



**Royal Oak  
Primary School**  
HONOUR LOYALTY SERVICE

**Week 4, Term 1, 25 February 2026**

**Kia ora, talofa lava, malo e lelei, 问候, namaste, 인사, 拜啓, mabuhay, bem vindo, fakalofa lahi atu, kia orana, kohomada, bula vinaka, huān yin, foon ying, marhaba, oso oseyo, olà, bonjour, ia orana, welcome!**



### **Board News**

At our Board meeting on Monday night a new Presiding Member was elected. Jeremy Ferguson has stepped in, taking over from Georgie Shanks who has decided to step down from being our Presiding Member after five years in the role. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Georgie for the work that she has done supporting me as tumuaki, and the school over this time. She has been a dedicated Presiding Member who has worked alongside the Board to support our kura well – thank you, Georgie.

#### **The current Board is:**

Jeremy Ferguson – Presiding Member  
Dustin Botha – Deputy Presiding Member  
Georgie Shanks – Parent elected member  
Anna Jennings – Parent elected member  
Kyle Rika – Parent elected member  
Lynne Gibson – Staff elected member  
Megan Clotworthy - Tumuaki

### **A message from our in-coming Presiding Member**

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rau rangatira mā

Noreira tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

My name is Jeremy Ferguson, and I am honoured to have been elected as the new Presiding Member of the Royal Oak Primary School Board of Trustees. My daughter, Millie-Rose, is in Year 2, and my wife, Chloe, teaches in the Rīmu Room. Away from ROPS, I work as a Specialist STEAM Teacher at Takapuna Normal Intermediate School on the North Shore, and have worked in various teaching, professional development and consultancy roles in schools across Auckland and the wider country so far in my time in Education.

I would like to start by acknowledging Georgie Shanks, who has stepped down from the role after many years leading the Board. The Board, staff, students and wider community thank Georgie for her leadership and direction, and look forward to her continued support for the remainder of her time on the Board. I will be working with Georgie and Megan over the coming weeks to ensure a seamless transition of leadership.

I would like to express the Board's thanks to Megan and the staff for their dedication and hard work in starting 2026 in such a strong way - your commitment to giving our kids the best possible education is so appreciated, despite all of the challenges that you face. In a year jam-packed with rolling out new curricula, new government-mandated assessment and reporting practices, attendance management processes, along with the implications of ongoing collective bargaining and the upcoming General Election at the end of the year. Despite all of the challenges that you encounter on a daily basis, we thank you for the passion and hard work that you demonstrate every day in your service to our kids.

We also acknowledge Rosanne Gibson and the RTLB (Resource Teachers Learning and Behaviour) Cluster 8 group, who are based on our site and whom the Board supports and oversees. Rosanne and her team are a group of highly-skilled and experienced specialists who work closely with a range of schools across Auckland, in addition to ROPS, working with teachers and students to support complex learning and behavioural needs. This work is becoming more and more challenging, and the need is only increasing. We are proud of the work that you do in the schools you support, and we thank you for your ongoing service.

I'd also like to thank Libby Jackson and the Parent Group, whose work, largely done in the background, is of massive significance to the character and heart of the school. I would ask that we all please do our best to support the upcoming Colour Run event on Saturday 28th March. This event is not only a lot of fun for kids and adults alike, but also contributes significantly towards funding many of the initiatives that we provide at ROPS. You will have received information about this already, and I imagine more will come out closer to the time.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Tessa Henry, our incredible school Librarian, as she retires this week after 38 years of service to the school. This is a phenomenal effort, and we know that there will be thousands of children who will have been positively impacted by Tessa's incredible work in this time. Such outstanding longevity in any job is incredible, let alone in education. All the best, Tessa. We are so appreciative of your service and wish you all the best for a fulfilling retirement.

My best wishes to you and your families for an exciting year ahead, and I look forward to working with the Board to continue to support the amazing teaching and learning happening in our school.

