



Term 4

November 2025

School website www.stmarys.ac.nz

School Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui

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

Wrapping Up a Wonderful Year: Term 4 Updates

Here we are, looking at the **end of Term 4** already! This final term is always a whirlwind of activity, with exciting events and important changes coming thick and fast.

To ensure you don't miss a beat (especially since weather often causes last-minute changes!), please make sure you are actively subscribed to our main communication channels:

- Our **School Facebook Page**
- Our **School App**
- **Seesaw** (for classroom-specific updates)
- Your **Email Inbox**

Please keep an extra close eye on these platforms for any updates!

Join Us to Celebrate 2025!

We would absolutely love for you to join us as we celebrate a fantastic year of learning, growth, and achievements! Further Details regarding our end-of-year celebrations will be shared soon.

24th of November	Choir going to Quinlin Court to perform
25th of November	9.15: Announcement of Winning House for the Big Day Out / Service Certificates Awarded
1st of December	Road Patrollers are off to the movies
2nd of December	Big Day Out for the winning house
3rd of December	Super 6 Athletics Junior Athletics Room 3 and 4
4th of December	St Mary's Time to Shine 5pm – 7pm A chance to meet other parents, relax and enjoy the students performance. We need all students to attend as they all have a time to shine.



9th of December	Prizegiving @ Cullinane Gymnasium. 5.30 to 7.30
12th of December	Water Day
15th of December	House Christmas Carol Competition 10am you are more than welcome to join us Year 8 Graduation Dinner 6pm
16th of December	Reports come home
17th of December	11.40 End of Year Liturgy and Ringing of the Bell for our Year 8 Leavers. Come and join us for this very special liturgy and farewell. Term 4 ends 2pm
28th to the 30th of January	School Office open from 9am to 1pm
4th of February	Term 1 begins Powhiri at 10am

Very important date alert... I am so sorry but I realise I have given the incorrect date for Prize Giving. In the last newsletter I shared that it was on the 10th of December. **It is in fact on the 9th of December.** This such a special time to celebrate the hard work of our students.



Stationary Packs for 2026

No more running around the different shops trying to find the right Books and other items. It was such a success last year so we are doing it again.

Stationary will be supplied by the school. Your child will turn up to their new class and your child's teacher will have it organised ready and waiting.

Whānau will be invoiced for the pack in 2026.



Organisation for 2026!

It is that time again when we plan for next year.

We are currently full for 2026. If you know of anyone wishing to come to our school, they are welcome to still put in an enrolment. As family circumstances change over the new year our waiting list can move.

Please trust us when choosing the placement for your child. So many factors go into our placements. Academic, social, student teacher relationships, skills and strengths, space, year groupings, offering a fresh start, allowing your child to build new skills and friendships, encouraging independence... the list goes on. Please trust us... this is our core business and we have your child's best interests at the heart of all decisions.

We are on the move in 2026 with lots of changes

We have a few changes next year.

Sadly, we farewell Miss Casey. She has made the great decision to become a fulltime mum. Very exciting for her and we wish her the very best. We will still see her around as she is going to be doing a bit of relieving.

We welcome Mrs Nadine Kaua into the full-time role. Nadine has been the release teacher for the Intermediate school as well as running her arts programme. She will now be teaching four days a week in the Intermediate school and continue her arts programme on Fridays.

Replacing Mrs Kaua's role of Classroom Release will be a new teacher, Mrs Aimee Holloway. She comes to us with lots of experience in teaching Intermediates. We are looking forward to welcoming her next year.

The other big news is that our wonderful Mrs Calver is expecting! We are so excited for her. She will be on Maternity Leave for Terms 2 and 3. We have decided to have her work in a different role as this will be less disruptive for the students.

Even more exciting news... our wonderful Learning Assistant Carla has just graduated with her Teaching Degree. We will be welcoming her as Mrs Flintoff in the Junior School taking over Mrs Calver's class.

