

Term 1  
February 2026

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 and welcome newbies,**

What a wonderful beginning to the 2026 school year! There is a fantastic buzz around the school as students settle back into their routines and catch up with friends. Our teachers have spent January planning for an enriching year ahead, and the focused atmosphere in our classrooms is a testament to that hard work.

You are a vital part of the success for our students. We need to hear from you.

You will receive this form to fill out this week. Keep an eye out for it in school bags.

**Your Child Through Your Eyes** is an important process as it helps us build strong relationships with our students and their whanau.

Please keep us in the loop with anything that may change and impact on your child/ren as we are here to help.

On the back of this form is also a space for you to update your contact details, medical information, indicate how you receive information and a request for information regarding sacraments that you may be interested in.



Next week we will be holding **Parent/Teacher Interviews** on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please click on the link and follow the instructions to book your times.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/ky86f>

If you are unable to book a time, please email your teacher directly to set up an interview on a different day. Teacher emails are on the last page of this newsletter. We like to have 100% turnout as this is vital for setting your child up for success.



## **Reset Room**

We operate a Reset Room to support student learning and foster uninterrupted classroom learning time. If a student is disrupting the teaching/learning in the classroom, they are asked to go to the Reset Room with their work. This enables them to refocus and complete their work, with support. This benefits both the individual student and the entire class. Parents/Caregivers are notified by the classroom teacher when their child visits the Reset Room, and we encourage you to support this discussion by discussing and reinforcing respectful behavior with

your child - respect for teachers, fellow students, and, most importantly, respect for their own learning.

Students in the Reset Room miss their next break time as a consequence. After completing their work, they return to class for the following learning block with a fresh start.

This is less about 'being in trouble' and more about noticing when they are being disruptive and then being able to regroup and build good learning habits. The positive impact on student learning and classroom environments is clear, as evidenced by the decreasing number of students requiring this support. We have seen a transformation of the class learning environment over the years it has been in operation.

The Reset Room is located within the shared office space of the Principal and Deputy Principal. Therefore, if your child mentions being sent to the Principal's office, please be assured that if it is more than a reset we will contact you directly.



## Gospel Values

We have 4 Gospel Values that we actively teach. The acronym we use is ICIC.

### **'In Christ I Can' or Inclusion, Courtesy, Integrity and Courage.**

This are actively taught throughout the year with Term 1's focus on Inclusion.

We would love you to talk through our values with your child each term as it is so important that they hear a consistent message between home and school.

**Welcoming**

Making new people welcome.  
Knowing and using people's names.  
Ensuring new people know the way we do things.  
Fully participating with reverence and respect in the School Powhiri.



**Togetherness**

Sharing with others.  
Including others in play who are lonely.  
Including everyone of all abilities when making teams or groups.  
Allowing all to fully participate.



## **INCLUSION** Apiti

The second commandment is 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." MARK 12:31

**Forgiveness**


Accepting that learning is messy and that it is OK to make mistakes.  
Letting someone say SORRY.  
Being open to a Restorative conversation.  
Letting a person learn from their mistakes and have a clean slate.



TEACHER AND STUDENT VOICE


**Curiosity**

Getting to know your classmates likes & dislikes.  
Greeting someone in a language that is important to them.  
Valuing a person's culture through our actions.  
Recognising the value of learning about cultures of the world.



**Acceptance**

Support someone who is struggling.  
Accepting diversity in our community.  
Through your actions & words let someone know they're precious.  
Tolerance of people's personalities, traits & interests.





## Reward System

All children receive "ICIC (In Christ I Can Gospel Values)" tickets for making great choices. Inclusion, Courtesy, Integrity and Courage are the Gospel Values we actively promote and teach.

These tickets can be redeemed at the "Shop" on Mondays, where a diverse "menu" of rewards are available.

This creates a fair system where all children can save towards a reward rather than it being a lucky draw. Children can work together to purchase rewards also.

Popular choices include "renting" the chair, sandpit, playground, or field, and spending time in the craft corner.



