



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Here we are already in our fourth week of the school year and well-settled into the rhythm of school life.

We have also entered the Season of Lent which began for us with three special Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Many thanks to parents and whānau who were able to join us and to those who came along to help out with Kōwhhai's delicious Shrove Tuesday pancake making sessions.

A special welcome to all our new students and families who join us for the first time. **Kōwhhai** welcomes Adielle, Naitthen, Jack, Andrica and Tiaan. **Nikau** welcomes Delon and **Rātā** welcomes Eliza.

We are very blessed to have you join us. We hope you all settle quickly into school and make many new friends here.

Communication

You will have received the Area Information Newsletters on Friday. These will be available on the website for easy reference. For those families new to our school and a handy reminder to everyone, should you wish to communicate with staff:

The office team regularly checks their emails so this is the most efficient means of communication should you need to correspond about your child. They can also make appointments for you or pass messages on to classroom teachers. This process supports our classroom teachers and allows them to keep their attention focused on the classroom and the learning and teaching of their students.

Alternatively you can make contact with [Area Leaders](#) should you wish a more detailed discussion or to set up an appointment time.

While emails might be an efficient way to communicate on some matters, when dealing with sensitive issues such as learning, behaviour, friendships, family situations etc, face-to-face or a chat over the phone is a far better approach we find. Many thanks for your support with this.

Health and well-being

We know that the highlight of many children's day is the time they spend engaged in physical activities, be it out in the playground at break times or taking part in their PE lessons and sporting opportunities. We know that sport can be a vehicle to help children to be active, healthy and learn life skills; critical in the success of these things is the quality of support that adults provide children in sport.

Balance is Better website is the home of Youth Sport in New Zealand. As a parent you can find loads of articles, videos and webinars to help you support your child playing sports. If you are also coaching your child, this is a great place to find support.

Changes to our P5 traffic restrictions

Hutt City Council has notified us that within the next few weeks you will see the P5 parking times on our 4 parking spaces on Myrtle St outside the school, change from 2.30pm - 3pm to 2.50pm - 3.20pm.

The reason for the change is to reflect our school end time and to better meet the needs of parents picking up their children from the school.

Kay Tester Principal

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

[PARISH WEBSITE](#)

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Events

- Wednesday 21 February
PTA meeting, 7pm
- Wednesday 28 February
Board of Trustees meeting, 7pm
- Monday 11 March
School swimming starts
- Wednesday 27 March
Learning Conferences, from 3:15pm
- Thursday 4 April
Learning Conferences, from 3:15pm

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The combined Mihi Whakatau and Beginning of the Year Mass on Friday 9 February was filled with celebration and joy for the coming year.

Last week we had three beautiful Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Rātā and Pōhutukawa had a combined liturgy in the church and Nikau and Kōwhhai had two separate liturgies in their respective areas during the day. It was so lovely to have parents and even some parishioners attend these events to celebrate with us.



Sacramental Programme 2023/2024

If you were not able to be at the parent meeting last Tuesday to collect your child's programme, please ask your child to see Mrs O'Syke or Mrs Rose to collect the Reconciliation programme and the other handouts from the meeting.

Important Dates for Reconciliation

- Preparation session - Sunday 25 February, 9am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church
- Preparation session - Sunday 10 March, 9am Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church, followed by a short practice
- Reconciliation Day - Sunday 17 March, 3-4pm

Kia ora koe, kia manaakitia ai koe e te Atua
Janine O'Syke
Director of Religious Studies



Pancakes and Preparing

Kōwhhai began Lent with the help of our parent community. We made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday to begin our preparation time. We had the chance to mix the pancakes and flip them which was a great experience for us all!

