

# Ss Peter and Paul School

Tuesday, 7 May 2024



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

### Welcome

A very warm welcome back to school for Term 2. We've had a great start to the term and look forward to the weeks ahead.

A special welcome to our new students and families who have joined us since our last newsletter. **Kōwhai** welcomes Haydee, Erin, Persis, Oswin and Ayesha. We hope you have all enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

### Attendance

We look forward to seeing a continued improvement in regular school attendance and punctuality to school. Regular attendance is considered to be when a student is present for 90 percent of the time.

Obviously though, if your children are unwell, we do appreciate you keeping them home. We hope that all our staff and students keep good health as the winter season approaches. COVID taught us much about the need for good hygiene routines and ventilation and we keep those practices going.

### Health & well-being

I hope that members of our community were able to secure tickets to the Kathryn Burkett evening. This opportunity went to Lower Hutt school communities who are part of the Puni Kura cluster and is proving to be a very popular event. Hopefully we may be able to hold another one should the demand be greater than the number of seats available.

### Structured Literacy Approaches

You may have heard you on the news about the Government's new approach to literacy. If

not, here's a link to the pre-budget education announcement that came out last Thursday:

[Teaching reading](#)

### What does it mean for our school?

We have been working with Dr Christine Braid on our structured approach to the teaching of reading and writing for over 4 years now. The initial focus was on the first two years of schooling and parents will have noticed the greater focus on sounds and use of decodable texts. We have decodable texts available for our older readers but the extended use of these is still an under researched area so we follow Dr Braid's guidance with this.

We know handwriting and spelling have a vital role in successful writing and that handwriting affects both spelling and reading acquisition. These form an important part of all our classroom literacy programmes. Dr Braid encourages our teachers to try out new resources and continue to watch and think and respond to their learners as they implement new practices.

We are very pleased with the results we are seeing across the school. We know more things about how to teach reading and writing but we don't know everything. No-one can. Absolutely essential is that children develop and sustain a love of reading. I can never stress enough about the importance of reading to and with your children and talking to them about what's happening in the story and about new words they discover for the very first time.

*Kay Tester*

Principal

OUR WEBSITE

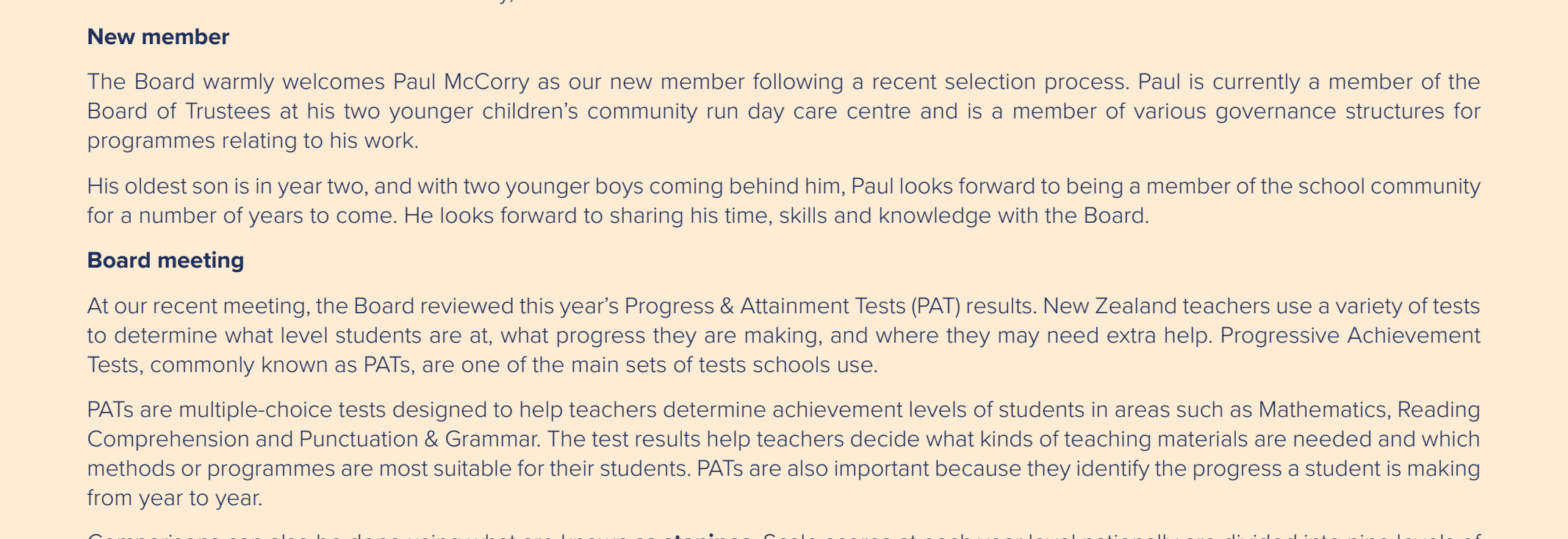
PARISH WEBSITE

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## Events

**Tuesday 14 May**  
PTA meeting, 7pm  
**Wednesday 29 May**  
Board of Trustees meeting, 7pm  
**Friday 31 May**  
Teacher Only Day - school closed  
**Monday 3 June**  
King's Birthday - school closed



## SPECIAL CHARACTER

### The Sixth Week of Easter - 6 - 10 May

What is the Easter Season?

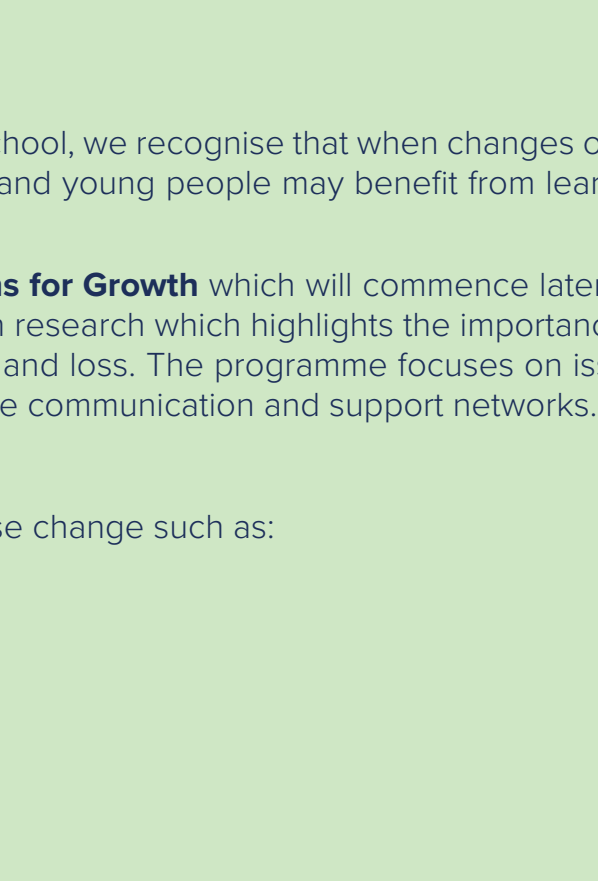
The Easter season is 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus to Pentecost Sunday. The first eight days of the Easter season is called the Octave of Easter and is celebrated. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day.

During the Easter season the Paschal Candle, a symbol of the presence of the Risen Christ standing in the people of God, stays in the church near the Altar until Pentecost Sunday.

Kia ora koe, kia manaakitia ai koe e te Atua

Janine O'Styke

Director of Religious Studies



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kia ora Ss Peter & Paul School community,

### New member

The Board warmly welcomes Paul McCorry as our new member following a recent selection process. Paul is currently a member of the Board of Trustees at his two younger children's community run day care centre and is a member of various governance structures for programmes relating to his work.

His oldest son is in year two, and with two younger boys coming behind him, Paul looks forward to being a member of the school community for a number of years to come. He looks forward to sharing his time, skills and knowledge with the Board.

### Board meeting

At our recent meeting, the Board reviewed this year's Progress & Attainment Tests (PAT) results. New Zealand teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making, and where they may need extra help. Progressive Achievement Tests, commonly known as PATs, are one of the main sets of tests schools use.

PATs are multiple-choice tests designed to help teachers determine achievement levels of students in areas such as Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Punctuation & Grammar. The test results help teachers decide what kinds of teaching materials are needed and which methods or programmes are most suitable for their students. PATs are also important because they identify the progress a student is making from year to year.

Comparisons can also be done using what are known as **stanines**. Scale scores at each year level nationally are divided into nine levels of achievement, called stanines, with the lowest performance level being stanine one and the highest stanine nine.

Our overall mean stanine remains higher than the national mean in all 3 areas tested with a reading comprehension mean of 5.7, punctuation & grammar of 5.4, and mathematics of 5.5.

The Board looked at year group information, along with any gender and ethnicity differences. We discussed the support provided for those students whose achievement is tracking below where we would like it to be.

Kay Tester

Principal

On behalf of the Ss Peter & Paul School Board

## SEASONS FOR GROWTH

### Learning to live with change and loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. Here at school, we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce and related circumstances, children and young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively.

We are therefore again offering the very successful education programme **Seasons for Growth** which will commence later this term. This programme is facilitated in small groups over 8 sessions and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The programme focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

### Who is it for?

Anyone who has experienced change and loss in their lives. Many factors can cause change such as:

- Friends can come and go
- Loss of someone or something you love
- Parents and families separate
- Moving to a new place
- Impact of illness
- Family work-life changes

Please note the programme is for children who have experienced an identifiable change or loss, rather than preparing children for potential future change or loss. If you think your child would benefit from Seasons for Growth we encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the programme.

We are pleased to be able to offer this important programme and are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information or would like your child to take part, please email me [principal@sspeterpaulschool.nz](mailto:principal@sspeterpaulschool.nz). Our programme coordinator, Anna Gerritsen, is happy to discuss any questions you may have or provide you with further information.



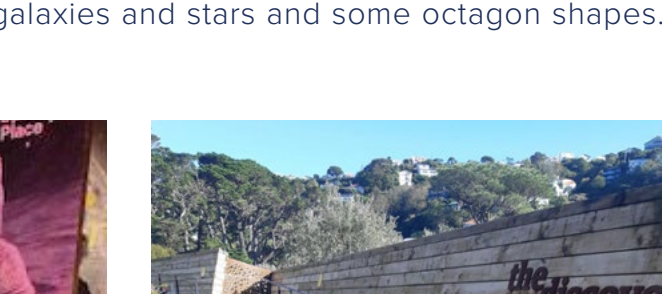
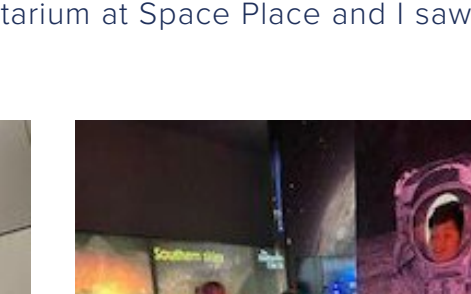
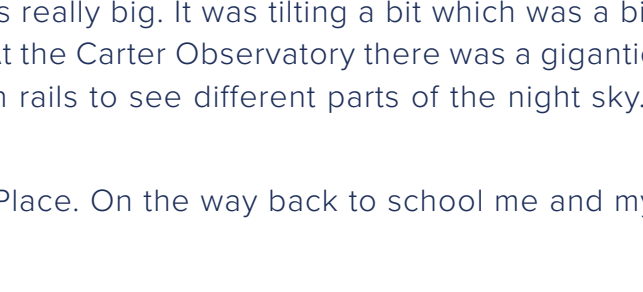
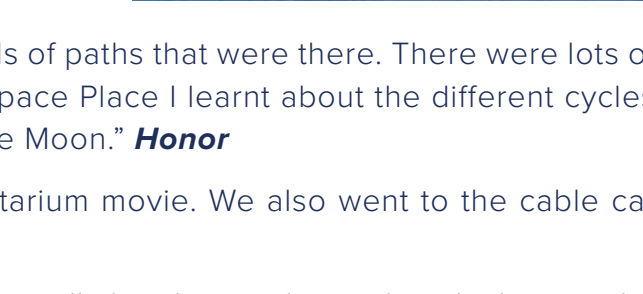
### Kōwhai in Term 2!

Kōwhai has had a great time getting back into our learning in Term 2!

In this new term, we have been working hard in Reading, Writing and Maths. Be sure to ask your child about their learning and take part in conversations about their day and friendships.

We will continue to build on our learning through Discovery time which will build and consolidate our learning from the classroom, as well as give us a chance to work all together throughout the 7 classrooms of Kōwhai. This means we will also have more time with the older children!

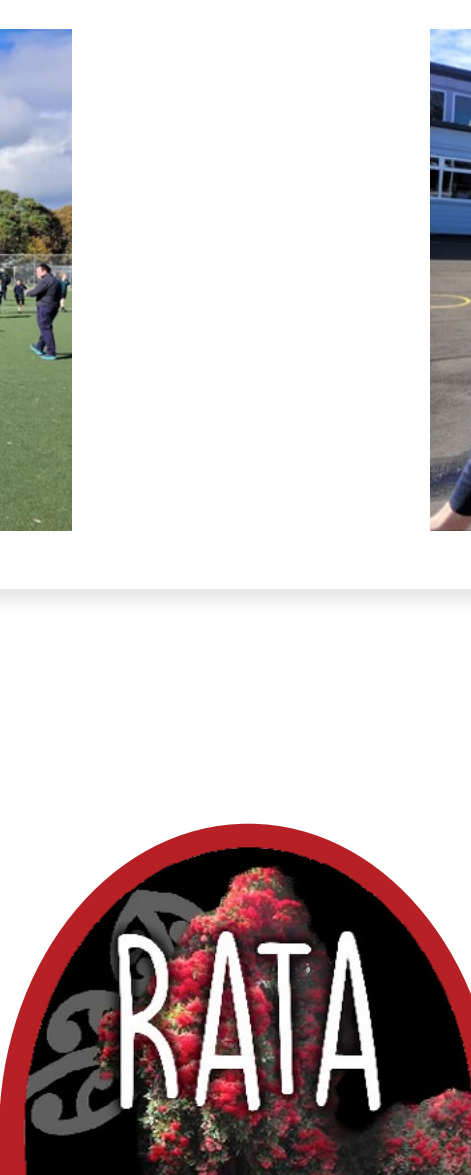
This week, the Rātā girls taught us some soccer skills and then let us have a go at playing some matches.