**10 Tickets**



**10 Tickets**



**15 Tickets**



**15 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



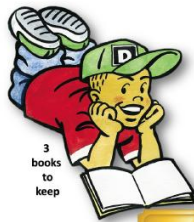
**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**25 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



**20 Tickets**



For you and 2 friends

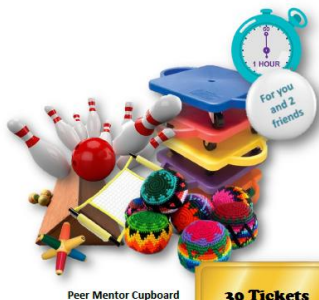
**25 Tickets**



**30 Tickets**



**30 Tickets**



Peer Mentor Cupboard

**30 Tickets**



**30 Tickets**



**35 Tickets**



**50 Tickets**



**50 Tickets**



**50 Tickets**

## Attendance

**Attendance**



One of the governments priorities is to improve attendance across the country.

What does this mean for our school and students?

Attendance data is collected daily by the Ministry of Education. If there is an attendance concern initially I will make contact with you to problem solve. We are committed to supporting you in any way we can.

Chronic absence that is not resolved will activate an Attendance Officer who will work with you to problem solve a student's absence.

It is vital that when you notify us that your child will be absent you give us the information about why they are away. This is so we can enter the correct code. Below is the process we follow and on the next page an explanation of the codes.

For example, genuine ongoing medical reasons will not activate the same response via the Attendance Officer. It may be, we get our school nurse to work with you trying problem solve ways to improve overall health.

Thank you for your support with this.

# Attendance Code Descriptions



## Present for ½ day calculations

### P Present

Student is present in class. This includes supervised dual tuition with Te Kura.

### L Late to class

Student is late to class. Schools set the threshold for lateness (e.g. 10 minutes) in their school policy.

### A Alternative provision

Student is present in a Ministry-approved alternative provision, such as a teen parent unit, alternative education, secondary-tertiary program, health school or activity centre.

### V Unsupervised exam study (S)

Student is present in an examination or unsupervised study where the student is on-site.

### N Present but out of class

Student is present but out of class due to an on-site school activity (cultural or sporting event), internal appointment, temporary removal from class, or time in the sickbay.

### Q Board approved offsite learning

Student is present in Board-approved off-site learning, including courses, school-organised activities, and work experience.

### D Approved external appointment

Student is present but has a medical appointment which is unable to be scheduled outside of school hours (e.g. doctor or dentist and includes travel time) or is participating in court proceedings.

## Justified absence

### J Explained and approved

Student is absent due to explained and approved reasons (e.g. family emergencies, bereavement, representing in national / cultural events, approved exemptions, or accompanying parents on overseas diplomatic / military postings).

### M Illness / Medical absence

Student is absent due to illness or medical reasons, including mental health-related absences (e.g. anxiety).

### X Exam leave (S)

Student is absent studying offsite preparing for exams. NOTE: Time allocated to this code is not included in Ministry attendance calculations.

### U Stood down or suspended

Student is absent due to formal stand down or suspension. This code applies to the period of the stand-down or suspension, excluding the day it was imposed.

## Unjustified absence

### T Truant

Student is absent without explanation or permission from a parent / caregiver (e.g. skipping class)

### E Explained but not approved

Student is absent and the reason provided does not meet the school's policy for a justifiable absence (e.g. a parent states their child didn't want to attend sports day).

### G Holiday during term time

Student is absent due to a holiday taken.

### ? Unknown (temporary)

Temporary code used when the reason for a student's absence is initially unknown. This will be updated once the reason is confirmed.

So, on that note...

## Unwell?

If your child is unwell, please keep your child home. First and foremost, they need rest to heal and recover. However, the other issue is stopping the spread of illness.

If your child vomits or has diarrhoea you are required to keep your child home **48 hours after** all symptoms have stopped. This is vital to contain the spread of illness.

It is really helpful if you could ring our absentee line or message us through the school app to let us know if your child is going to be away.

It saves Ivy a lot of time and it is appreciated.





Public Health Nurses are Registered Nurses with specialised knowledge, experience, and training in child/tamariki and family/whānau health. We partner with children/tamariki, parents, caregivers, and staff in schools or early childhood settings, and we collaborate with general practice teams, specialists, and other service providers to promote and support child wellbeing.

### Referral Criteria

**Health-related concerns that impact on the child/tamariki well-being at home or school – for example:**

- Allergies/Anaphylaxis
- Hearing and/or vision concerns
- Medical conditions e.g., asthma, skin conditions, weight, seizures
- Day/night-time wetting, soiling, constipation
- Nutrition, growth, and development
- Immunisations for year 7's (or catchups)
- Parenting support and education

Viv East is this school/ECE public health nurse. The service is free of charge. You can contact her by:

calling or texting 021 373 212 or email: [Vivienne.east@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:Vivienne.east@tewhatuora.govt.nz)

## Breakfast...

If your child would like to have breakfast before school, they are most welcome to go to the 'Room 5 café'. This is a great initiative to ensure full tummies before the learning gets underway for the day. All are welcome!



