ST MARY'S SCHOOL

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Mission Statement
St Mary's School will provide opportunities within a Christian, Catholic environment, where children receive an

Friday 4th February 2022

Dear Parents

Love binds everything together in perfect harmony,

Colossians 3:14

A very warm welcome back to Term 1 2022 at St Mary's. We are so pleased to be back at school after a long and relaxing break! We hope that you have had a very happy summer holiday! We have an exciting term planned - we hope that you will be able to work alongside us with some of the opportunities we have designed. The children seem to be happy to be back and ready to learn!
Look at these wee sweeties – happy to be back together again!

We do not know what this year will bring but we do know that, as a committed and caring school family – we will face the challenge of teaching and learning in whatever situation we are faced with – together!

Welcome to the following children

We would like to welcome the following children and their families into our school family - Maddison McDonald– from Mornington School has joined Room 1, Grayson Young, is a New Entrant and is also in Room 1, Thomas Clark, is in Room 4 and is our fantastic Mrs Clark's son.

We are delighted to welcome these wonderful little additions into our school family.
We look forward to getting to know them and their families and being a part of their daily lives.

Strategic Plan – 2022 – 2026

A reminder, that the Draft Strategic Plan for 2022 – 2026 is available for your perusal and comment and can be obtained from the Office.

Update of Contact Details

We sent out a notice and a text yesterday – thank you to those who have sent them back. A reminder that the notice needs to be filled in and sent back to school on Tuesday as we need to know your contact details so please – even if your details have not changed – it would be helpful for us to be able to verify that we do, in fact, have correct details.

Beginning of Term Liturgy

We held our Beginning of Term Liturgy outside this morning – as per Covid requirements! Thank you Mrs Reardon – (our new Director of Religious Studies – DRS) and Room 4 for leading us. We also welcomed our new children at this special time.

All about Covid-19

A reminder, to PLEASE keep your child at home if sick and get him/her tested – children are to remain at home until a negative result is received and he/she is/are symptom free for 24 hours.

Children in Year 4 – 6 are to wear masks whilst inside. To be supplied from home if possible.

Parents are to do drop offs and pick-ups outside the school grounds. Parents of New Entrants may need to come inside to settle their children but MUST sign in and wear facemasks and physical distance.

A reminder - If you come on to school property – you must not by-pass the school office – Contract Tracing systems are in place and need to be used to gain access – this includes our visitor register and the contract tracing app on the main door – you must sign the visitors book AND check in on the COVID Tracer app if you have to come on to school property.

If it is necessary to meet onsite, staff will be wearing a face covering when meeting with visitors, parents and caregivers. Meeting outside or having Zoom meetings or telephone calls are recommended if possible.

There are to be no non-essential visitors in our school at Red.

Some more information that has been provided today –

- ✓ Vaccination can provide strong protection for children with athsma to prevent from hospitalisation.
- ✓ Advice shows that Covid does not affect children and teens in the same way as it does adults.
- ✓ Transmission is also more likely to occur between adults and from adults to children; the risk of child to child or child to adult transmission is considerably less.
- ✓ Commonly children have mild or no symptoms with a short duration of illness – includes headache, fever, cough, nasal congestion and fatigue.

Home and School Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Home and School on Monday 21st February at 6.30 pm. PLEASE come along to our meetings – we would be so grateful of your support!

Expectations

We have certain learning and behavioural expectations of the children and it is most important that parents work together with the school in supporting the children in the best possible way. If you have concerns or queries that you wish to discuss, do please make an appointment with your child's teacher or with me. We are always happy to talk with you about your child/ren – even if it is outside or on zoom or telephone!

In the meantime – staff have been very busy, preparing their classrooms and we are ready to embrace some new learning in our school.

Lexia

We are introducing a new programme called Lexia. It is a programme that will sit alongside our Learning Matters – spelling programme (that we introduced and was so successful in the children's learning, last year).

Lexia is a structured reading/language programme – delivered on-line that will make a difference to your child's learning – **it is research based and research proven.**

Rather than levels – children will be "going through places" (around the world) and reading instruction is scaffolded. It includes phonological awareness, phonics, structured analysis, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The programme uses auto placement – for example – if your child is high in fluency but low in comprehension, it will lock the activity and redirect the child.

This programme will replace what we had been doing with Reading Eggs and prepares children of all abilities for the future! We are very excited about integrating this into our classroom reading programmes.

There is a cost per child which the Home and School have generously agreed to fund, after the first term, which is free.

Trespassers and Damage to our School

As you will know – our BOT has always been very supportive of the young people in our town and have allowed children and young people from the wider community to play in our wonderful playground. **Unfortunately some of these children and teenagers are damaging our property, abusing our neighbours and our staff and littering our school so** St Mary's School and playground is now closed to the wider community until further notice.

Just so you know – unlike state schools which are public property, Catholic Schools are owned by the Proprietor – in our case the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Dooley of **the Diocese of Dunedin** and are **on private property**. Children/young people do **not** have the right to access our school unless they are part of our school family. CCTV is monitoring our school and we have informed the Police.

