



Te Kura o Hepara Pai

***Honesty Pono
Care Manaakitanga
Respect Whakaute***

Newsletter 06

Thursday 08 May/ Haratua 2025

From the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

A heartfelt thank you to Fr Martin for leading our Term 2 Community Mass on Saturday. As always, our tamariki were welcomed with open arms and had the opportunity to engage meaningfully in prayer. It's always such a special way to come together as a faith community.

This week we are celebrating New Zealand Sign Language Week, and what a wonderful chance it is to recognise one of our official languages! If you'd like to explore some Sign Language at home with your children, you'll find some great resources by following [this link](#). It's a lovely way to learn together as a whānau.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to the PTA and Fair Information Evening last night. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and to hear so many creative and generous ideas being shared. Special thanks to Alice Ryan for sharing some thoughts and plans about Matariki and also Aimee and the Fair Committee for all their mahi in leading the way. I'm always so grateful and inspired by how willing our community is to give – whether it's time, skills, a

helping hand, or sponsorship – every bit makes a real difference.

We're delighted to announce our main fair sponsor this year: Harriet Duncan-Shepherd from Barfoot & Thompson Mount Eden. Harriet has generously offered to donate \$1000 to our school for every house she lists and sells from now until our Fair. If you or someone you know is thinking of selling, she would love to be considered for an appraisal – her contact details are at the bottom of our newsletter.

One of the things I treasure most about being part of a special character school is how we support one another in times of need. If there's ever anything you or your whānau need, please don't hesitate to reach out to me confidentially at principal@goodshepherd.school.nz – I'm always here to help.

Finally, we warmly invite you to a very special Pasifika Mass on Tuesday 18 June at 6pm, at St Joseph's Church in Grey Lynn. This year's theme is *Pilgrims of Hope*, and we're proud to have both staff and students attending. We'd love for as many of our GSS whānau as possible to join us in this joyful celebration.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ben Fahey
Principal

Term Dates 2025

Term	Start	Finish
2	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June

Upcoming Dates

9 May	Colourful Clothes Day - Please bring a jolly jar
11 May	Mother's Day
14 May	Sacramental Programme, Parents Meeting
16 May	Pink Shirt Day
16 May	Friendship seat blessing 2pm Fr. Martin
16 May	Room 6 Assembly, 2:15pm
20 May	E/A Football Zones
27 May	BOT Meeting
29 May	Feast of the Ascension
30 May	Room 7 Assembly, 2:15pm
2 Jun	King's Birthday, School Closed
6 Jun	School Disco. 5pm - 7pm
8 Jun	Sacramental Programme, Sacrament of Confirmation
9 Jun	Cross Country, 9:30am - 1pm
13 Jun	Room 5 Assembly, 2:15pm
17 June	E/A Cross Country Zones

20 Jun	Matariki Holiday, School Closed
23-27 Jun	Book Week
26 Jun	Book Week, Character Parade, 9am - 10am

Please look carefully, as some of these dates have changed.

Colourful Clothes Day & Bring a Jolly Jar

Tomorrow we're looking forward to seeing the children in colourful clothes to support the School Fair's COLOURFUL CLOTHES DAY. In support of this day the PTA are asking students to bring a JOLLY JAR!!

Jolly Jars can be filled with fun trinkets, treats, or anything your imagination can dream up. These jars will be sold at the popular Jolly Jar Stall during the fair.

It's a fun and simple way to contribute to the fair this year. We can't wait to see what surprises your jars hold!



Special Character



With the passing of Pope Francis, we give heartfelt thanks for his humble and inspiring leadership of the Church. As the 2025 Conclave begins, Cardinals gather in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new Pope, guided by the Holy Spirit. As a school community, we

pray in gratitude for Pope Francis's faithful service and for wisdom and unity in the choice of his successor.



Year 6 Level 1 Leadership Badges

On Friday 9 May all year 6 children will receive their level 1 leadership badge. This will happen after whole school prayers in the church. Prayers will begin at an earlier time of 2.35pm (led by Room 9) then the badges will be handed out afterwards.

Happy Mother's Day



For all mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers and motherlike figures in our lives, may God bless them abundantly this Sunday and all days.