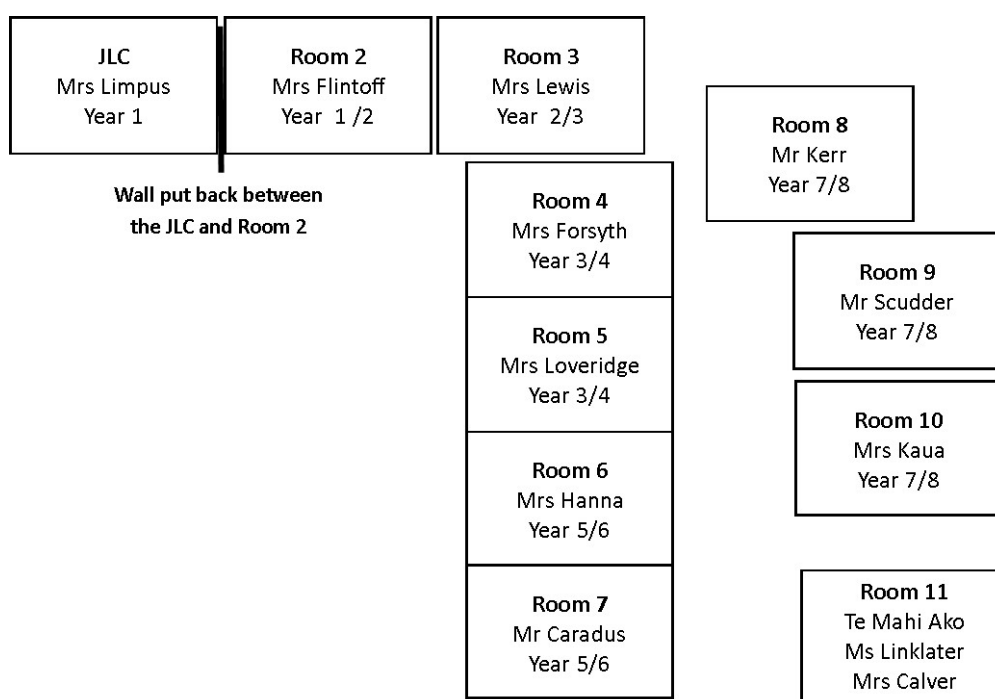
The good news keeps coming... we have also received funding from the Ministry of Education for Learning Support. This funding will be used to create a new Learning Space, Te Mahi Ako. Our Learning Assistants will be basing themselves from this space to reach even more students who need that little bit extra. Running this initiative is our Deputy Principal Kate Linklater with Mrs Amanda Calver assisting.

So where does the 'on the move' part fit in? We are rearranging the school.

Mrs Tammy Forsyth will be moving to teach in Year 3/4 and Mrs Sarah Hanna will be moving up to teach Year 5/6.

We are also rearranging the classrooms. This allows the Middle team to be on the same side of the school. Up until now one of the middle team's classrooms has had to be over in the intermediate side of the school. This has been quite isolating. The other reason is that the Te Mahi Ako space can be used with as little disruption to the other classrooms with lots of students coming and going.

We are looking forward to have our Te Mahi Ako space as it will benefit so many students with extra support. We have trialled this programme this term with outstanding results.



Last chance to have your say

We would still love to hear from you regarding what you love and ideas of things we can tweak or introduce.

We need your thoughts prior to our Board planning our Strategic Direction on the 27th of November.

Just click on the link and answer a little or answer a lot.

<https://forms.gle/9cdsuSUa3VHTK4un6>



Uniform Help Please

Please ensure your child is coming to school in their correct uniform. We are seeing all sorts of variety, especially around shoes. It would be great if you could give them a once over as they leave for school and send them back to change into correct gear.

As always if you are having difficulty with getting correct uniform see Ivy as she has all sorts waiting for a home.

Please help us to keep our school looking amazing.

New PE top



Summer Uniform

Girls Years 1 to 6	
Skort (Cullinane Tartan)	
Short sleeve grey polo shirt	
Sun hat	
Girls Years 7 and 8	
Skirt (Cullinane Tartan)	
White short sleeve blouse	
Sun hat	
Boys Years 1 to 6	
Short sleeve grey polo shirt	
Grey drill shorts	
Sun hat	
Boys Years 7 to 8	
Short sleeve navy polo shirt	
Grey drill shorts	
Sun hat	

Navy monogrammed polar fleece	P.E monogrammed T-Shirt	Black roman or velcro plain sandals
Year 1 to 4	P.E. Shorts Navy plain	
Navy monogrammed Jersey From		
Year 1 to 8		

Social Media Advice

With the holidays upon us I thought it would be useful to share the following information about social media sites that are commonly used by Teens. We do tend to get a flurry of concerns over the holiday period with students not being responsible with their use of online messaging.



Online Platforms Teens Use in New Zealand – Parent Guide

This guide is designed to help parents understand the online platforms that teens in New Zealand are using. The goal is to provide information, not to scare, and to encourage open, supportive conversations.

Platform	What to Know	Parent Tips
Anonymous/Secret Chat Apps	Apps like Kik, Whisper, Yik Yak allow anonymous chats.	Encourage transparency, talk about risks of strangers, establish rules.
BeReal	Daily photo-sharing app focused on authenticity.	Discuss what's shared, encourage positive self-expression, and check privacy.
Bumble	Dating/friend-making app; includes Bumble BFF and Bumble For Friends.	Talk about app sections, safe chatting, and privacy.
Discord	Chat app for servers (text, voice, video); teens may join unmoderated servers.	Ask which servers they use, review who they interact with, check settings.
Facebook	Classic social media platform; still used by families and older teens.	Review privacy settings, monitor groups joined, and encourage balanced use.
Facebook Messenger	Messaging app; often used for family/cross-generation chats.	Discuss chat rules, group sharing, and privacy.
Gas	Anonymous polling app (peer ranking at school).	Discuss social pressure, self-esteem, and how to respond to peer feedback.
Hooked	Chat-fiction storytelling; stories can include horror, romance, adult themes.	Ask what stories they read, how they feel about them, and encourage moderation.
Hoop	Connects Snapchat users with new friends; can link teens with strangers.	Review privacy settings, talk about online strangers, and use supervision tools.
Instagram	Photo/video sharing; high teen use. Can encourage comparisons, messaging from strangers.	Discuss who sees posts, set private account, talk about how it affects self-esteem.
Kik	Messaging app; username-based anonymity.	Discuss secret accounts, who they chat with, encourage transparency.
Locket	Photo-sharing widget with close friends.	Ask who's in the circle, what is shared, and how your child feels about it.