Please help us to enforce this – if you see children/teenagers from other schools – ask them to leave or contact a member of the BOT. Thank you.

St Mary's Board of Trustees

St Kilda – Beach Education Trip – Y3 – 6

We will be taking the children on our bi-annual Beach Education Trip on **Tuesday 15th February.** We will be transporting the children in cars and will need your support with this for both supervision and transport. If you are able to assist – please let your child's teacher know or respond to the Facebook Blog.

The children will need togs or wetsuits, a towel, and a packed lunch (unless they have the school lunches). They will also need sunhats and sunscreen.

Parents who assist must provide a vaccine passport. – Thank you so much – Shayla Rowley

Professional Development

Staff have already had 2 Teacher Only Days! So we have planned and prepared an outline of our year and have some really exciting topics integrated into programmes. We have had PD in Lexia

and we have learned about the complexities involved in learners who have ADHD and the challenges they face.

Sunhats
Please ensure that your children have sunhats. These are part of our uniform and may be purchased from the school for $15.

BOT Meeting
There will be a General Meeting of the BOT on **Monday 14th February at 6pm.** You are welcome to attend.

Stationery
Please make sure that you have purchased stationery for your child/ren. Please make sure that it is the correct stationery. If you have difficulty with managing the cost of this – please phone me! We are always happy to help!

Dates for 2022
Term 1 – Thursday 3rd February to Thursday 14 April
Term 2 - Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July
Term 3 - Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September
Term 4 - Monday 17 October to Monday 12th December.

Structure of Our School
Room 1 – Ms Katie Shaw – NE/Yr 1
Room 2 – Mrs Diane Hayes – Mon – Thursday mornings – Year 1 children go to Room 1 in the afternoons, Year 2 children go to Room 3 in the afternoons
Room 3 – Mrs Tina Reardon – Yr 3 & 4 - Y2 in the afternoons
Room 4 – Miss Shayla Rowley – Yr 5 & 6
CRT Teacher – Friday Room 3 Teacher – Mrs Lyn Clark
Teacher Aides – Nicola McKenzie & Dianne Tait
Cleaner/Groundsperson – Mrs Debra Howie
School Secretary – Mrs Sandra Shaw

Mrs Reardon has been appointed as Deputy Principal and she is also taking on the responsibility of Director of Religious Studies – thank you Tina!

Ms Katie Shaw will continue to be in charge of Digital Technology – she is doing such a great job of bringing back all she has learned into our school – thank you Katie!

Miss Shayla Rowley continues to be our Sports Teacher and along with myself, will be liaising with personnel form the Healthy Active Learning Initiative that we are part of for the next 3 years – thank you Shayla!

School Lunches
You will be aware, that St Mary's children have their lunch provided by MOE. A reminder that this is not mandatory – you may opt out of this programme if you wish.

Naming your child/rens School Uniform
Children's uniforms need to be named. We have a labeller here in the Office – if you wish to – please use it to label your children's clothing.

School Timetable
We have reverted back to a 12.30 – 1.30 lunch time. A reminder, that school begins at 8.55 am. School will conclude at 3 pm as usual.

Out of School Sporting Opportunities
Miss Rowley advertises the details of out of school sporting opportunities provided in the area – she asks for names, collates them, collates your fees and sends them through. It is the job of parents to offer to referee, organise and coach the teams. In the past we have had a fantastic group of parents who were very pro-active in facilitating sport for our children – perhaps this is

something that you may like to do? Please let Miss Rowley know if you are able to help with teams!

Dance Club
Sophia, Frances, Sarah and Izzy are organising a Dance Club for those children who would like to learn. This will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Hall.

Waitangi Day
Our school will be closed on **Monday 7th February** for Waitangi Day.

Curriculum Topics for Term 1 at St Mary's School

Why do people explore the world?

SCIENCE **Planet Earth and Beyond**	**SOCIAL SCIENCES** **Place & Environment**
How do we overcome barriers to weather?	
Extreme events Wind, Tornadoes, Hurricanes Earthquakes Floods Rain Cycle Frost, Snow, Ice Sunlight Recording Weather Making a weather vane Rainfall & Sunlight Hours Gases	How other people live – clothing depending on where you live in the world? Travel - Moving about safely Voyaging – 1000 years Revisit Maui/Navigating to NZ From Britain to NZ Chinese Voyages Christopher Columbus – America Vikings – Scandinavia to England
Digi Tech	**Trips/Events**
Make windmills & design patterns & shape of blades Make boats	Trip to the Early Settlers Museum Trip to Milton Museum
Health Relationships	**Religious Education** St Mary's Values Prayer Jesus Strand Lent Easter

Thank you
Thank you so much Jo Davies – for clearing the children's gardens, fixing up the long jump pit and the sand pit. Thank you for your hard work, generosity, thoughtfulness and support.