Good Shepherd Parish Mass times

We encourage all families to attend Mass together, particularly those children who are participating in the Sacramental programme. Sunday Mass is at **9.30am**

Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental programme resumes this term as our students prepare for Confirmation.

- Parents Meeting- Wednesday 14 May 6.30pm-8.00pm
- Sunday 18 May 9.30am - Confirmation Session one
- Sunday 25th May 9.30am - Confirmation Session two (with rehearsal after Mass)
- Sunday 08 June 9.30am - Pentecost Sunday, Sacrament of Confirmation
-

In & Around School

Change of Clothes - Field

From now until the end of term 3 children will need to be wearing a change of clothes to play on the field at break times.

Cross Country Training

Training has begun for cross country. Children will need to be wearing appropriate footwear for running. They can bring in their running shoes each day for training and a change of clothes (change of clothes is optional). If your child can't tie their shoelaces yet, please provide a pair of running shoes that have velcro on them. Each class will be training Monday to Thursday every week until the school cross country in week 7.



Library

The school library is up and running again with our amazing new library system. All librarians are being trained up on how to use the new system. Please check at home for any library books that can be returned.

Sporting Events - Term 2

Eden/Albert Football Zones Tournament - Tuesday 20 May

GSS School Cross Country - Monday 9 June

Eden/Albert Cross Country Zones - Tuesday 17 June

Pink Shirt Day

Next week is NZ Bullying Free Week and we are promoting this at our school. On Friday 16 May it is Pink Shirt Day and we want everyone to wear pink to school. It could be pink clothes or pink accessories. If you don't have anything pink to wear, please wear your school uniform.



Friendship Bench Blessing

On Friday 16 May we will be having a blessing for our Friendship Bench. This will happen at 2pm outside the library and then we will move to the turf for Room 6's assembly.

Achievements After Hours

Mason and Saxon Take on the Trails!

On ANZAC Day, Mason and Saxon Wilkinson proudly took part in the Kids Craters Mountain Bike Event in Taupō. The young riders completed a challenging 7km course along the beautiful forest trails just outside the town. A fantastic effort and a great way to enjoy the outdoors while honouring the spirit of the day!



Casey and Jude Claim Gold!

Over the long weekend, Casey Soon and Jude Bull took part in the Auckland International Cup Tournament 2025, a four-day event featuring 16 top U9 teams. Representing Auckland United FC – Academy U9 White, resulting in winning the U9 Tournament Gold Cup. A fantastic result and a great reward.



We love to see our tamariki achieve and participate in activities beyond the bell. If your child or past students of GSS have anything they want to share, email the school office - admin@goodshepherd.school.nz

Waste Free Lunches at GSS

A reminder about the Waste Free Lunchbox initiative at Good Shepherd School. Please review the attached flyer for our guidelines on this. It was great to see the enthusiasm and pride that the tamariki approached this initiative with last year, and it would be wonderful to see this continuing/increasing in 2025.

[How to pack a waste free lunch box](#)

NZ Modern School of Music

Earlier this week, each child received a form from the NZ Modern School of Music. If your child is interested in learning Piano, Guitar, or Singing, please complete the form and return it to the school office.

Alternatively, you can email your interest directly to: info@modernmusic.co.nz

Information for Whānau

School Attendance Dues Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese. Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3040 for further information. Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland [Website](#)



Hōtoke (Winter) is definitely upon us!

Winter Wellness Reminder

As we head into the winter season, it's common for colds and other bugs to make their rounds. To help keep our school community healthy, please remind your children about the importance of:

- Washing hands regularly
- Coughing or sneezing into elbows
- Staying home if feeling unwell

You can also support your child's immunity with a few simple steps recommended by the Ministry of Health:

- Provide a balanced diet with fruit and vegetables
- Ensure good sleep and regular physical activity
- Keep up with routine vaccinations, including the flu vaccine

Have You Seen the Orange Cone?

You may notice an **orange cone** on the field during school drop-off and pick-up. This is a friendly reminder from Sharyn to stay off the field.