"I think I can get better at soccer if I play with my friends at lunchtime too!" **Samuel**

"The girls showed us how to keep the ball at our feet with little gentle kicks, then no one will steal it!" **Jewel**

"I am going to play soccer more when I am with my friends! Maybe the Rātā girls will play with us again!" **Jack**



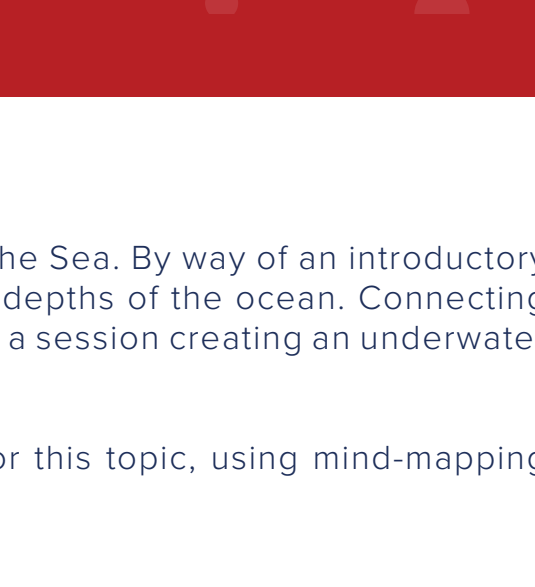
### Space Place and Botanic Gardens

As a spark for our Science learning this term, Nikau students have visited (or will be visiting) Space Place (Carter Observatory) for an education session and a trip to the Botanic Gardens.

Rooms 8 and 11 went on Friday, and it really was a "can't beat Wellington on a good day" kind of experience. Rooms 9 and 10 are scheduled to go tomorrow and are hopeful for great weather too.

There were many highlights on Friday but taking a double decker bus as our transport turned out to be a big one - even if it did break down and make us late back to school!

Thank you to all our wonderful helpers on the day who took it all in their stride and to all our parents for your understanding at having to rearrange pick ups on Friday afternoon.



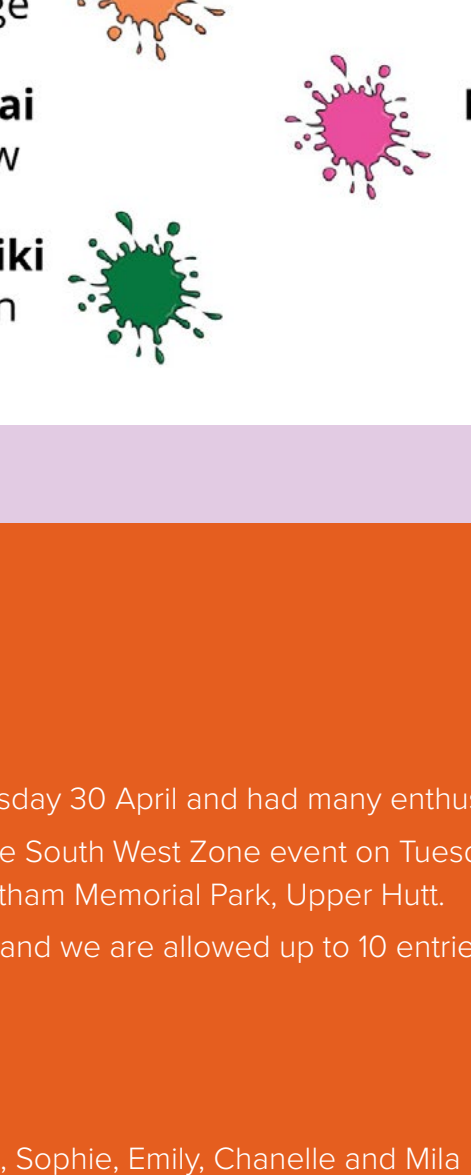
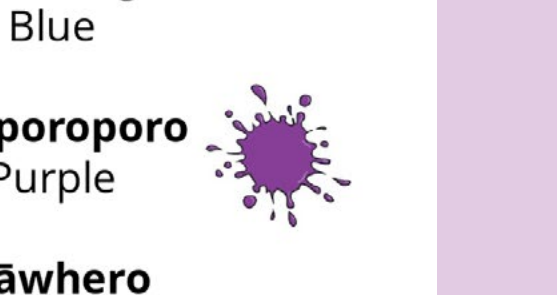
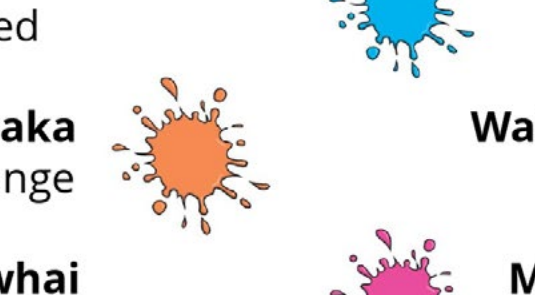
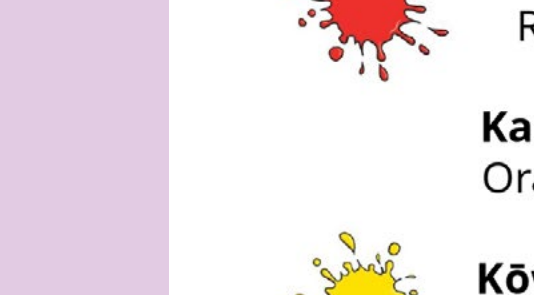
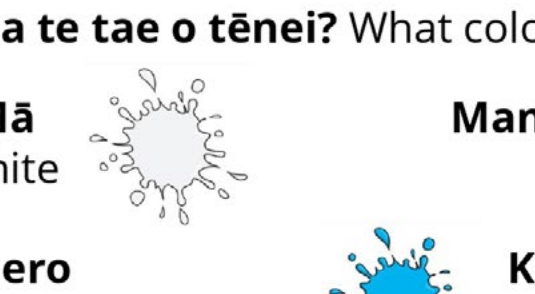
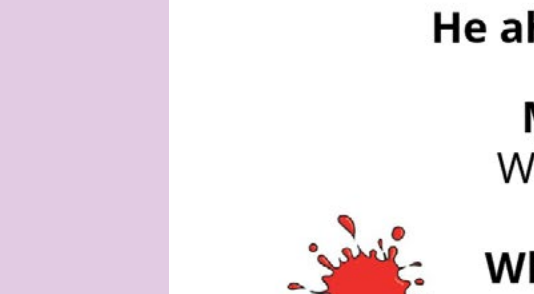
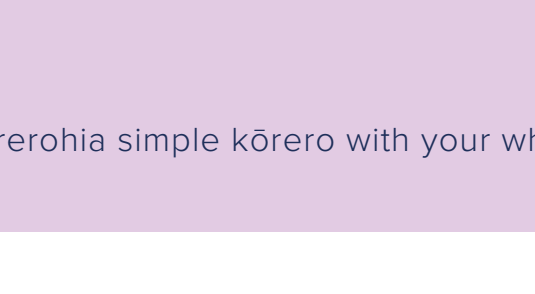
"I liked walking around the Botanic Gardens and seeing the thousands of paths that were there. There were lots of autumn leaves and roots on the paths and it looked really cool. At Space Place I learnt about the different cycles of the Moon and that the Earth sometimes blocks the reflection of the Moon." **Honor**

"At Space Place we saw cool stuff like the telescope and the planetarium movie. We also went to the cable car museum and saw the big mechanical workshop." **Hayden**

"It was fun on the bus because it was a red double decker and it was really big. It was tilting a bit which was a bit scary and some girls were waving at the cars and they waved back! At the Carter Observatory there was a gigantic telescope and we learnt you can open the roof and roll it around on rails to see different parts of the night sky." **Siena**

"I liked having a go at pulling the Maui and the Sun ropes at Space Place. On the way back to school me and my friends were singing a song." **John**