Platform	What to Know	Parent Tips
OnlyFans	Subscription content platform, often adult; not for under-18s.	Discuss risks of adult content, payments, and identity exposure.
Omegle	Anonymous chat with strangers via video/text; high risk.	Talk about dangers, no personal info, avoid unmoderated video chats.
Patreon	Subscription platform for creators; can include adult content.	Talk about payments, content choices, and who they follow or support.
Pinterest	Visual discovery and idea-sharing platform; can include adult or unhealthy content.	Explore interests together, monitor boards, and encourage positive use.
Readnote	Reading and note-sharing app; can include social features.	Encourage educational use, monitor shared notes, and guide respectful online interaction.
Reddit	Communities/subreddits about almost anything; some adult content.	Ask which subreddits, encourage teen-friendly ones, discuss anonymity and safety.
Roblox	Gaming + social platform; can chat with strangers, in-game purchases.	Explore together, check chat and privacy settings, set spending limits.
Sarahah	Anonymous messaging app.	Discuss how to handle negative messages, report bullying, and share concerns.
Signal	Encrypted messaging app; secure but private.	Discuss trust and transparency, explain encryption, and encourage healthy digital habits.
Snapchat	Disappearing messages; stories; group chats. Disappearing doesn't mean safe.	Ask who they chat with, set rules about disappearing messages, discuss privacy.
Teen Gaming Platforms	Fortnite, Minecraft, Apex Legends, etc.; often include voice chat.	Monitor chat safety, set limits, discuss in-game spending and stranger interactions.
Threads	Text-based app linked to Instagram for sharing updates and thoughts.	Discuss what's posted publicly, manage privacy settings, and monitor tone of discussions.
TikTok	Short-form video app; teens see algorithm-driven content, sometimes adult themes.	Review videos together, set time limits, check privacy/comment settings.
Tinder	Dating app based on location and swiping; 18+ but sometimes accessed by teens.	Talk about risks of meeting strangers, age limits, and safe relationship boundaries.

Platform	What to Know	Parent Tips
Tumblr	Blogging/social site; less chat, more content discovery.	Ask about blogs followed, account privacy, and exposure to mature content.
Twitch	Live-streaming for gaming and other content; includes live chat.	Watch streams together, use parental controls, and discuss what's appropriate.
Twitter/X	Microblogging; news, memes, discussion.	Ask what accounts they follow, discuss public posting and negativity.
WhatsApp	Messaging app; texts, voice, video, group chats.	Ask about groups, discuss what's okay to share, reinforce family rules.
Yik Yak	Anonymous, location-based posts; high risk of bullying or crude content.	Ask if they use it, discuss safe posting, and encourage openness.
YouTube	Video platform; wide range of content, both educational and adult.	Co-watch or review channels, set age filters, discuss video content.
Yubo	Friend-making/livestreaming app; users connect with strangers.	Ensure account is private, discuss safety with strangers, set clear boundaries.

Extra Parent Tips:

- Check privacy settings on all platforms regularly.
- Co-explore apps occasionally to see how your child uses them.
- Set up regular tech check-ins (“What did you enjoy online this week?” / “Did anything feel weird?”).
- Balance online/offline time with hobbies, sports, creative play.
- Model calm conversations about digital safety rather than using fear or punishment.

For further support to keep your young person safe online, engage with **Netsafe**, New Zealand's independent, non-profit online safety organisation.

www.netsafe.org.nz | 0508 638 723 | Text “Netsafe” to 4282

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

Team Leader Dallas Limpus: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from the JLC, Room 3 and 4

JLC: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 3: amandab@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 4: theresec@stmarys.ac.nz

Middle Team

Team Leader Alex Caradus: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8

Room 5: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 6: sarahh@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 7: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 8: tammyf@stmarys.ac.nz

Senior Team

Team Leader Chris Scudder: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 9, 10 and 11

Room 9: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 10: tash@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 11: iank@stmarys.ac.nz

If you are requiring further assistance:

Ivy: ivys@stmarys.ac.nz

DRS: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Deputy Principal: katiel@stmarys.ac.nz

Principal: jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz