



## Welcome to Kakapo 2025

Kia Ora Kākāpō Parents/Caregivers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Kākāpō Team 2025, a special welcome to Andrea, Adriana, Toni, Grace, Sofia, Kyle and their families who are new to St Joseph's School this year. We will spend the first few weeks of the term learning and discussing routines and expectations as well as getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new ones.

As the teachers of the Kākāpō Team, we strive to provide the very best learning environment and opportunities for the children. To achieve this we aim to create a safe, happy, caring, warm, and supportive team atmosphere. Your child is in the Kākāpō Team. The Kākāpō Team is made up of 6 home groups. The teachers will be collaborating together to create a cohesive learning programme. The teachers in the Kakapo Year 3 and 4 Team are:

### Rōpū Tahi (Pod 1):

- **Home Group 7:** Miss Inge Pienaar ([ingep@sj.school.nz](mailto:ingep@sj.school.nz))
- **Home Group 8:** Miss Michelle McEwan ([michellem@sj.school.nz](mailto:michellem@sj.school.nz))
- **Home Group 9:** Mrs Martinique Anthony ([martiniquea@sj.school.nz](mailto:martiniquea@sj.school.nz))

### Rōpū Rua (Pod 2)

- **Home Group 10:** Miss Sophie Fleming - [sophiefl@sj.school.nz](mailto:sophiefl@sj.school.nz)
- **Home Group 11:** Mrs Rachel Dela Cruz - [racheld@sj.school.nz](mailto:racheld@sj.school.nz)
- **Home Group 12:** Mrs Meidy Lambert - [meidyl@sj.school.nz](mailto:meidyl@sj.school.nz)

### Some important information:

- Devices

Children in year 3/4 are **not** required to bring in their own devices

- Uniform

All children are required to wear the correct school uniform. Black shoes or sandals only (sandals must have a back strap). Children's hair needs to be tied up if it is past their shoulders with either a plain blue, red or black **simple** hair tie only. Lost property increases daily and if the items are not named they cannot be returned to the rightful owners. The lost property box is located outside HG 11 and 12. Please name all items of uniform clearly - sandals, shoes, sun hats, school vests, lunch boxes and drink bottles. During Terms 1 and 4 we require all students to wear a **school sunhat** (No hat, No play).

- Sun safety

We strongly recommend all students to apply sunblock prior to the school day and to also have sunblock in their bags. During Terms 1 and 4 we require all students to be wearing a **school sunhat** (No hat, No play).

- Book Bag & Chair bag

Children do not need a book bag and chair bag

- Birthdays

We value your child's birthday but ask that birthdays are not celebrated at school. Please do not send in cakes or other goody bags as we have children in our team who have severe allergies to particular



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food items. We also ask that children hand out party invitations either before or after school as children feel left out when they are not invited.

- Morning routines

The children are expected to hang up their bags and bring their book bags into the home group. Please encourage your child to be independent and let them do these tasks on their own. Any notices being returned to school should be given to home group teachers.

- Drink bottles

Your child needs to keep a drink bottle inside the learning space. It is important that the bottles are named and contain only water.

- Parent Help

Once we have settled into our learning routines, we will be asking for parent/grandparent help, e.g. sharpening pencils, returning school reading books. We will let you know when we will need this help, and we will communicate more information via email.

- Home Learning

Our home learning programme will begin from week 5 onwards. Home learning will initially consist of daily reading and maths practice through either an online programme called *Mathletics* or suggested 'offline' games/activities that we will provide. Your child will be given their own login and password for *Mathletics*. At times, there will also be a Religious Education component with work that needs to be done with family support. A spelling component to home learning will also be added later on in the term. Parents will be required to sign their child's weekly home learning sheet to show that they are happy with the effort that has been put in.

