



St. Joseph's School Takapuna

Welcome to the Kiwi Team!

General Information 2025



Welcome back to our 2024 Kiwi team students and a very warm welcome to all our new Kiwi team students and their families!

We look forward to meeting you and working with your child throughout the rest of 2025.

Our school wide theme for the year is *Tipuna / Ancestors - Where we come from*. Term 1 has a focus on Patuone and Bishop Pompallier. Kiwi team will investigate this through the theme of *Snapshots - He whakaahua e te wā*, focussing on identity, where we have come from and portraits. Our learnings related to this theme will cover the curriculum areas of **Social Sciences, NZ History and The Arts**. In **Religious Education** our learning will be around prayer, 'Ā Tātou Whakapapa - Our Story', The traditions of Holy Week and the Caritas Aotearoa Lenten programme - Restoring Hope: Your Compassion in Action. In **Physical Education** children will be learning aspects of 'Run, Jump and Throw', ready for our demonstration in week five. In **Mathematics** we will be working on number including number ID, reading and writing numbers, place value and ordering and comparing numbers. We will also be working on the Measurement strand of this curriculum. Later in the term Kiwi team will begin the Moving Smart Perpetual Motor Programme which works to develop children's physical motor skills that provide the foundation for success in their early school years.

Important Dates for Term One:

Wk 1 6/2 Waitangi Day (School Closed) ; 7/2 MOE Teacher Curriculum Day - **school closed**

Wk 2 14/2 School Mass 9.15am

Wk 3 21/2 Back to School Picnic 5.30pm

Wk 5 5/3 Ash Wednesday Liturgy 1.30pm, 7/3 Run, Jump, Throw Demonstration TBC

Wk 6 10/3 New Children to start

Wk 7 17/3 and 18/3 Art Gallery trips TBC

Wk 8 28/3 Colour Run

Wk 10 8/4, 9/4, 10/4 Sharing the Learning 8.15am; 11/4 Last day Term 1

The Kiwi team is currently made up of 6 Home Groups. The teachers will be planning together and some activities and school trips will be done together. The classes and teachers in the Kiwi team are:

- Home Group 13 - Mrs Pratt debbiep@sj.school.nz and Mrs Saxon rebekahs@sj.school.nz (Year 0/1)
- Home Group 14 - Ms Braithwaite carolb@sj.school.nz (Year 0/1)
- Home Group 15 - Mrs Dunne cated@sj.school.nz (Year 2)
- Home Group 16 - Miss Luxford natashal@sj.school.nz and Mrs Engström mirandae@sj.school.nz (Year 1/2)

- Home Group 17 - Ms Kang riokk@sj.school.nz (Year 0/1)
- Home Group 18 - Ms Woodhead annettew@sj.school.nz and Ms Douthwaite (Year 2) shonad@sj.school.nz
- Mrs Bridgman - Literacy Support Teacher victoriabr@sj.school.nz

Please remember to **identify yourself** and your child when you **email us** as some addresses can be difficult to link to a family.

Morning and Afternoon Routines

The children do need to be at school before the bell goes at 8:50 am. If you aim to arrive, where possible, at around 8:40 (children are not permitted onto school grounds until 8:15am) you will give your child time to unpack and greet their friends before the bell rings. The children may play outside, after they have unpacked or, if staying in the class, read/draw or finish work. Lateness can be unsettling for your child, the other children and the teachers. Staff prayers are held on Thursday mornings. Teachers will not be in the classroom until approximately 8:30 am. on these days. The children are expected to put their bags in the bag area and bring their bookbags inside the classroom. Please encourage your child to be **independent** and let them **carry their own school bag** and do these tasks on their own. Any notices being returned to school, should be in a named envelope or snaplock bag and placed in the designated area in the learning space.

The end of the day can be a little hectic and the children are tired and easily distracted. We would like to ask all parents to wait outside the classroom so that the children can complete their duties and take part in class prayers without being distracted. All children will finish school at 2:50 pm. Please discuss fully with your child where they will be met, and who will be meeting them at the end of the day. Please let us know if someone different is picking them up.

Timetable

This is how our day is divided up.

8.50 - 10.20 Learning Block 1

10.20 - 10.30 Read and Feed

10.30 - 10.55 *Morning Play Break*

10.55 - 12.25 Learning Block 2

12.25 - 12.35 Lunch Read and Feed

12.35 - 1.15 *Lunch Play*

1.15 -2.50 Learning Block 3

Parent Help

Parent help is always appreciated. This might be help in the classroom during the school day eg. sharpening pencils, helping with the writing programme or PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme) or help out of the class, for example putting away reading books. If you are able to help in any way let your child's teacher know.

Drink bottles

Your child is welcome to keep a drink bottle inside the classroom. It is important however that the bottles are named and contain only water. It is preferred that these bottles are not iced or wrapped in towels.

Home Learning

Children will bring home a home learning sheet in the Home Learning books on a Friday. Please take time to read this and complete any activities/reading during the week. Home Learning Books and book bags should be brought to school every day. Once a week your child will bring home a **library book** (we will let you know when the library is open and which day your child's home group will have their session). All library books must be returned to school by library day so a new book can be issued.

Parents often ask what they can do at home with their children to make the transition to school easier for the child. Here are a few ideas:

- Basic manners ~ please/thank you etc.
- Can hold and use a pencil
- Provide supervised opportunities to practise using scissors to cut around pictures and shapes.
- Can put on his/her own jersey/jacket.
- Have some alphabet knowledge and familiarity with books.
- Can follow instructions
- Can handle morning tea and lunch items independently.
- Can pack and unpack his/her bag.
- Can express him/herself clearly.
- Can listen carefully
- Show developing responsibility for his/her own personal items.
- Can initiate some conversation e.g. 'Good morning.'