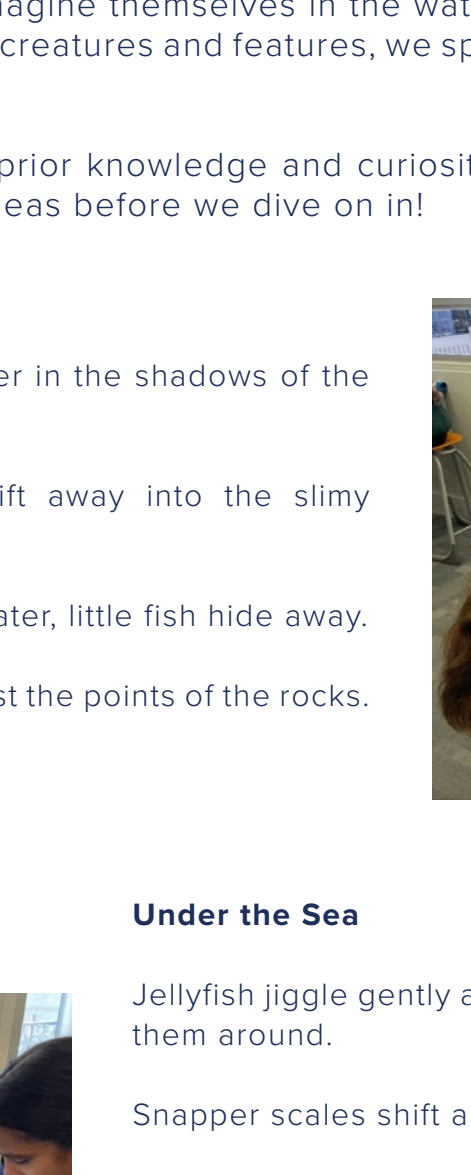
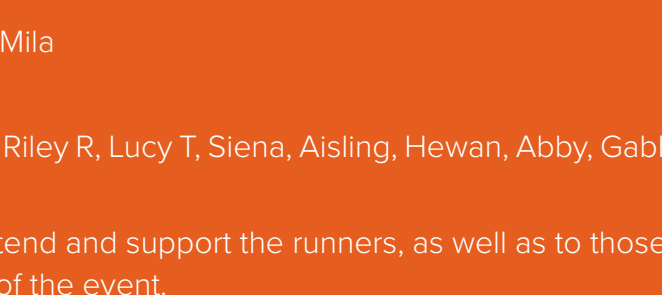
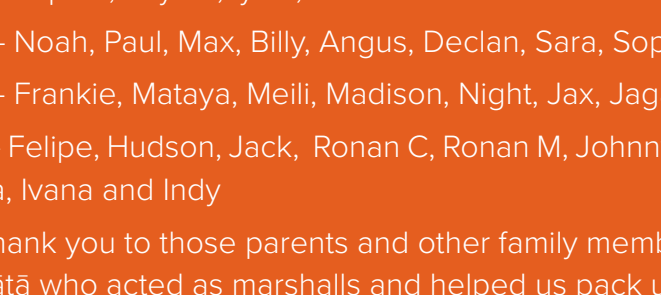
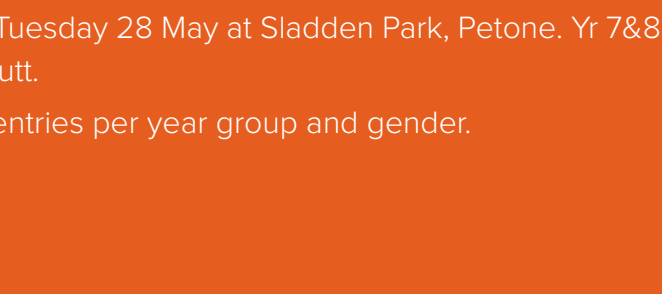
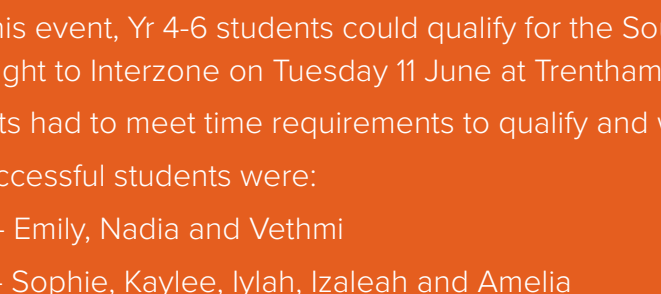
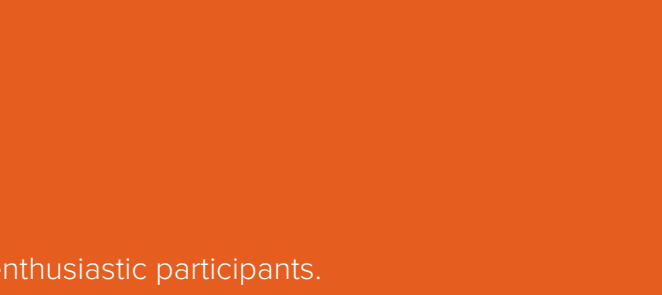
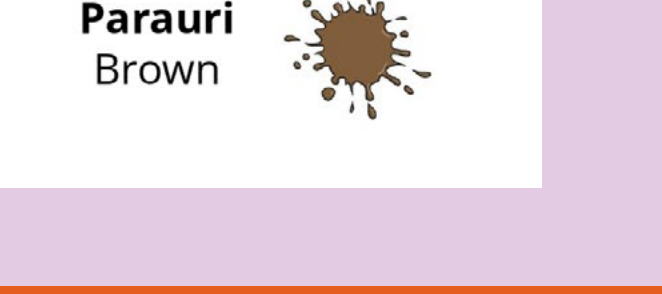
"I liked the 3D movie in the planetarium at Space Place and I saw galaxies and stars and some octagon shapes." **Neha**



### Fitness

The children in the Pohutukawa Area have begun the term by building their fitness and improving their running skills during their physical education sessions. They are using activities that combine alternating short and fast bursts of exercise with slower movement to improve their ability to run over a longer distance.

It has been great to see them accept the challenge and set goals for their physical well-being!



### Under the Sea

This writing was inspired by our science topic for Term Two: Under the Sea. By way of an introductory activity, students were invited to imagine themselves in the watery depths of the ocean. Connecting strong verbs with a range of marine creatures and features, we spent a session creating an underwater world of poetry.

Rātā has also been extending our prior knowledge and curiosity for this topic, using mind-mapping skills to organise and activate our ideas before we dive on in!