- Lunchboxes

We encourage students to come to school with healthy options for their morning tea and lunch. Please consider using reusable containers as this promotes our focus and Mercy Value of caring for our environment

- Communication

Important dates and events are on the **school calendar** on the school website, [www.sj.school.nz](http://www.sj.school.nz). All newsletter alerts, notices, teacher and team emails are sent to the parent email address on the school records. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year please communicate them with the home group teacher as we will be able to help answer your questions and clarify any confusions immediately. The best way to address any concerns is to arrange an appointment with the **teacher** via email as above

- Stationery & Resources

Children do not need to bring in their own pencil case or other stationery from home - we have a class set of stationery that we will use throughout the year.



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### Here is some of the learning planned for Term 1:

**Religious Education** - This term we will focus on:  
God - Te Atua

Year 3	Year 4
Patuone & Pompallier Te Tokotoru Tapu (The Holy Spirit) Lent Fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit Hikoi Wairua and Relationships Our gifts and talents	Patuone & Pompallier Te Tokotoru Tapu (The Holy Spirit) Lent Gifts of the Spirit Jesus is a Gift from God Power of the Holy Spirit

**Maths:**

This term we will focus on the following topics:

- Statistics & Probability - investigations & developing statistical literacy
- Basic Facts
- Number structure - place value
- Number operations - addition & subtraction

Please help your child to complete the Mathematics activities related to these topics as part of their home learning as this will support their school learning (this will start in week 5)

**Reading Focus:**

This term we will be focusing on:

- Reading Fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Developing our reading stamina
- Procedural texts
- Classic stories and books from Aotearoa NZ

We encourage all students to read at home. Please support your child's reading by asking them comprehension questions. There are examples in their Home Learning book. If you are unable to locate these questions please contact your child's home group teacher.

**Writing Focus:**

This term we will be focusing on:

- Recount Writing
- Poetic Writing
- Procedural Writing
- Spelling (focusing on spelling patterns)
- Handwriting

**Spelling:** Our spelling programme ("The Code") focuses on learning the various spelling patterns that make up the many words in English. This will involve children learning a spelling pattern over the course of a week (or at times longer) through a range of learning activities. The focus is on the children being able to read and spell words correctly in their day to day writing. Your child will not have weekly spelling tests but instead they will be given activities to complete at home related to the spelling pattern of the week.

**Inquiry (Science & Social Science):**

This term we will be focusing on:

- The Treaty of Waitangi
- Pompallier and Patuone
- Zones of Regulation/Growth Mindset
- Beach Safety
- Kiwi summer traditions and games
- Food technology (kitchen safety, baking, recipe design)

**The Arts:**

Visual Art:

- Throughout the term we will be creating a range of artwork using a range of media and techniques related to our theme of learning

**Health & Physical Education:**

- Collaborative & team games
- Building positive relationships with our peers - how to be a good friend and how to solve problems
- Classic Summer games
- Jump Jam Fun!

**Our School's Values & School Motto**

During prayer and our programmes we have an emphasis on developing:

- Our School Motto: Courtesy, Care, Cooperation and Courage
- Our School's Mercy Values: Pono/Truth, Tapu/Respect, Aroha/Compassion, Tika/Justice, Manaakitanga/Hospitality
- 'Muck up, Own up, Fix up, Move on'



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### Term 1 Important Dates

(Further event updates will be communicated on the school calendar, weekly Home Learning sheet and email):

<b><u>Week 1:</u></b> 6/2: Waitangi Day 7/2: Teacher Only Day	<b><u>Week 2:</u></b> 14/2: School Mass @ 9.15am Patuone and Pompallier Day	<b><u>Week 3:</u></b> 21/2: School Picnic	<b><u>Week 4:</u></b>	<b><u>Week 5:</u></b> 5/3: Ash Wednesday
<b><u>Week 6:</u></b>	<b><u>Week 7:</u></b> 19/3: St Joseph's Day	<b><u>Week 8:</u></b> 26/3: Pod 1 School Trip 27/3: Pod 2 School Trip 28/3: Colour Run	<b><u>Week 9:</u></b>	<b><u>Week 10:</u></b> 7/4: Holy week begins 8/4 - 9/4: Sharing of the Learning 11/4: Last day of Term 1

We look forward to an exciting term filled with learning!

Team Kākāpō Teachers