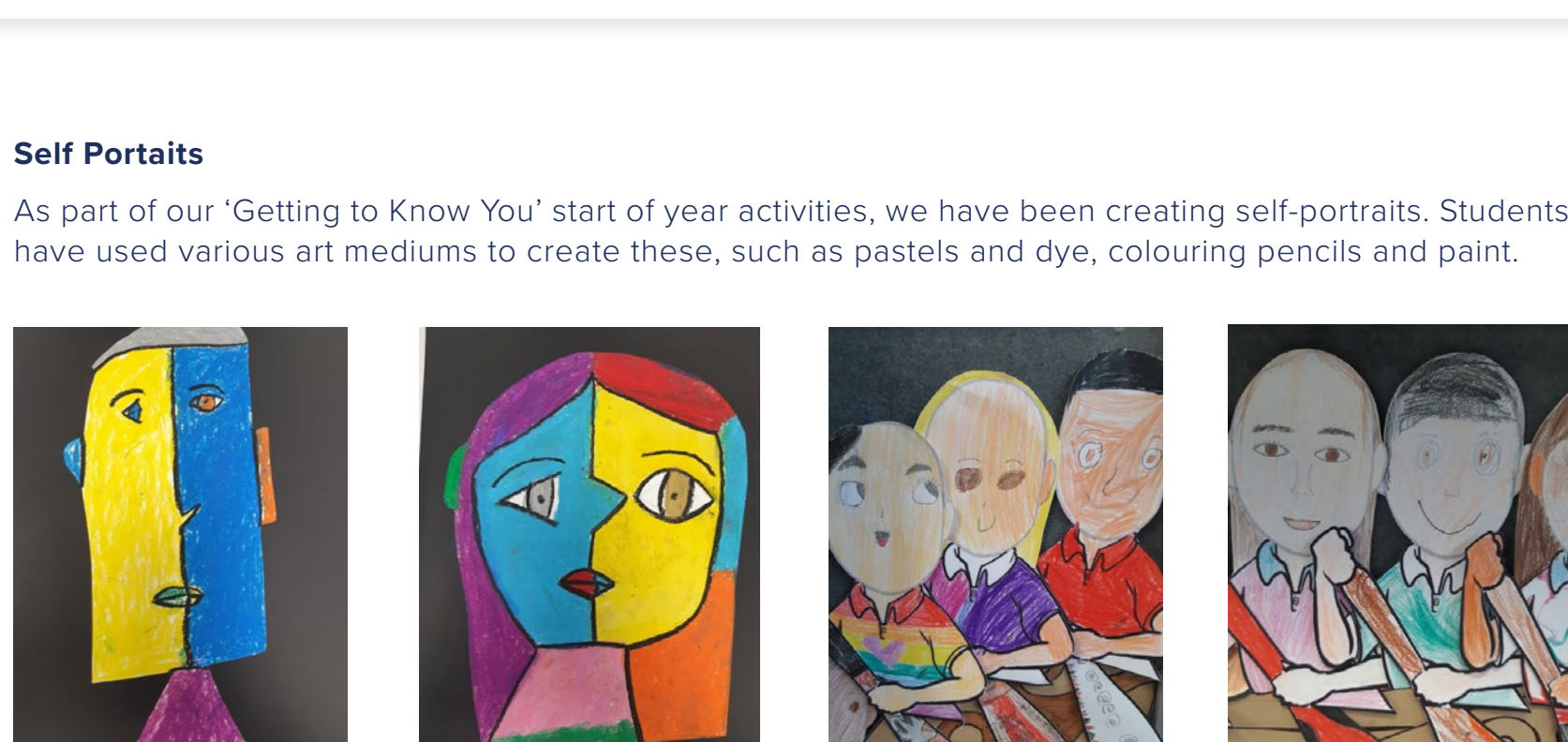
We also enjoyed our first Liturgy together for Ash Wednesday. Together we remembered Jesus and what he sacrificed for us. Thank you to all who came to such a lovely event.



Happy Chinese New Year!