Here's to a positive 2026!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Jeremy Ferguson

Presiding Member

**Board of Trustees**

**Royal Oak Primary School**

### **Tessa Henry is Retiring**

As Jeremy mentioned above, Tessa, our lovely Librarian, has recently decided to retire. She has been a highly valued member of staff for 38 years at ROPS. During her time here, she has touched the lives of thousands of tamariki. I would like to thank Tessa for all that she has done for our tamariki throughout her time here and wish her well for her next adventures.

## **ROPS. Important: We are Seeking EOTC Donations Please**

Our Year 5 and Year 6 tamariki are lucky enough to experience wonderful outdoor education opportunities (Y5 - rock climbing and rafting, Y6 - Camp) in Term 1. For some of our tamariki it is difficult for their whānau to cover the cost of these. I am aware that we have some wonderful benevolent folk in our community who would like to sponsor or support one of these tamariki to attend their outdoor education activity. If you would like to provide financial support for a child to attend outdoor education, please contact Nemia Gariando ([nemiag@rops.school.nz](mailto:nemiag@rops.school.nz)) and she will let you know what you need to do. Thank you so much for your support, it is very much appreciated.

## **Parent Group**

Parent Group meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the staffroom. They begin at 7pm. You are all welcome to come along. It is a great way to meet other parents from our wonderful community. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 March (a later date due to camp).



Our major event for the year is rapidly approaching, and the Parent Group will be reaching out for support. This event is a **Colour Run to be held on Saturday 28 March**. You will get more information about this very soon. Please do support this however possible.

## **Non-Uniform Day this Thursday 26 February**

Come in non-uniform on **Thursday 26th February** and bring a **large block of chocolate (180g–250g)** to donate to the school. All chocolate donations will go towards our Chocolate Trailer Game at the upcoming Colour Run — one of the sweetest and most popular stalls of the day!

## **Meet the Kaiako and Parent Group Class Breakfasts**

What a wonderful time we had in Week 2! It was fantastic to see so many whānau visiting their child's class to meet their 2026 kaiako and learn about the class setup and expectations. It was a great chance for kaiako and whānau to connect, as well as whānau connecting with one

another—helped along by all the generous breakfast contributions.

Thank you also for being so enthusiastic about joining the Class WhatsApp groups. These groups are an important link between whānau and our Parent Group, and there's already lots of excitement in the chats about the weekly bake sales and our major fundraising event of the year – the ROPS Colour Run!

If you have not yet joined your class WhatsApp group, please pop into the classroom to scan the QR code or email [vickys@rops.school.nz](mailto:vickys@rops.school.nz) and she will add you in.

## **Second Hand Uniform Sale:**

Our next second-hand uniform sale is Thursday 13 March at the Chandler Ave gate at 8.30am.

## Attendance

As we move through the school year, we want to take a moment to highlight something that makes a meaningful difference in every child's learning journey: regular school attendance.

When children attend school consistently, they gain far more than academic knowledge. They build confidence, strengthen friendships, develop routines, and learn the skills that set them up for success later in life. Every school day brings new opportunities—opportunities to explore ideas, collaborate with classmates, and grow in ways that simply can't be replicated at home.

Even occasional absences can add up. Just one or two missed days a month can leave students struggling to keep up with lessons or feeling disconnected from their learning community. Consistency gives children the best chance to understand their subjects deeply, remain engaged, and feel a sense of belonging.