### Under the Sea

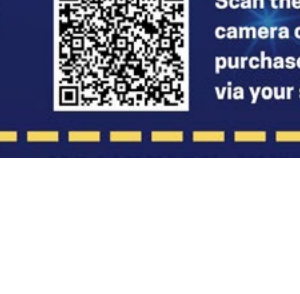
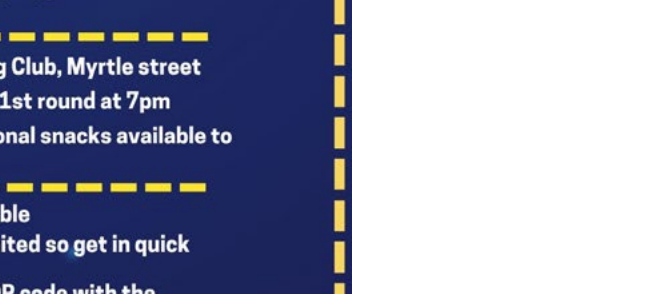
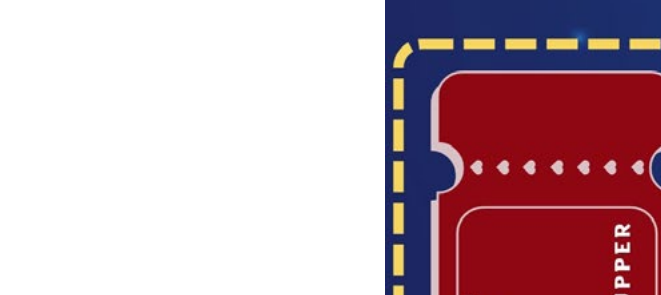
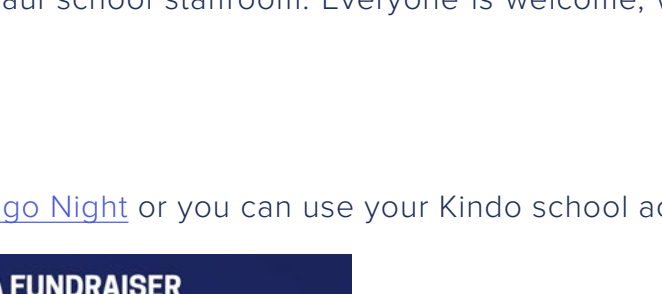
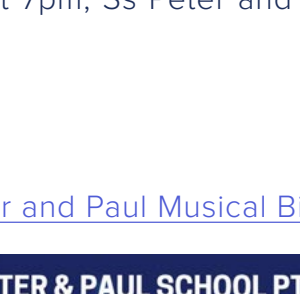
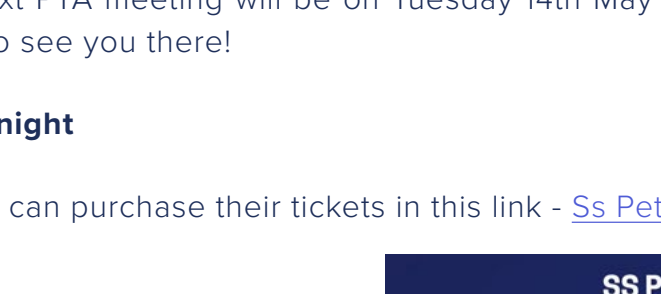
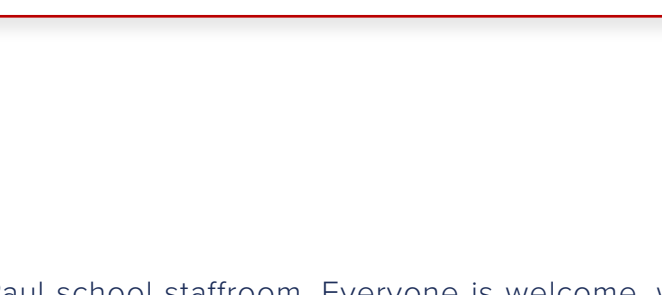
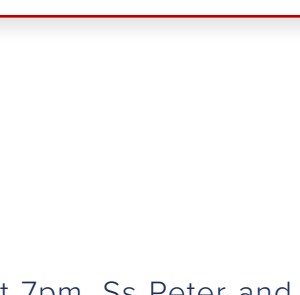
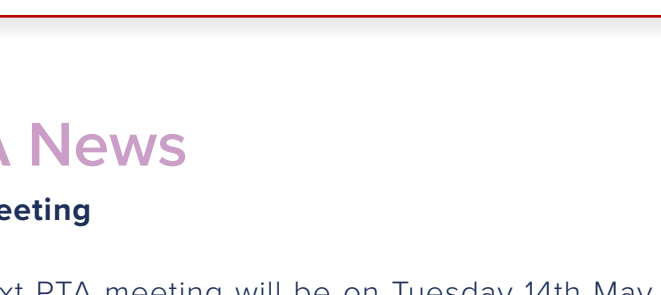
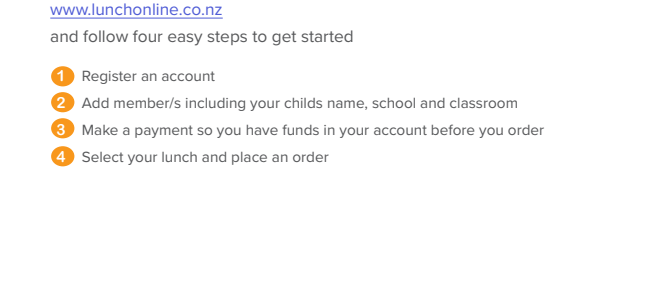
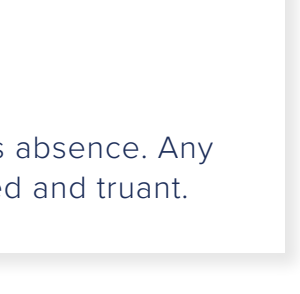
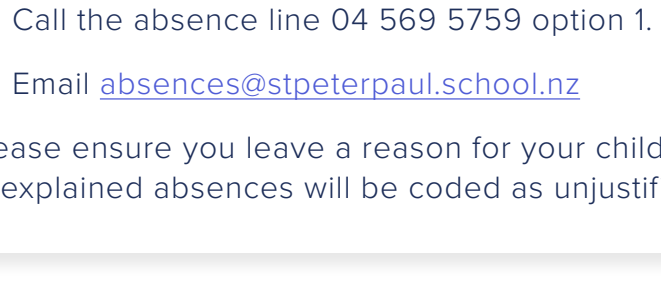
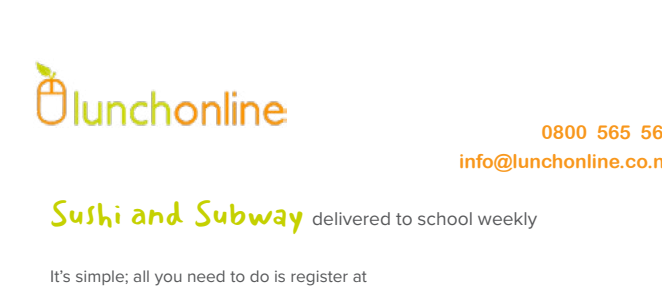
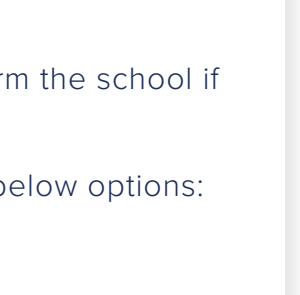
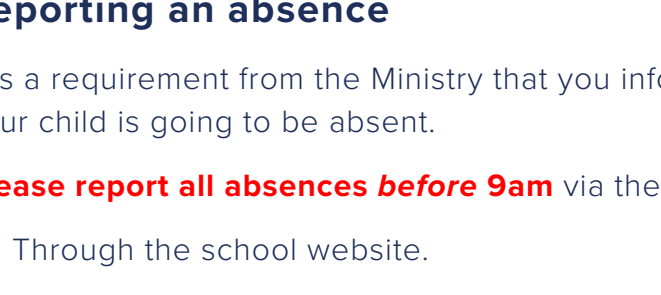
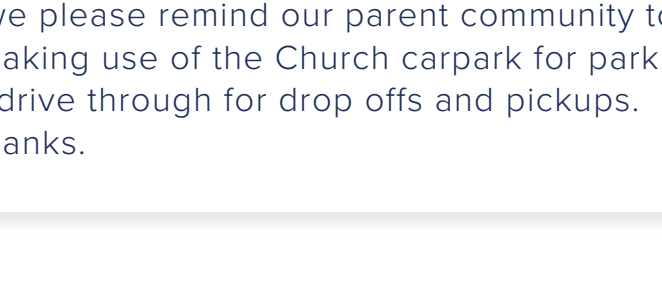
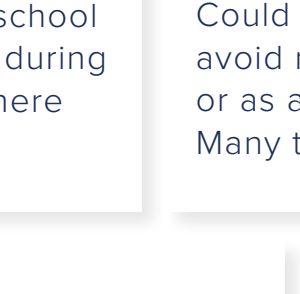
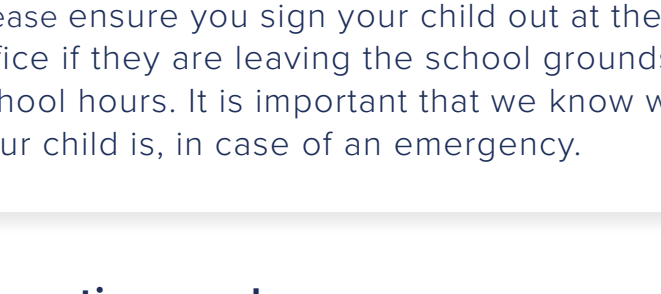