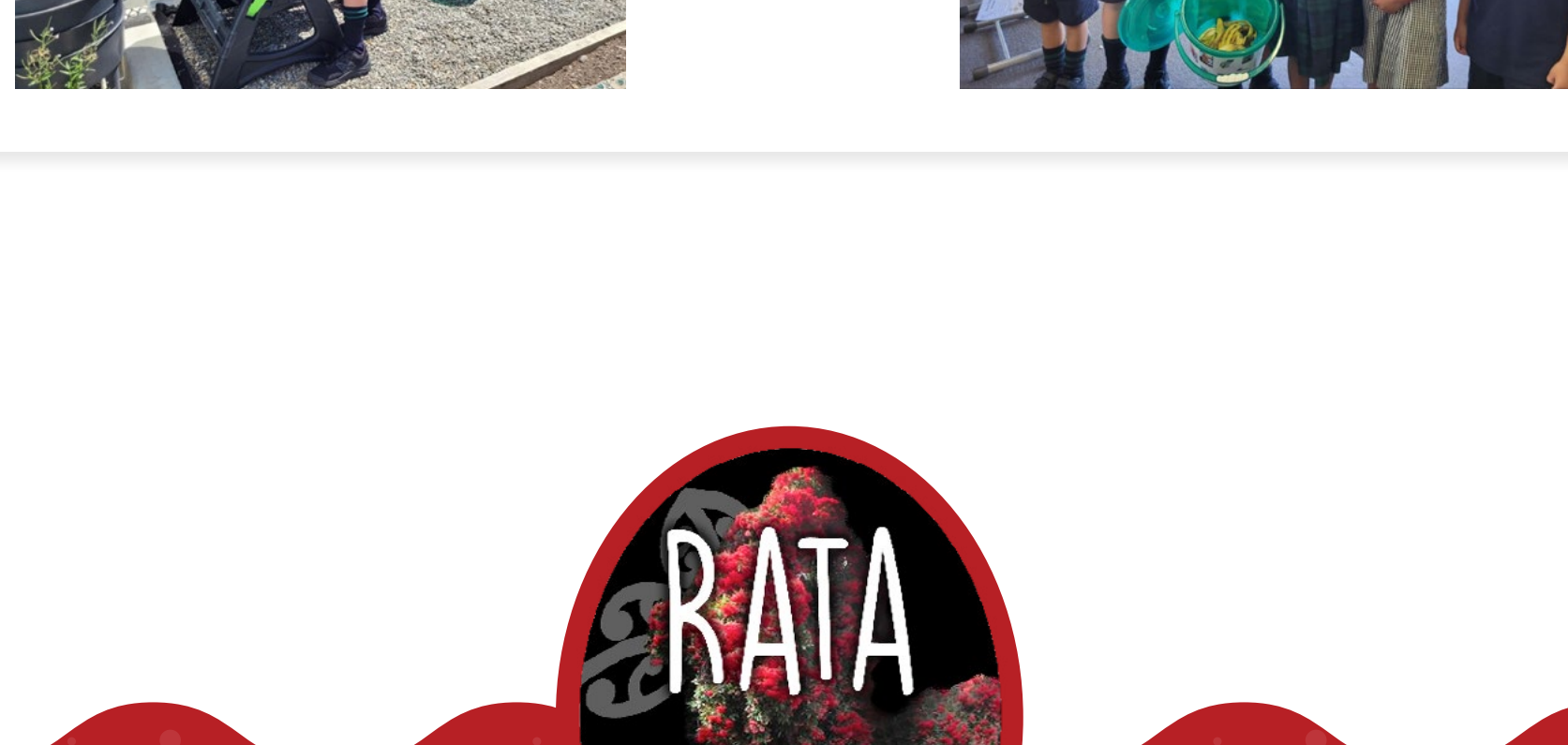
Kōwhhai began the beginning of the Lunar new year. 2024 is the Year of the Dragon so we've all had great fun making and reading about dragons to celebrate this.

Thank you again to those in our parent community who came to help us learn more about this special event and helped us to create some traditional decorations for our classrooms.



Kiwi Hoops

Our students enjoyed their first Kiwi Hoops basketball session last week. They learnt dribbling skills through a variety of fun activities and games.



