li>- We also have existing shade sails and our big tree to use.</li> </ul>
<b>Ventilation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classrooms will have windows and doors open at all times.</li> <li>- We will be provided with a Co2 monitor from the Ministry of Education to check ventilation is at optimum levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All students Year 4 upwards will be expected to wear a mask when indoors. Students who arrive without a mask will be provided with one.</li> <li>- Students from Year 0 - 3 are welcome to wear masks if that is what you would prefer.</li> <li>- If your child has an exemption please ask your child to deliver this to the office or email it me <a href="mailto:jacqui@stmarvs.ac.nz">jacqui@stmarvs.ac.nz</a></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will work hard to ensure that children understand that students with exemptions are not to be treated differently. We will relate this in a similar way to students who wear glasses.</li> <li>- <b>Our priority is to encourage students and assist them in getting used to wearing masks.</b></li> <li>- <b>We will be supporting students who find this difficult.</b></li> <li>- <b>Like you we do not want this transition to cause distress.</b></li> <li>- <b>Our staff will be maintaining a positive attitude and leading by example.</b></li> <li>- Masks are not required outside.</li> <li>- We will be approaching mask wearing in a similar way to hat and sunscreen wearing.</li> </ul> <p>I have been in discussion with local principals of schools that have already returned and they have found the children have adapted very quickly. We do know our children are resilient and adapt to change much faster than adults.</p>
<b>Unwell children</b>	<p>Please keep any children who are unwell at home. If a child comes to school unwell, we will be ringing you for immediate collection. Please make sure you are able to be contacted at all times.</p> <p>Symptoms to monitor are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, sore throat, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and fever. Anyone with these symptoms should stay home and contact the Health line for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19 as a precaution. Anyone with these respiratory symptoms should not enter school grounds. Staff will also be following these guidelines.</p>
<b>Handwashing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Handwashing will remain as a high priority.</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitising / Cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sanitiser is to be used for entry to school, eating times and when we feel it is appropriate.</li> <li>- Steve will continue with sanitising door handles daily.</li> <li>- Teachers will continue to sanitise desks, high use surfaces and chair backs daily.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will continue to operate a Junior Bubble and Senior Bubble.</li> <li>- We will continue to teach and remind students about the benefits of social distancing.</li> </ul>
<b>Drinking fountains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These will remain closed.</li> <li>- Students will be expected to bring named drinking bottles.</li> </ul>
<b>Food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ivy will not be heating food for students this term.</li> <li>- We are unable to run Breakfast in School in the level we are in. If you have a need in this area please ring Ivy as we can help out.</li> </ul>
<b>Peer Mentors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have missed having our peer mentors providing fun for our students at break times.</li> <li>- Peer Mentors will be putting out equipment at morning breaks for our senior bubble, as our mentors are part of this bubble.</li> <li>- Teacher Aides will be putting out Mentor equipment at morning breaks for our junior bubble.</li> </ul>

<b>Staffing concerns</b>	<p>This continues to be the area that is unknown and the most worrying for us.</p> <p>As covid enters our community it is very likely that some staff may become close contacts who need to isolate or become unwell themselves.</p> <p>Our priority is for school to continue safely without interruption for the education of your children and also for families who work and have no other options for child care.</p> <p>There are so many different scenarios that could occur and I will keep you as informed and up to date as I possibly can.</p>
<b>Drop off and Pick ups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We ask that adults continue to stay off school grounds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you do need to come onsite please make an appointment to meet with me first. You will be required to wear a mask, observe the 2 metre distancing rule and sign in for contact tracing purposes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Two gates, main and back, will be our entry points to school in the morning. We will have a staff member on each gate to assist with sanitising.</li> <li>- At 8.45 the Tay Street gate will be shut and locked. The main London Street gate will remain open.</li> <li>- Children will be released at 3.00pm.</li> <li>- SKIDS are operating.</li> </ul>

As always if you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to email me directly [jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz)

Ngā mihi  
Jacqui Luxton

# Who to see...

If you have a query or concern regarding your child please email or see your child's Teacher first. If you still require assistance please see your child's Team Leader as follows:

## Junior Team

Dallas Limpus: [dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz)

Students from the JLC, Room 3 and 4

JLC: [dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 3: [amandab@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:amandab@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 4: [lewisw@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:lewisw@stmarys.ac.nz)

## Middle Team

Cath Daignault: [cathd@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:cathd@stmarys.ac.nz)

Students from Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8

Room 5: [heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 6: [theresec@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:theresec@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 7: [devonc@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:devonc@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 8: [cathd@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:cathd@stmarys.ac.nz)



## Senior Team

Chris Scudder: [chriss@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:chriss@stmarys.ac.nz)

Students from Rooms 9, 10 and 11

Room 9: [chriss@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:chriss@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 10: [sarahp@stmarys.c.nz](mailto:sarahp@stmarys.c.nz)

Room 11: [iank@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:iank@stmarys.ac.nz)

Ivy: [ivys@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:ivys@stmarys.ac.nz)

DRS: [cathd@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:cathd@stmarys.ac.nz)

Deputy Principal: [katiel@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:katiel@stmarys.ac.nz)

Principal: [jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz)



**Please keep toys at home**  
where they belong.

Unfortunately we end up  
with broken or missing toys  
which create tears and  
arguments.



## Update Contact Info



If you have shifted, had a new phone number,  
changed your emergency contacts or changed  
work numbers please let us know.

< Absentee

Call office

Email

All fields are required.

Student's Full Name

Student's Class or Room No.

Parent's Full Name

Parent's Email Address  
example@email.com

Parent's Contact Number  
+641234567

Reason  
Please provide a clear reason for this absence.

Send



St Mary's School  
Whanganui



### School App

From the Google  
Apps / Play Store:  
SchoolAppsnz St  
Mary's School

**Please use our Absentee option on our School App when your child is sick. This makes things so much easier for us here at school. Please give a detailed reason as this helps us to monitor the spread of illness and to assign the correct absence code for the Ministry of Education.**

# Term Dates - 2022

## Term One

Tuesday, 8 February - Thursday 14 April  
Waitangi Day Monday, 7 February

## Term Two

Monday 2 May - Friday, 8 July  
Queens Birthday - Monday, 6 June  
Matariki - Friday 24 June

## Term Three

Monday, 25 July - Friday, 30 September

## Term Four

Monday, 17 October - Thursday 15 December  
Labour Day - Monday, 24 October  
End of Term 4 Thursday, 15 December



## We need your help...

We have a lot of bugs floating around  
and they are spreading rapidly.

If your child is unwell with coughs, sore throats, vomiting or has diarrhoea you are required to keep your child at home and remain at home until **48 hours after** all symptoms have stopped.

This is vital to contain the spread of bugs.

Please remember to put their absence in the school app.