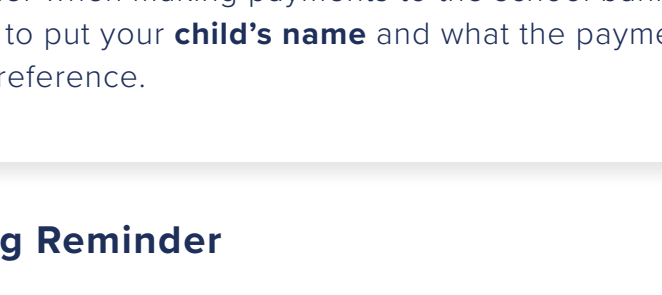
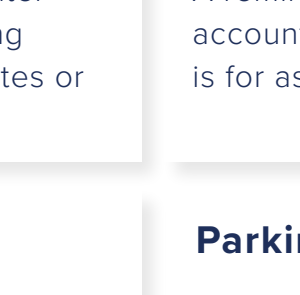
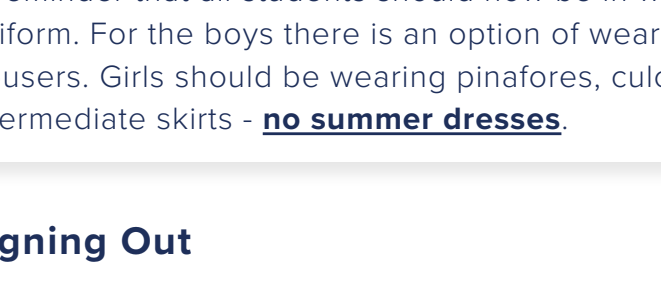
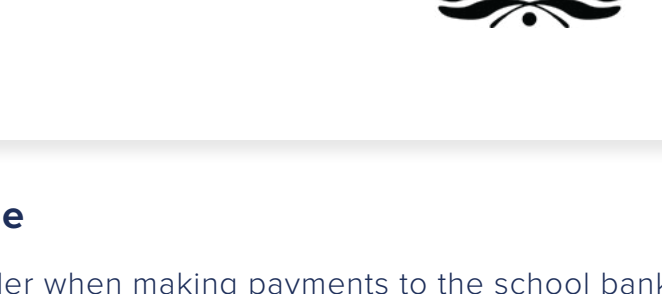
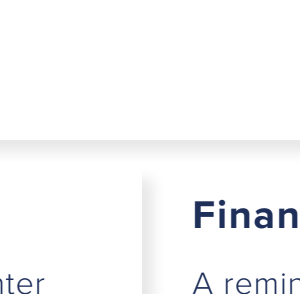
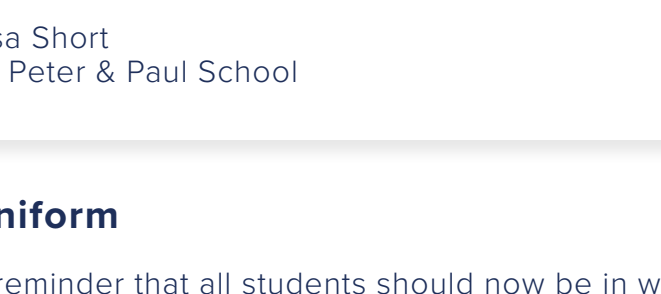
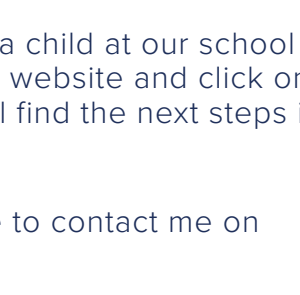
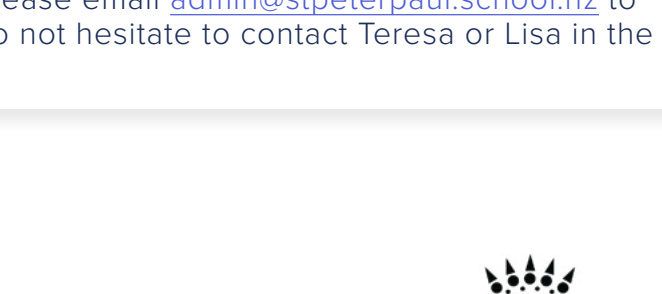
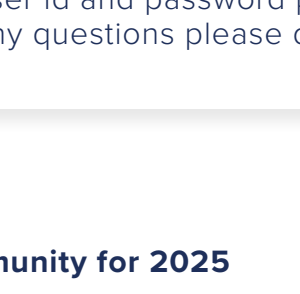
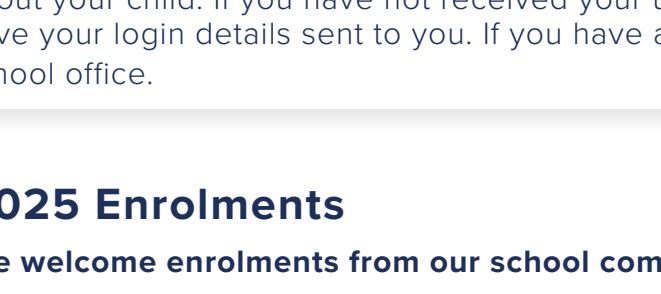
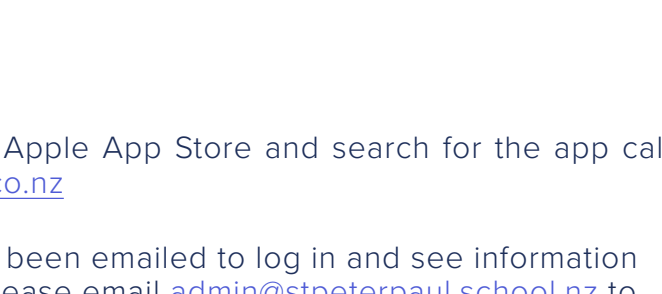
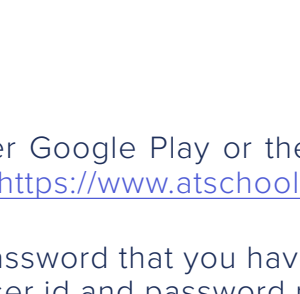
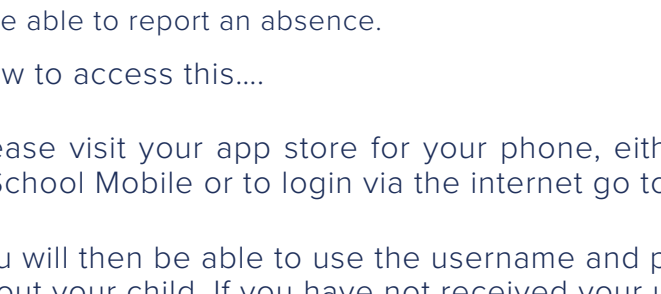
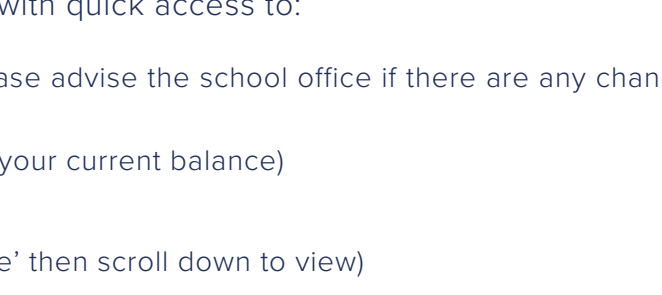
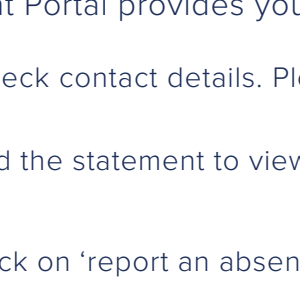
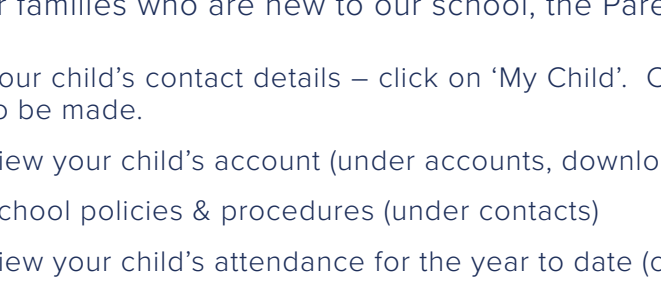
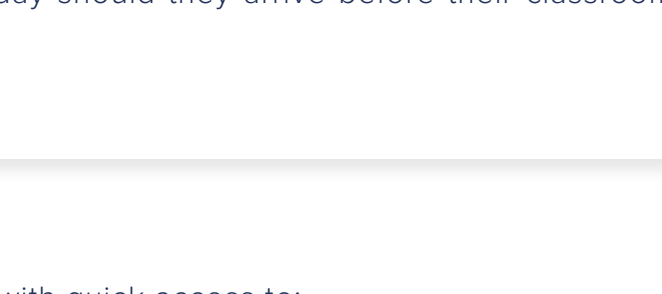
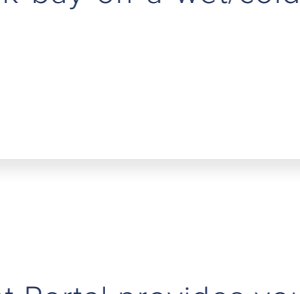