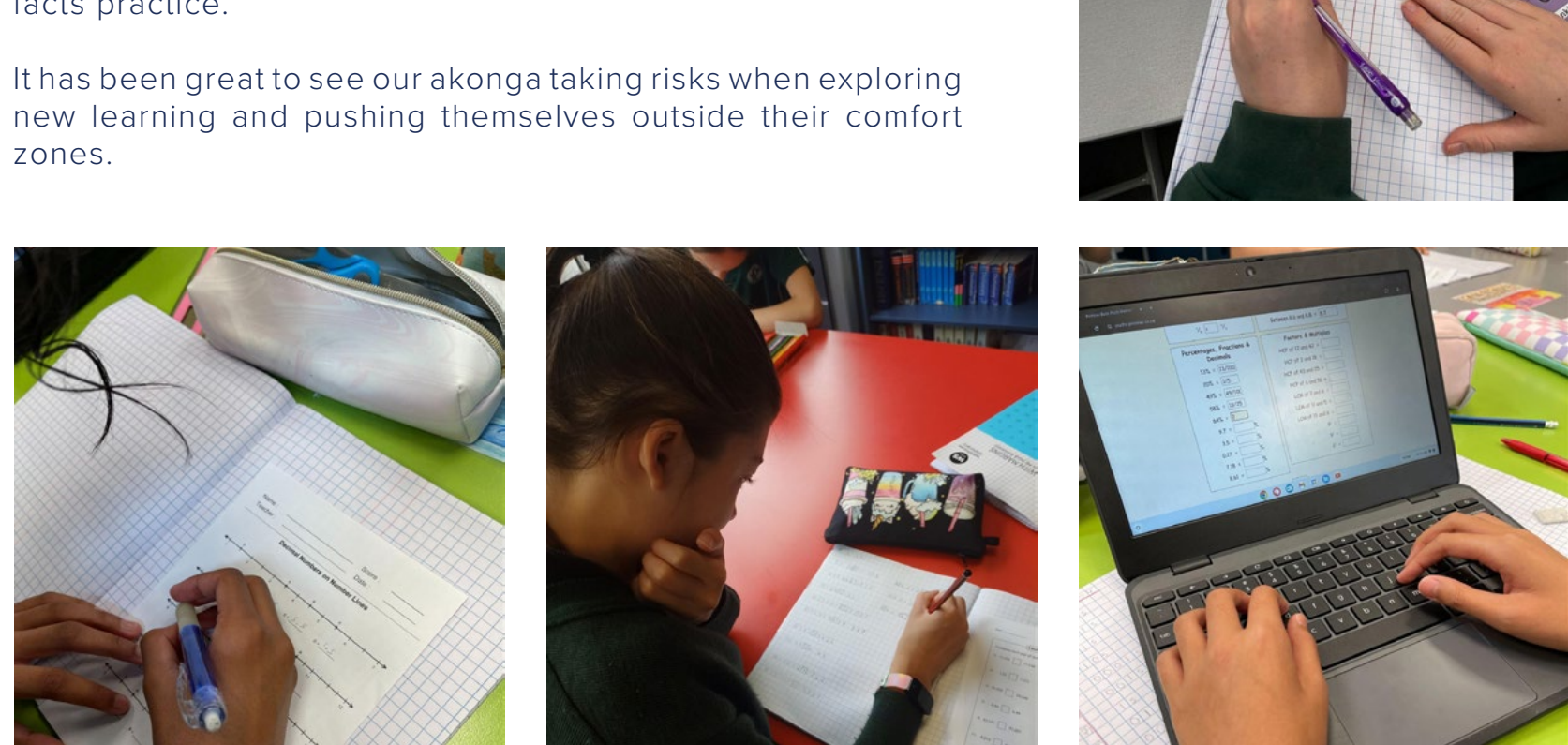
"I liked bouncing the basketball. I learnt how to do it better." **Quinn**

"I liked playing the tap game and learning how to defend the ball so other people couldn't steal it." **Boston**

"We had to play a game of tag while dribbling a basketball. It was really fun and a little bit hard." **Ryan**

Self Portraits

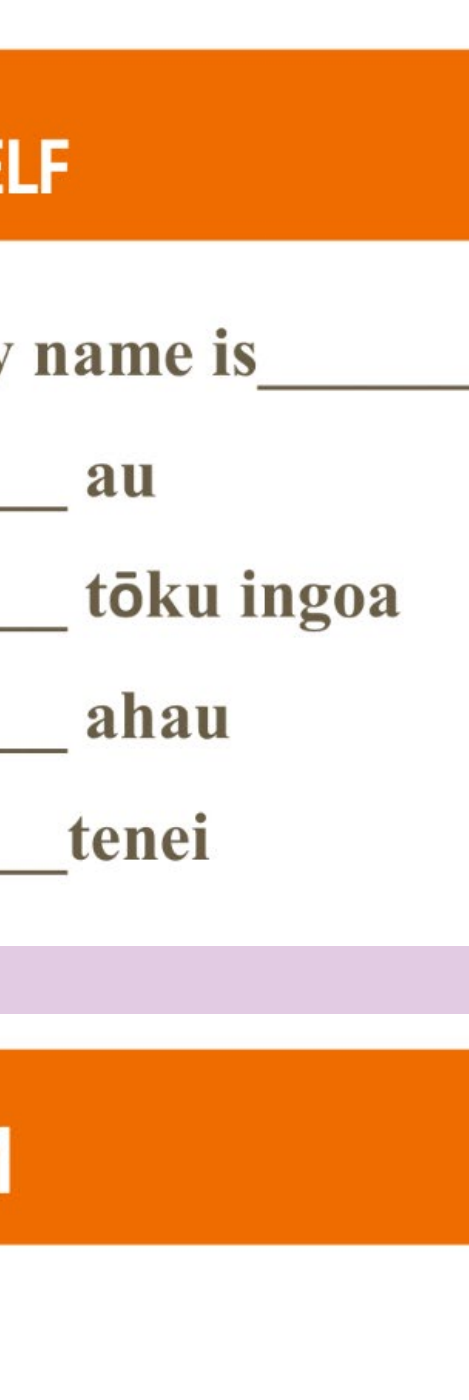
As part of our 'Getting to Know You' start of year activities, we have been creating self-portraits. Students have used various art mediums to create these, such as pastels and dye, colouring pencils and paint.