Calendar for Term 1
Below – please find a calendar for Term 1. Please understand that from time to time – we plan other events as the term progresses! This is an approximate idea of what is going on but is not always conclusive. (Athletics has been postponed until Term 4.) We will be taking the children to the Otago Museum and to the Early Settlers Museum in Term 1 but as yet, we do not have a date. We will also be taking the children to our local Museum here in Milton!

From Milton Pool
Just an update on what the Red Alert levels means at the pool for those with school swimming this term.
We are now using My Vaccine Pass which means that we need to see and scan vaccine passes for anyone over 12 and 3months. Including parents and teachers. These may need to be shown each day as pupils/parents/teachers and the lifeguards will potentially be different. **For those that cannot produce a My Vaccine Pass, we unfortunately cannot allow them in the facility.**

Mask wearing in the facilities for all those not swimming is still required. (Pool staff are exempt from this requirement)

E te Atua Manaki mai, E te Atua Awhina mai, E te Atua Aroha mai, Amine

May God guide us, May God support, May God love us, Amen

Kind Regards Diane Hayes
Principal

School CALENDAR OF DATES FOR TERM 1 2022

Week 1	**3/2**	3/2 - School begins today - **- Beginning of Year Liturgy**	**Values Teaching**
Week 2	**7/2**	7/2 - Waitangi Day	**Prayer Module 1 Intro to Prayer**
Week 3	**14/2**	14/2 - St Valentine's Day BOT Meeting - 6 pm 15/12 - St Kilda - Beach Education Trip - Y3 - 6	Shrove Tuesday LENT
Week 4	**21/2**	21/2 - Swimming - 11·50 - 12·50, 12·50 - 1·50 - Just Swim -BLOCK COURSE Home and School Meeting - 6·30 pm	Jesus **Strand**
Week 5	**28/2**	28/2 - 4/3 - Just Swim 11·50 - 12·50, 12·50 - 1·50 BLOCK COURSE - Swimming 1/3 - Lead Teacher Day - FFL - Katie Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Making 2/3 - Lent begins - Ash Wednesday Mass	
Week 6	**7/3**	7/3 - Caritas Lenten Unit 8/3 - FFL Yr 0 - 3 Learner Day 9/3 - Caritas Coin Trail	
Week 7	**14/3**	15/3 - STAR Testing - Yr 3 - 6 16/3 - PAT Listening Test - Yrs 3, 4, 5, 6 17/3 - St Patricks Day - Liturgy/Activities 18/3 - PAT - Reading Comprehension	
Week 8	**21/3**	21/3 - Otago Anniversary Day 22/3 - FFL Learner Day - Yr 4 - 8 23/3 - PAT Reading Vocabulary- Yrs 4,5,6 24/3 - PAT - Maths - Yrs 4 - 6 25/3 - Annunciation of Mary	**Teach Annunciation of Mary**
Week 9	**28/3**	29 & 30th March - Parent/Teacher Interviews	**Holy Week & Easter**
Week 10	**4/4**	5/4 - FFL - Learners Day - Yr 4 - 6 9/4 - Otago Swim Championships - Dunedin? 10/4 - Palm Sunday	

Week 11	11/4	12 /4 - Football Tournament - Y3 - 6 - Balclutha? 13/11 - Stations of the Cross- End of Term Liturgy 14/4 - Football Tournament - pp? 2/4 - EASTER - Good Friday	

Dates to be made - Sports Activator visits, School Family Mass, Museum Trips

VERY IMPORTANT

Please fill out and send back asap! We need to ensure that all contact details are correct so that if we have an outbreak of Covid – you will be contacted as quickly as possible

CONTACT DETAILS
Child/Children's Names
Caregiver/Mother's Name and Address
Caregiver/Mother's Numbers – Cell/Home/Work
Caregiver/Father's Name and Address
Caregiver/Father's Phone Numbers – Cell/Home/Work
Mother's email
Father's email
Emergency Contact 1 - Name
Emergency Contact Address
Emergency Contact Phone Numbers – Cell/Home/Work
Emergency Contact 2 - Name
Emergency Contact Address
Emergency Contact Phone Numbers – Cell/Home/Work
Any Medical Issues
Immunisations Has your child/children been immunised against Covid-19 Yes/No/Going to be/Not going to be (Circle correct response)
Custody Arrangements

Te Kaika

Tokomairiro Waiora Inc. are supporting a:

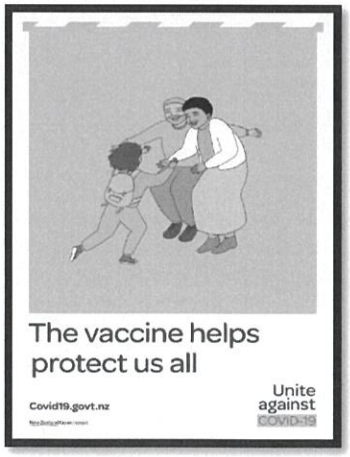
DRIVE- THRU COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

No bookings required.

Everyone welcome!

Nau Mai Haere Mai

On Wednesday 9th February 2022

from 11.00am – 7.00 pm.

Tokomairiro AMP Showgrounds @ Milton.