You are always in the classroom before or after school to look at your child's books or work on the wall. There will also be school wide Sharing the Learning mornings during week 10 of the term. Whānau are also welcome to join class prayers each morning or school prayers on alternate Fridays,

Uniforms

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform. Black shoes only.

Girls/Boys hair needs to be tied up if it is past their shoulders with either a **plain blue, red or black simple hair tie only**. Only plain stud earrings can be worn and **no nail polish**.

Please ensure that shoes, sun hats, school jumpers, lunch boxes and drink bottles are all clearly named. Lost property increases daily and if items are not named they cannot be returned to the rightful owners. The lost property box is in front of the Kakapo learning space.

Birthdays

We value the children's birthdays but ask that you **do not send in** cakes or other goody bags as we have children in our team who have severe allergies to particular food items. We also ask that children hand out birthday invitations either before or after school (or give them to their teacher) as children feel left out when they are not invited.

Behaviour

At St Joseph's we expect children to behave in a way that demonstrates the Mercy values of **Tika** - Justice, **Pono** - Truth, **Aroha** - Compassion, **Manaakitanga** - Hospitality and **Tapu** - Respect for our Environment. We encourage the children to take responsibility for their actions.

Miscellaneous

It would be appreciated if each child could bring a box of tissues to school for use in the classroom during the year.

Missions

During the year children are encouraged to bring mission money to school (any coin amount). There is always a mission box on the prayer table and the school has a different mission focus each term to which the school makes a substantial contribution. Alternatively your child can bring a packet or can of non-perishable food for the food bank, or laundry and bathroom items are also always needed. It is a good idea for the child to do something like help in a small way at home or do something to make others happy, to earn the mission money or item.

Stationery

This can be purchased online through Office Max or by looking on the School Website under Enrolments for the list of items required (contact the school office for any queries). Please make sure you are purchasing 'Kiwi Team and the appropriate Year level' stationery. Please do not cover your child's books. All children require a clear Book Bag which most people will have received at their school visit. If your child does not have one they can be purchased from the school office (cash if possible).

Home Groups 13 - 17 also require chair bags. These are an add on to your stationery list. They can be purchased through Office Max or other stationery suppliers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Should you have any concerns please contact us.

Regards,

*Debbie Pratt, Rebekah Saxon, Carol Braithwaite, Cate Dunne, Natasha Luxford, Miranda Engström, Riok Kang, Annette Woodhead
and Shona Douthwaite,*

Below are the prayers we say in Kiwi team each day. We have also copied the words to 'God Defend New Zealand' and the school creed.

Morning Prayer

At the beginning of this day we thank you God for the gift of life. Help us to use our gifts this day to help others and make life enjoyable for all of us. Bless each of us in our classroom and help us to become the best person we can be. Amen

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord, and bless our food. Bless those who have prepared it and give food to the hungry. Amen.

Afternoon Prayer

At the end of this day we come to you God to say thank you. For the good we have done today, thank you. For anything we have done that has hurt others we are sorry Lord. Bless us as we go home and may we bring your love and peace to our family and friends. Amen.

National Anthem of New Zealand

E Ihowā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakarangona;
Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.



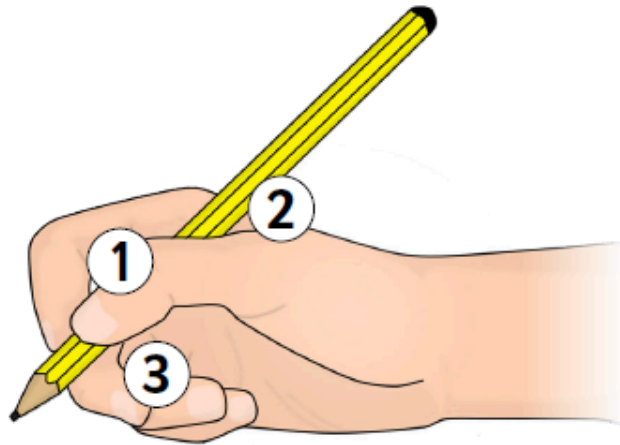
School Creed

This is our School.
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment,
Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of life itself
And love of God.
Let us remember that,
As many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school.

Correct Pencil Grip (Left and Right-Handed)

These images may help you in supporting your child to hold a pencil correctly which is important for letter formation.

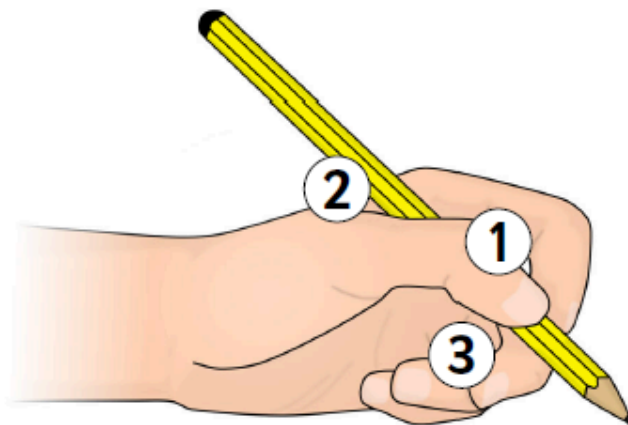
How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

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How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger about 3 cm above the coned end of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

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