"When you do a self-portrait you have to try and get the colour of your skin right so that it looks like you." **Kaia**

"It was really fun doing Cubism art because everyone was good at it and you could use bright colours." **Nia**

"When we did our portraits, we looked in the mirror to see what we looked like first." **Zahkiya**



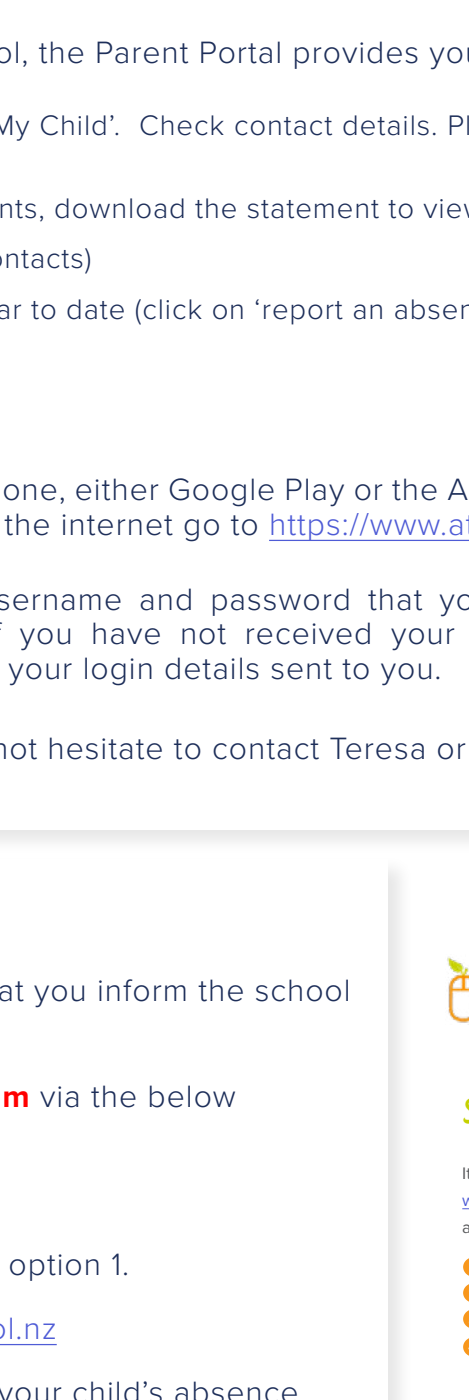
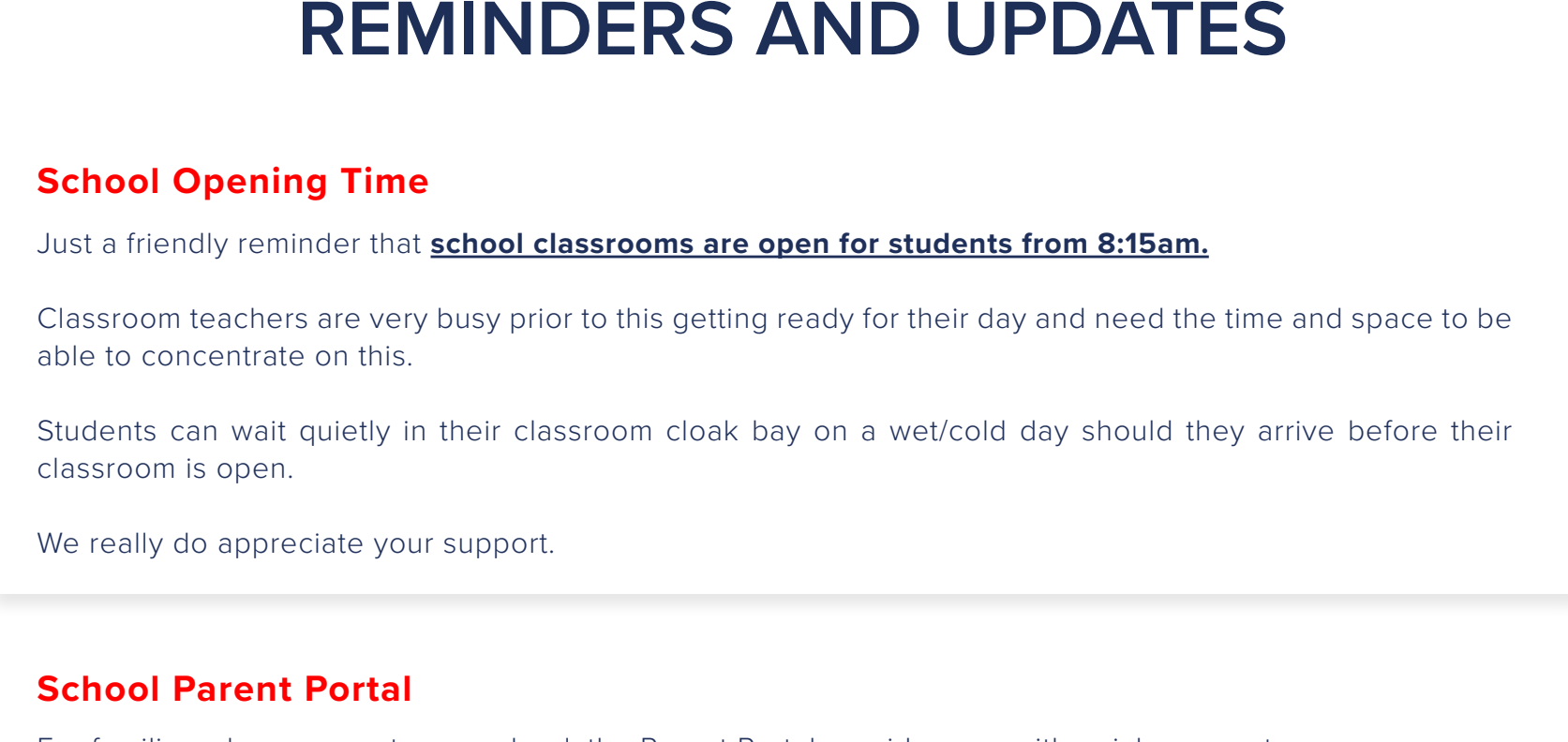
Te Māra Kai

It has been a great start to the school vegetable garden - Te Māra Kai.

Our food composting system has been introduced to each class, with Pōhutukawa children collecting food scraps after lunch to put into the compost bin. We hope to use the compost as a fertiliser for the many garden beds around our school.

Both apple trees in our vegetable garden have been busy producing an abundance of fruit over summer. Children from the Pōhutukawa area helped pick the apples off the trees for delivery to our local Foodbank. The Foodbank workers were very happy to receive fresh fruit for their parcels.

A wonderful way for the children to see how we can put our school value of stewardship into action!