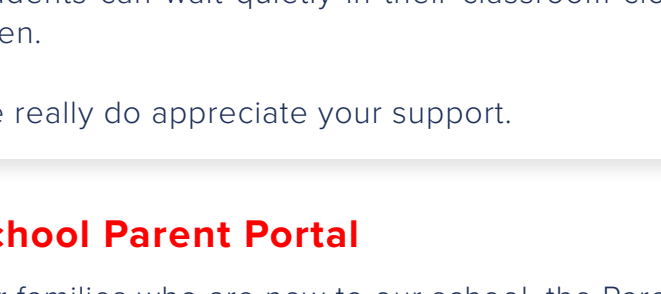
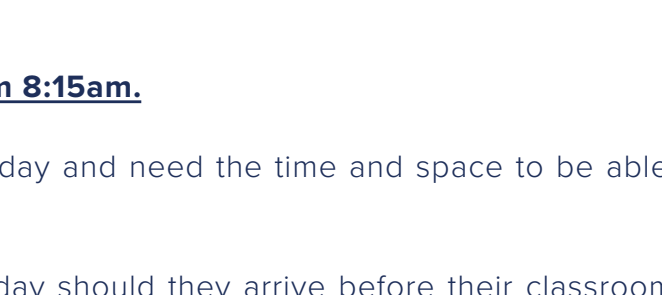
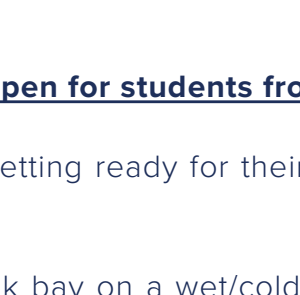
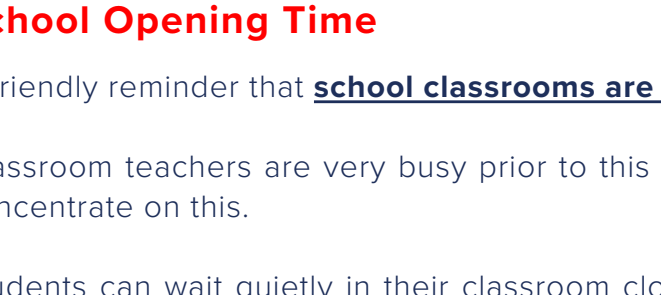
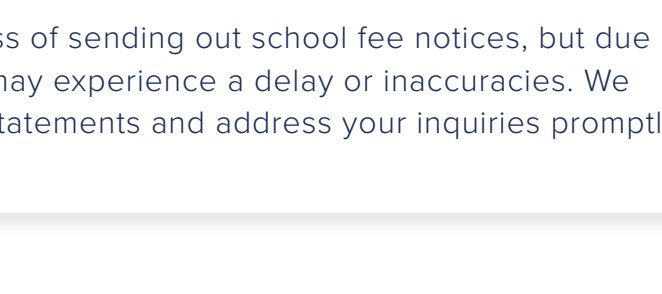
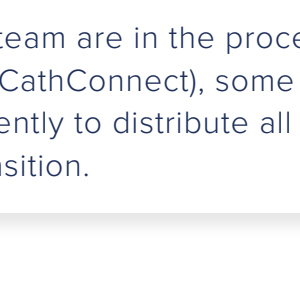
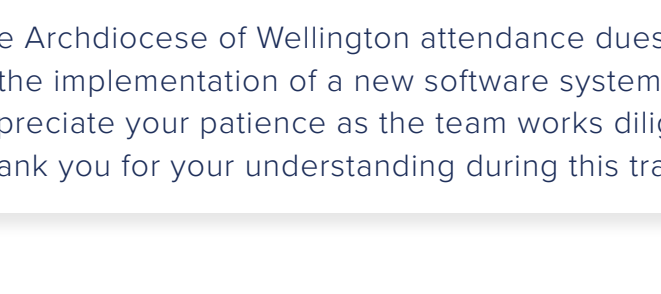
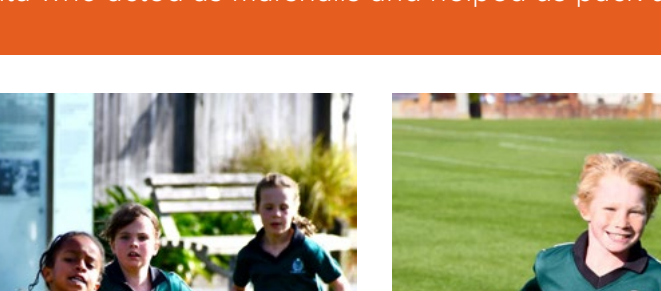
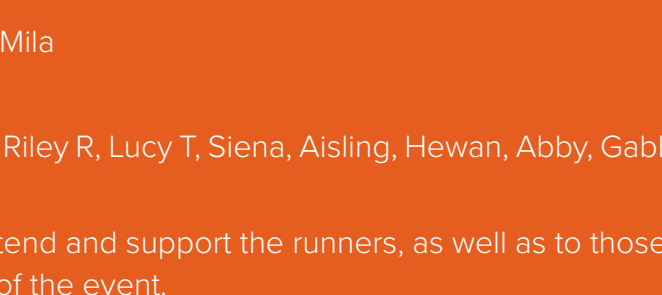
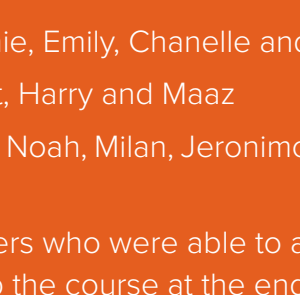
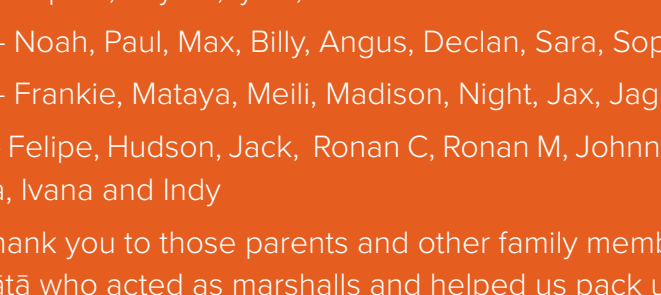
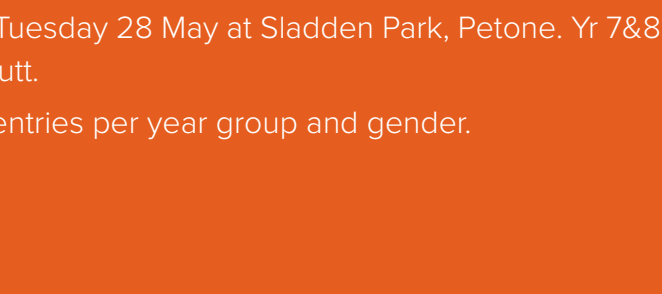
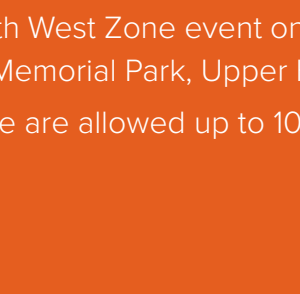
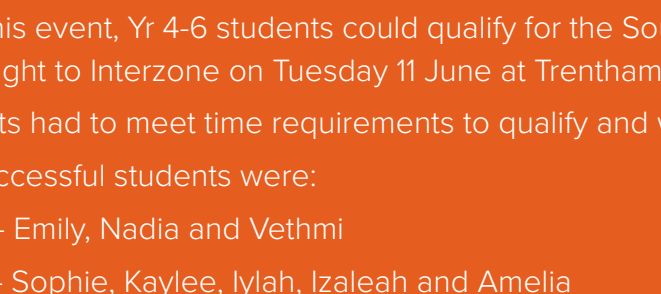
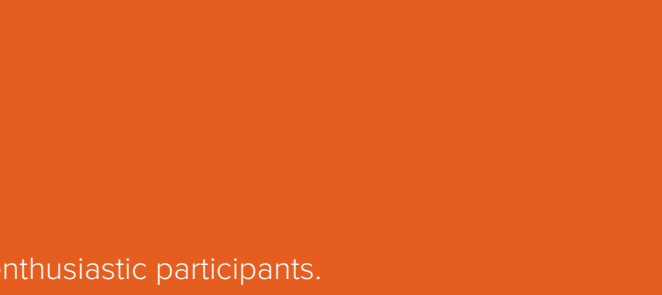
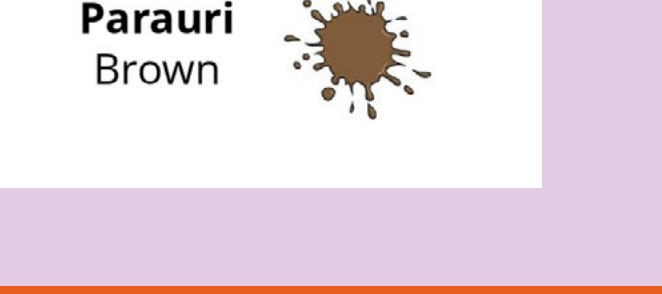
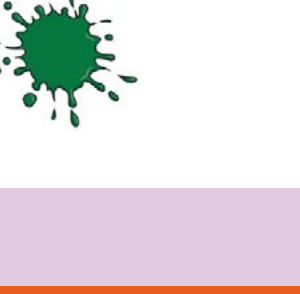
In the depths of the ocean, eels slither in the shadows of the night.