With colder mornings and rainy days ahead, the field can become muddy and slippery. To help keep it in good condition (and avoid muddy shoes!), we kindly ask that tamariki and parents use the footpath around the field instead of walking across it.

Let's Keep in Touch

We use WhatsApp and Facebook to facilitate communication among whānau. There is no obligation to join these informal groups, but whānau find them very useful for asking and reminding each other about school happenings - not to mention tracking down lost

property! This document contains links to our groups, including classroom and PTA WhatsApp groups, and school and PTA Facebook groups.



[GSS WhatsApp and Facebook Information](#)

NZ Curriculum refresh and school reports

You may be aware that we have begun implementing the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. This updated curriculum is designed to equip our tamariki with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for their future success.

While these changes are being introduced in classrooms, our reporting documents will not be updated to reflect the new curriculum outcomes until next year. For the remainder of this year, student progress will continue to be reported using our current anniversary reports for year 0-2 students, and mid and end of year reports for students in year 3-6.

We will be holding a community consultation in the near future. This will provide an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and whānau to learn more about the curriculum changes and ask any questions you may have. Further details regarding the date and time will be shared shortly.



Amazing turn out last night - thank you!

A huge thank you to all the parents who turned up for last night's PTA meeting and fair meeting, what an awesome turnout! We truly appreciate you taking time out of your busy evening to come and hear about the exciting upcoming events for our school fair.

Keep an eye out in your emails, minutes from the meeting will be shared soon.

Also, please take a moment to look over our [**GSS Fair Newsletter**](#), which we'll be updating regularly with the latest information.

We're still in need of many more volunteers.

The School Fair only works if we all pitch in. Your help makes a big difference so please get involved.

GSS Fair Sponsor!!

Enchanted Forest Disco

Step into the Enchanted Forest Disco!

Get ready to dance under the stars and step into a world of magic at this year's Enchanted Forest Disco. Join us for a night of shimmering lights, mystical music, and spellbinding fun on Friday June 6th 5pm - 7pm. Gain inspiration from:

1. Enid Blyton's Enchanted Wood, The Magic Faraway Tree or The Folk of the Magic Faraway Tree.
2. The Hobbit
3. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
4. Snow White
5. Hansel and Gretel
6. Goblins, Giants, Fairies, Pixies, Gnomes, elves, dragons or other mystical beings.

Whether you arrive as a forest fairy, a gnarly giant, or just ready to groove, this magical evening promises to be unforgettable. Expect enchanted décor, glitter galore, and beats that'll keep you dancing well into the moonlight. Don't miss your chance to be part of the most magical night of the year! Buy your tickets on Kindo for \$5 a ticket. A small selection of snacks and drinks will be available on the night. Snacks \$3 each and drinks being \$2.

We look forward to seeing you fantastical and spellbinding creatures at this year's disco!



Sushi/Pizzas/Ice-Blocks

Friday Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available every Friday via [Kindo](#). Place your order by 8:30 am on Friday, or plan ahead for multiple weeks. Cancellations are accepted until 8:30 am on the Friday you ordered for.

Sushi from Nagoya Sushi (Morningside)

- Teriyaki Katsu Chicken on Rice – \$8.50
- Sushi Packs:
 - 4 Pack: Tuna/Chicken/Vegetarian – \$6.00 | Salmon – \$6.50
 - 6 Pack: Tuna/Chicken/Vegetarian – \$7.50 | Salmon – \$8.00
 - 8 Pack: Tuna/Chicken/Vegetarian – \$9.00 | Salmon – \$9.50

Sushi and Pizza Days – Term 2

Sushi will be available on the following Fridays:

- 9th May
- 16th May
- 23rd May
- 30th May
- 6th June
- 13th June
- No Sushi on 20th June (Matariki)
- 27th June

Pizza Days:

- Tuesday 27th May
- Tuesday 24th June

If you are available to help with the collection and distribution of food on any of these dates, please contact Emma Chan at chanemmanz@gmail.com.

Nice Block Ice-Blocks

Available Fridays at lunch. Order via Kindo or bring a \$2 coin. If ordered online, children receive a hand stamp and must collect their ice block after the lunch bell. No carry-overs for missed pickups, thank you for understanding!