### How You Can Help

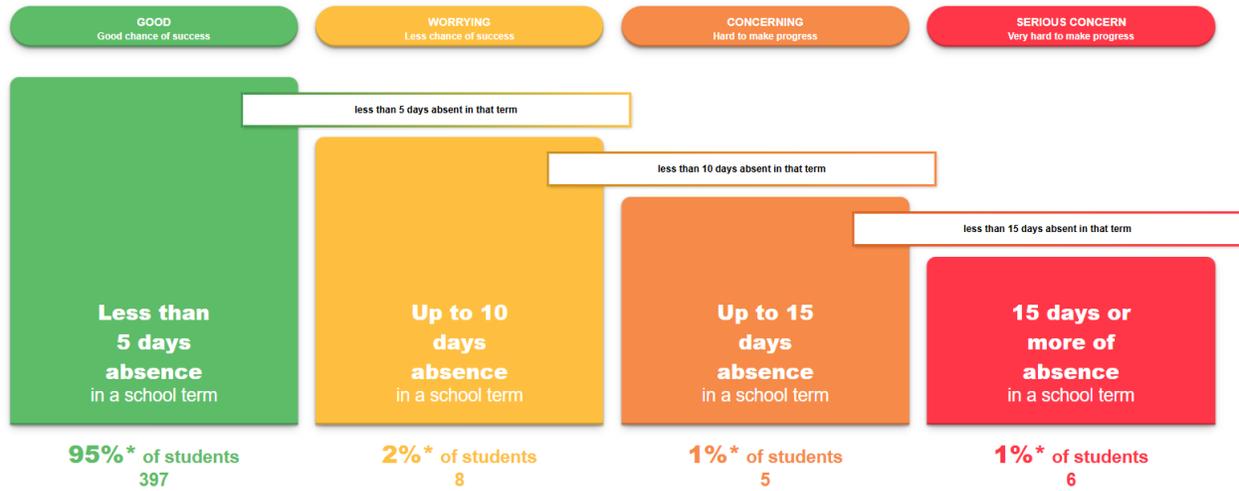
- Establish morning routines that reduce stress and support smooth transitions.
- Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Reach out to us if your child is having difficulty attending—we're here to support your family.

Together, we can ensure every child feels prepared, supported, and excited to come to school each day. Thank you for partnering with us to make attendance—and learning—a priority.

Please see the chart below for our most recent attendance data.

#### Responding to all absences

The Government's target is for 80% of students to attend regularly, that is to attend school more than 90% of the time.



## Allergies

We do have a number of tamariki with severe allergies across our school. Thank you for your understanding and support by avoiding sending foods that impact these tamariki. There are specific messages for certain year levels, however we would ask that the entire school avoids sending nuts with your children.

## Sun Hats

Please do remember that it is compulsory to wear a sunhat in Term 1. Please ensure that your child's sunhat is named as these get put on and taken off many times during the school day and can be easily misplaced.

## What's coming up?

Please do check the calendar in each newsletter as sometimes events do change.

Week 4 23 Feb	23 Feb Board Meeting 6pm	24 Feb	25 Feb	26 Feb Non-uniform day - chocolates	27 Feb 8.15 am Camp Helpers Meeting
Week 5 2 March	2 Mar Year 1 enrolments starting day 9am WERO Yr 5	3 Mar 9am WERO Yr 5	4 Mar Year 6 Camp	5 Mar Year 6 Camp	6 Mar Year 6 Camp
Week 6 9 March	9 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar Parent Group Mtg	12 Mar Second Hand Uniform Sale	13 Mar
Week 7 16 March	16 Mar Year 1 enrolments starting day	17 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar
Week 8 23 March	23 Mar Board Meeting	24 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar	27 Mar 28 March Colour Run 11 - 2pm
Week 9 30 March	30 Mar Year 1 enrolments starting day	31 Mar Summer Sport Field Day	1 Apr Parent Group	2 Apr Cello Lessons in lieu (am) End of Term 1	3 Apr Good Friday

### BOT Meeting:

Our next Board meeting is on, **Monday 23 March 2026** at **6.00pm**. You are always most welcome to attend.

Have a happy fortnight.

