



Angel Whānau Newsletter

Term 1 2021

Welcome back to the start of a busy and exciting term! A special welcome to our newest Angels in A1, and especially families new to St Patrick's School. As teachers we consider it an honour to be entrusted with your child and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

The team this year is Jan Bevan and Anna Piper in A1, Pip Draeger and Nadine McEwan in A2, Kaehlah Dawson in A4 and a special welcome to Toni Jensen in A3. We are all very excited about what 2021 has in store and sharing in your child's learning journey.

Encounter:

Our overarching theme for the year is 'Encounter'. We will be linking our learning across the curriculum to develop knowledge and understanding around:

- An Encounter with Faith - Faith that holds you - understanding what faith is, it's importance and how this connects us as a community.
- An Encounter with Hope - Hope that guides you - with our faith we will have the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen.
- An Encounter with Love - Love that nurtures you - love is our encounter of God and the strength it gives us to be his disciples. d[
- An Encounter on our Journey - Faith, Hope and Love guide us on our journey - reflecting on our faith journeys and our next destination on the path.

The St Pat's Way:

'The St Pat's Way' and how we act with Whakauete, Manaaki and Nanaiore has become part of the everyday language at school. However for new families, when you hear these words being used at school and home, this is what these key values mean to us:

- **Kia Whakauete** is showing respect, appreciating and treasuring.
- **Kia Manaaki** is supporting, caring, protecting and being generous.
- **Kia Nanaiore** is striving to be our best, reaching for our goals and being resilient.

Learning through Play

Our Play Based Learning (PBL) environment is designed to make the transition from preschool to school a smooth, enjoyable, highly motivating and engaging one. A place where the children feel safe to try new things, to enhance their sense of wonder and learn persistence, cooperation, negotiation, resilience and a strong sense of belonging.

Planned opportunities are carefully thought out invitations that develop the children's own interests or urges. We constantly look for ways children demonstrate the national 'Key Competencies', the St Pats Way and the Learning Areas of the Curriculum.

Our learning environment lends itself to opportunities for small group sessions of explicit teaching to happen alongside PBL.

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn"

- O. Fred Donaldson

Literacy/Numeracy:

Developing a Growth Mindset and using that language in our learning will be a focus of our Literacy and Numeracy programmes throughout the year. Key ideas of having a Growth Mindset are:

- Mistakes are okay, failures can lead to success. Mistakes help me grow.
- I might not know it YET, but I will get there. I can train my brain to do it.

Through shared texts we will be focusing on **Oral language** this term. As we continue to learn more about each other, sharing our stories becomes an important part of learning about each other's similarities and differences and how to positively communicate our thoughts and feelings.

Maths: We are continuing to develop the skills and attitudes towards maths through our DMIC (Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities) approach. We have been excited to see the changes all the children made in confidence, problem solving and involvement last year. If you are new to the school you may want to pop in and chat to your class teacher about how a lesson runs.

Religious Education:

We will start by exploring **Prayer** and establishing class routines for this. This will lead into the **Church** strand. We have so many opportunities in Term 1 and leading into Lent/Easter to go to church and connect this learning. Our theme of Encounter will be strongly linked to developing and growing our relationship with God and building our faith.

Sport:

Our PE focus this term will be on Fundamental skills and Athletics.

The sports available to the Year 1&2's this term are: Miniball, Netball, and Hockey.

Permission slips were returned Wednesday 10th February but if your child missed out, please let their teacher know as soon as possible. Registration for all teams will be completed this week.

Currently, we do not have enough players to enter a Netball team and we require at least two more parents to coach Miniball to be able to enter all our students. A reminder that if your child is wanting to play Hockey, then their registration needs to be completed by you at <https://hbhockey.org.nz/summer-hockey/#funs>

Terracycle:

Last year the Angel Whānau joined Terracycle NZ in our efforts to be Kaitiakitanga and taking responsibility for the care of our land. We are collecting any used oral hygiene products that we then send away for recycling in exchange for money that is given to a charity of our choice. Throughout the year, please feel free to drop off your used toothpaste tubes, brushes, bottles etc to help us with this cause.

Uniform reminders:

Shoes - Roman sandals for Term One

Hair ties, headbands and clips - Hair accessories are to be only white, black, brown, green or navy blue.

Ribbons and bow are not to be worn.

Jewellery - only 1 pair of plain studs to be worn and a wrist watch.

School App/Facebook:

Don't forget to sign up to the school app and our school facebook page to keep up to date. Our weekly newsletters with all the up-to-date information and dates are sent digitally through our facebook page and our school website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher.

We are looking forward to meeting you all and continuing to get to know your child.

Ngā mihi.

The Angel Whānau