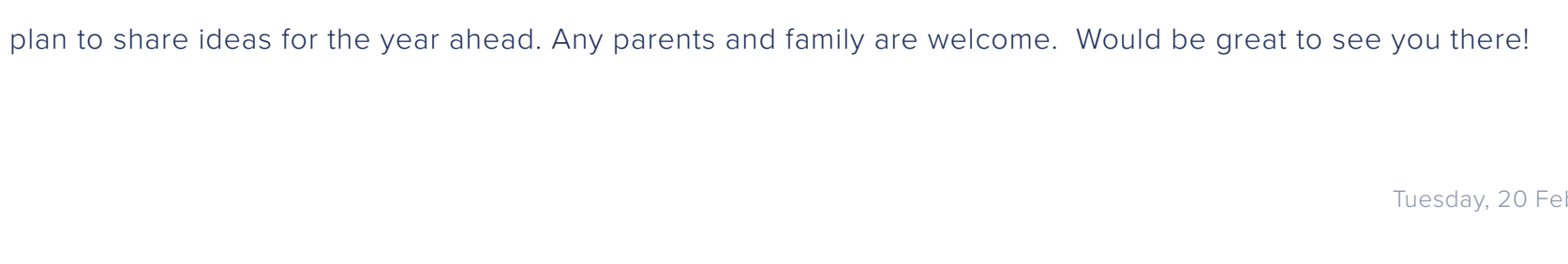


Term 1 Maths

We begin the term with a focus on the place-value system. We are learning about decimal numbers, specifically ordering and comparing these.

Students in Rātā area are enjoying the Mathematics programme, which consists of targeted teaching, group workshops, independent practice activities, problem solving, and basic facts practice.

It has been great to see our akonga taking risks when exploring new learning and pushing themselves outside their comfort zones.



KURA AHUREA

Te reo kupu/kianga to practise at home. Kōrero: simple Te reo with your whānau.

INTRODUCING MYSELF

(I am _____ / My name is _____)

Ko _____ au

Ko _____ tōku ingoa

Ko _____ ahau

Ko _____ tenei

WHERE I'M FROM

Nō _____ au (I am from _____)

SPORTS NEWS

Touch Rugby

The Touch season got underway last week with Yrs 7/8 playing at Fraser Park on Thursdays and Yrs 1-6 at Hutt Park on Fridays.

A big thank you to all the parents who have made it possible for us to field these teams. It was also great to see so many parents supporting their children, and others, in the time I was at the park.

A special call out to Nicole Collins who happily took to the field with our youngest Yrs 1/2 and encouraged them; so much improvement was noted in the first game. Thanks Nicole.

Netball

Years 1-4 began their season this week and again thanks to our volunteer Star Helpers whose willingness to be involved means we can support these players.

We also have to give a shout out to Lexie in Year 6 who has taken on the Star Helper role for this term with her brother's team. She took on this in an unofficial capacity last year so has now made it official. Well done Lexie.

Basketball

We are yet to receive any communication from Basketball Hutt Valley for the Term 2-3 competition. There is always a rush to register teams when they do open as entries are limited.

We will send out registration forms this week (and close this before the end of the month) so we are ready to register teams as soon as the process is open.

Teams will only be entered if we have parental support. We will hold trials if numbers are too big for what we are able to enter, just as we did in 2023.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

School Opening Time

Just a friendly reminder that **school classrooms are open for students from 8:15am.**

Classroom teachers are very busy prior to this getting ready for their day and need the time and space to be able to concentrate on this.

Students can wait quietly in their classroom cloak bay on a wet/cold day should they arrive before their classroom is open.

We really do appreciate your support.

School Parent Portal

For families who are new to our school, the Parent Portal provides you with quick access to:

- your child's contact details – click on 'My Child'. Check contact details. Please advise the school office if there are any changes to be made
- view your child's account (under accounts, download the statement to view your current balance)
- view your child's procedures (under contacts)
- view your child's attendance for the year to date (click on 'report an absence' then scroll down to view)
- be able to report an absence.

How to access this...

Please visit your app store for your phone, either Google Play or the Apple App Store and search for the app called @School Mobile or to login via the internet go to <https://www.atschool.co.nz/>.

You will then be able to use the username and password that you have been emailed to log in and send in information about your child. If you have not received your user id and password please email admin@stpeterandpaul.school.nz to have your login details sent to you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Teresa or Lisa in the school office.

Reporting an absence

It is a requirement from the Ministry that you inform the school if your child is going to be absent.

Please report all absences before 9am via the below options:

1. Through the school website.
2. Call the absence line 04 569 5759 option 1.
3. Email absences@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Please ensure you leave a reason for your child's absence.

Signing Out

Please ensure you sign your child out at the school office if they are leaving the school grounds during school hours. It is important that we know where your child is, in case of an emergency.

Parking Reminder

Could we please remind our parent community to avoid making use of the Church carpark for parking or as a drive through for drop offs and pickups. Many thanks.