Ngā mihi nui



Megan Clotworthy  
[meganc@rops.school.nz](mailto:meganc@rops.school.nz)

Community Notices



# KIDS GONE FISHIN' DAY 2026

Blue Light would like to invite you and your kids to **a fun filled day of fishing!**

 **Saturday 21 March**

 **12pm - 2pm**

 **Ngā Hau Māngere Bridge**

**Great FREE event with lots to see and do**  
Grab an adult, a fishing rod and head on down to the bridge

**· Limited free bait, and hand rods available · Free sausage sizzle · Giveaways ·**



[www.bluelight.co.nz](http://www.bluelight.co.nz)



Contact: Thushani Aththanayaka  
 Phone: 022 652 5113  
 Email: royaloak@kellyclub.co.nz  
 Website: kellyclub.co.nz/royaloakl



**KELLY CLUB Royal Oak UPDATE**

**Photos from last week!**



**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)



# ST MARY'S COLLEGE

## 2027 Enrolments are now OPEN

Join our Mercy Family

Enrolments for 2027 are now OPEN for Year 7 and Year 9 students  
and a limited number of places at other year levels

St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions

We invite you to submit an online application



## 2026 OPEN DAY

Thursday 26 March 2026

Two sessions available, commencing 2.00pm & 6.00pm

Both sessions deliver the same information

No need to RSVP - just come along to your preferred session

[www.stmaryak.school.nz](http://www.stmaryak.school.nz)

11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13



# ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

CONFORTARE ESTO VIR

YEARS 7-13 CATHOLIC CHAMPAGNAT MARIST SCHOOL FOR BOYS

# OPEN DAY

Enrolments for Years 7, 8, and 9 in 2027  
Limited enrolments at other levels

**Thursday 19th March 2026 | 9:30am or 1:45pm**

Assembly in the College Chapel, followed by a tour of the school

STPAULSCOLLEGE.CO.NZ | 183 RICHMOND ROAD, PONSONBY

(Parking available on-site)

## Learn to Sew

Term Classes  
Mt Eden



### Sewing Class

Term Classes -Year 4+

Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm, 4.30-5.30pm

Fun, creative classes where kids learn real sewing skills and make projects they're proud of.

"My daughter LOVED the class so much she wanted to come straight back. She was so proud of her dress and can't wait to make more. We'll be back!"

thread room

See website for all sewing classes:  
[www.threadroom.co.nz](http://www.threadroom.co.nz)



**POP IN FOR A TRIAL - YOU WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED!**

**INFO@PFORM.NZ**

**WWW.PFORM.NZ**

**No Screens, All Confidence: Pform 2026 Classes Open!**

Looking for an after-school activity to build skills and confidence without screens? Pform.nz offers singing, dancing, and acting classes with two trained tutors per session, ensuring personal attention. Our fun and confidence-boosting programs cater to all ages in a supportive environment.

**Why Pform?**

- Boosts creativity, confidence, self-expression
- Experienced, nurturing instructors
- Showcase and competition opportunities
- Flexible term or full-year enrollments

With over 30 venues Auckland-wide, there's a Pform Venue in your community. We invite you to join our creative journey in 2026.

For more details, class schedules, or to book, visit [www.pform.nz](http://www.pform.nz)

We would like to invite you to our upcoming **Open Day**, showcasing Years 1–13 at St Cuthbert's College.

Taking place from **10:00 am – 12:00 pm on Saturday 21 March**, join us to hear about the all-girls' advantage from our Principal, Charlotte Avery, and enjoy a guided tour with one of our students.

Please register here: [Open Day Registration](#)



St Cuthbert's

**Start your remarkable life**

Open Day **Saturday 21 March**

# Imaginaire

SPEECH & DRAMA

## ABOUT US:

Imaginaire offers an exciting, fun and dynamic Speech and Drama programme, inspiring confidence and creativity in our students.

At Imaginaire, we take equal delight in nurturing the next generation of acting extraordinaires and empowering children to overcome shyness and communicate with confidence.

We offer a 'no obligation' introduction lesson so your child can try our lessons out.

## LESSONS INCLUDE:

- Public Speaking Skills
- Acting Skills
- Communication & Conversation Skills
- Vocal Skills
- Positive Body Language
- Poetry Recital
- Reading Aloud
- Speech Writing & Delivery
- Manners and Relationship Skills
- Building Self-Esteem & Confidence

## JOIN US FOR: SPEECH & DRAMA LESSONS



**ROYAL OAK PRIMARY**

**ON MONDAYS DURING  
THE SCHOOL DAY**

**ENROL NOW**

We also offer professional qualifications from Year 4+ through Speech NZ Board.

**OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FROM YEAR 0-6**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO ENROL PLEASE VISIT:  
[www.imaginaire.co.nz/speech-and-drama/](http://www.imaginaire.co.nz/speech-and-drama/)**

# Weekend & After School NETBALL SKILLS CLINICS



Looking for opportunities for your child to play netball outside of school? Join our 6 week programme with netball skills and match play. Individual registrations, open to boys & girls.

## After-School Clinics:

St Johns  
Wednesday afternoons  
Years 1-8  
18 Feb-25 Mar 2026

Windmill Park  
Monday afternoons  
Years 1-8  
16 Feb-23 Mar 2026



## Weekend Clinics:

St Johns  
Sunday afternoons  
Years 1-8  
22 Feb-29 Mar 2026

Windmill Park  
Saturday mornings  
Years 1-8  
21 Feb-28 Mar 2026



For more information please contact:

Caitlin Smardon, Development Programme Officer  
T 09 280 4129 or M 021 577 105  
E [development@aucklandnetball.co.nz](mailto:development@aucklandnetball.co.nz)  
[www.aucklandnetball.co.nz](http://www.aucklandnetball.co.nz)



# Teach your child to swim with us



ST CUTHBERT'S  
SWIM SCHOOL



Learning to swim is a vital life skill for enjoyment and survival. At St Cuthbert's Swim School we offer swimming lessons in state-of-the-art facilities for Baby, Preschool and School Age Children - weekday mornings, afternoons and weekends

#### **Baby and Preschool lessons**

Our Baby, Preschool and Beginner lessons are held in our small private learner's pool. This is set to a higher temperature than our main pool, its UV-treated water means reduced chlorine levels and fewer irritants for young, sensitive skin and eyes.

#### **School Age lessons and Squads**

Once children have built up their swimming confidence they can move to our larger 20 x 25 metre swimming pool. Swimming lessons at school age focus on developing a sound technical swimming base so your child is confident with different strokes. When they reach a proficient level in all their strokes they can move up to our 1 hour Swim Squads.

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

For bookings or to make an appointment to visit our facilities:

**Phone:** 09 520 8272

**Email:** [swimbookings@stcuthberts.school.nz](mailto:swimbookings@stcuthberts.school.nz)

**Address:** 122 Market Road, Epsom, (inside College grounds).

Parking in underground carpark off Market Road and Puriri Ave.

**Website:** [www.stcuthbertsswimschool.co.nz](http://www.stcuthbertsswimschool.co.nz)



**DANCE FOR LIFE**  
*Junior*  
**ACADEMY**

**Onehunga Studio**  
Ballet • Jazz •  
Tap • Hip Hop • Acro

**Trial a Class** **nzballet.co.nz**

Looking for a fun after-school activity?

Children are invited to **TRIAL a dance class** at **Dance For Life Academy, Onehunga** – a family-friendly, **non-competitive and inclusive** dance school where every child is supported to grow with confidence and joy.

👉 Find out more at [nzballet.co.nz](http://nzballet.co.nz) or email [bookings@nzballet.co.nz](mailto:bookings@nzballet.co.nz)

## SCIENCE & TECH CLASSES

### Private STEM Sessions

- **PERSONALISED 1:1 SESSIONS FOR YOUR CHILD**
  - Coding, robotics, 3d design, science, engineering, Minecraft + more
- **BOOKED ON YOUR SCHEDULE**
  - During school, after-school
  - Online, at home, local venue
- **FOR ALL LEARNERS**
  - Extension
  - Building a new hobby
  - Developing confidence & skills
- **HIGH & COMPLEX NEEDS SUPPORT**
  - IF and carer support funding accepted

**BRAINPLAY.CO.NZ**