Enabling school-aged learners to realise their full potential by supporting their wellbeing and nutrition.



## 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

Year 1 to 4



P.E monogrammed T-Shirt

P.E. Shorts Navy plain



Black roman or velcro plain sandals



Navy monogrammed Jersey From  
Year 1 to 8



# Uniform Reminders

We are now in summer uniform. We run a no hat no play... this means if they have no hat they are under the shady tree for breaktimes.

**Long hair** - to be tied up with black or navy ties.



**Earrings** - only plain studs or sleepers please.



**Taonga and Crosses** - may be worn but need to be tucked in.



**Sandals** - Black buckle up or Velcro sandals must be worn when arriving and leaving school.



**Name it, name it name it!** We have 260 students... a black vivid marker works well! **This is especially important if you have second hand uniform.**



Please keep **fancy shaved haircuts and nail polish** for the holiday breaks.

**Anderson's Uniform Shop** are happy to help with both new and second hand.

If things are a struggle please do email or ring Ivy as she has some available second hand uniform. We are here to help.



Dates will be added to over the year.

<b>Term One</b> <b>Wednesday 4th of February - Wednesday 1st April</b>	
<b>17th and 18th February</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Interviews</b>
<b>2nd of April</b>	<b>Staff only Day</b>
<b>Term Two</b> <b>Monday 20th April - Thursday 2nd July</b>	
<b>Monday 27th April</b>	<b>Anzac Day</b>
<b>Monday, 1st June</b>	<b>Kings Birthday</b>
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>	<b>Staff only Day</b>
<b>Term Three</b> <b>Monday, 20th July - Friday, 25th September</b>	
<b>Term Four</b> <b>Monday, 12th October - End of term 14th December</b>	
<b>Monday, 26th October</b>	<b>Labour Day</b>



Neuro

# Spicy

# Connections

# Group



Spicy chats, bites to share, meet, connect, and care  
For parents/grandparents/carers or guardians of diagnosed and  
suspected neurodivergent tamariki



Fortnightly on Thursday's  
Starting from **12th February 2026**



1:00pm-2:30pm



@ Central Baptist  
**285 Wicksteed Street**  
Whanganui

Wharenui Room off of the main entrance

Get in touch

📞 Beth L. Savage- 021 384 255

✉ office@wovenwhanau.org.nz

📞 Rosie McMenamin- 027 381 9509

✉ rosie@whatever.org.nz



**what ever**



**WOVEN WHĀNAU**

# Who to see...

Let's embrace this year with enthusiasm, collaboration, and a shared commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment for all. We love to have you involved in school life.

On the next page you will see teachers emails. Your child's teacher should be the first port of call if you have any concerns or worries. They know your child best. If you feel you are not being heard please reach out to the Team Leader. Their role is to support their team to get the best for our students.

Kate Linklater, our Deputy Principal, is our Special Needs Coordinator. She works closely with classroom teachers and Team Leaders to ensure your child is supported with their learning.

Ivy Scott is your contact regarding absences, general running of the school, uniform, medical needs... the list goes on. Please ensure you use our app to let us know if your child is away. This saves Ivy having to ring parents which takes quite a bit of time.

My door is always open if you need to pop in for a chat!

We communicate with you through the following ways... please ensure you are able to check one or all of these options.

Your Email

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

If you have any issues getting connected please pop in and see Ivy and she will help you.

Classroom teachers will also communicate through SeeSaw. If you are having difficulty with this, contact your child's teacher.

Last but not least please ensure your child has their hat at school. The sun is fierce! Please name your uniform items clearly so we can return any lost items if left around the school.

Welcome back, and let's make this year extraordinary together!

Mā te Atua e manaaki

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

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

Students from the Room 1, Room 2, Room 3

Room 1: [dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz)

Room 2: [carlas@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:carlas@stmarys.ac.nz)

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

## Middle Team

Team Leader Alex Caradus: [alexc@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:alexc@stmarys.ac.nz)

Students from Room 4, Room 5, Room 6, Room 7

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

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

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

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

## Senior Team

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

Students from Room 8, Room 9, Room 10

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

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

Room 10: [nadinek@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:nadinek@stmarys.ac.nz)

If you require further assistance,

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

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

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

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