On algae-covered stones, crabs shift away into the slimy seaweed.

As dolphins leap and flip out of the water, little fish hide away.

Fuming waves crash their anger against the points of the rocks.

**Harper**



## KURA AHUREA

Ngā kupu/kianga to practise at home. Kōrerohia simple kōrero with your whānau.

### He aha te tae o tēnei? What colour is this?

**Mā**  
White

**Mangu / Pango**  
Black

**Whero**  
Red

**Kikorangi**  
Blue

**Karaka**  
Orange

**Waiporoporo**  
Purple

**Kōwhai**  
Yellow

**Māwhero**  
Pink

**Kākāriki**  
Green

**Parauri**  
Brown

## SPORTS NEWS

### Cross Country

We had great weather for our school event on Tuesday 30 April and had many enthusiastic participants. From this event, Yr 4-6 students could qualify for the South West Zone event on Tuesday 28 May at Sladden Park, Petone. Yr 7&8 qualifiers go straight to Invercargill on Tuesday 11 June at Trevelyan Memorial Park, Upper Hutt. Students had to meet time requirements to qualify and we are allowed up to 10 entries per year group and gender.

The successful students were:

Year 8 - Emily, Nadia and Vethini

Year 7 - Sophie, Kaylee, Yliah, Izabela and Amelia

Year 6 - Noah, Paul, Max, Billy, Angus, Declan, Sara, Sophie, Emily, Chanelle and Mia

Year 5 - Frankie, Matiya, Mell, Madison, Night, Jan, Jagat, Harry and Maaz

Year 4 - Felipe, Hudson, Jack, Ronan C, Ronan M, Johnny, Noah, Milan, Jeronimo, Riley R, Lucy T, Siena, Aisling, Heaven, Abby, Gabby, Quinn, Isabella, Kiana and Indy

A big thank you to those parents and other family members who were able to attend and support the runners, as well as to those students from Rātā who acted as marshals and helped us pack up the course at the end of the event.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

### A message from the Attendance Dues Team

The Archdiocese of Wellington attendance dues team are in the process of sending out school fee notices, but due to the implementation of a new software system (CathConnect), some may experience a delay or inaccuracies. We appreciate your patience as the team works diligently to distribute all statements and address your inquiries promptly. Thank you for your understanding during this transition.

### School Opening Time

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)
- school policies & 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>