



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

27 February 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Kia Ora koutou, Ola, Bonjour

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

We have had another productive and busy fortnight at school. There has been plenty of warm weather and sunshine sprinkled throughout. As I was on duty this week, a group of junior girls showed me their fairy houses, made with autumn leaves and conkers. It is a sign that cooler weather is just around the corner!

This week has been busier than usual, offering our students a diverse range of opportunities to challenge themselves and learn new skills. Rooms 1 & 2 focused on essential life skills with Road Safety training from our Police Education Officer and Firewise education with the New Zealand Fire Service.

Meanwhile, Rooms 3 & 5 have been developing their cycling confidence over the week, while Rooms 6, 7, and 8 have shown impressive dedication during their athletics training and assessments.

A special mention must go to Room 7, who spent the week immersed in the natural beauty of Rakiura [Stewart Island] for their school camp. We have already heard incredible stories, from swimming with dolphins to staff being 'chased' by a curious kiwi! I am looking forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return on Friday afternoon.

At our kura, we strive to provide our girls with as many learning opportunities as possible, both inside and outside the classroom. It is through these hands-on experiences that essential skills, such as resilience, perseverance, self-belief, and a 'can-do' attitude, truly come to the forefront.

Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association is a wonderful group of volunteers, led by Shae Risk, who work tirelessly for our school, raising money to fund extra resources for our classrooms.

Keep an eye out for their first fundraiser, which will be handed out to the eldest daughter in each family on Monday. I am certain it will be popular!

GRIP Conference

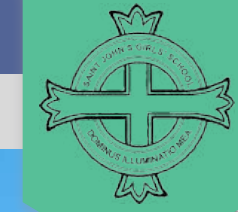
On Tuesday, 3 March, our Year 8 class will be heading to Gore for the annual GRIP Student Leadership Conference. This event is specifically designed to build leadership skills and capacity through high-energy, activity-based learning. We are excited to see how this experience benefits our Year 8 girls as they grow into their roles as school leaders.

All Saints Zone Athletics

Our All Saints Zones Athletics day is being held next Thursday, 5 March, at Surrey Park. The girls who are attending will bring information home about the event. This is also available on Skool Loop. This is a big day for our girls, so please ensure they have plenty of food, water and warm clothing.

Our postponement date is Friday, 6 March. Keep an eye on Skool Loop for postponement information.





William Pike Challenge

St John's is excited to offer our Year 7 and Year 8 girls the opportunity to participate in the William Pike Challenge throughout 2026.

This programme is designed to encourage students to step outside their comfort zones through a series of challenging activities. By participating, the girls will develop the resilience, confidence, and essential life skills required to thrive in the future. To complete the challenge, students must finish a set number of outdoor activities, a passion project, and dedicated community service.

The group is being expertly led by Ms Coatsworth, with 17 girls already committed to challenging themselves through this initiative. We look forward to their first outdoor activity, which is coming up within the next few weeks!

House Bonding Day

Our House Captains and Deputy House Captains are busy planning the upcoming House Bonding Day, scheduled to be held on Friday, 13 March. A great deal of planning and foresight goes into this event, providing an excellent learning opportunity for our House Captain group. Information about this day will come home with your daughter next week.

KIPRRR Day

We have our first KIPRRR Day coming up on Friday, 20 March. KIPRRR Day is an opportunity for our school community to give back, usually in the form of a donation to a chosen cause by the House Captains. Our Parents' Association will also be running a sausage sizzle at lunchtime.

Our House Captain group has enthusiastically adopted a suggestion from Bailey, our Alabaster Deputy House Captain, to support Little Heart Day this term. We are excited to get behind such a wonderful cause, and the theme for the day will be 'dress up as a superhero.' Additional information will be sent home next week.

Chat Bus

Our ChatBus counsellor, Sandra Lea, is currently on leave, and it is anticipated that she will return to our kura later in the term. We understand the importance of this service for our girls and will communicate with you as soon as ChatBus is back up and running. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming Sandra back.

Sports

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who are managing or coaching sports teams this term. Your dedication to our girls is truly appreciated, and without you, these opportunities would not be possible.

Mrs Netty Dennis, our sports coordinator, does an outstanding job of ensuring that every girl who wants to participate in a sport has the chance to be part of a team. This can be a challenge, but she manages to pull it off! Mrs Dennis is your main point of contact for any questions regarding sports at St John's. Her email address is: sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

Whānau can support our parent coaches and managers by encouraging their daughters to take responsibility for attending practices and meetings. We also expect positive support from families on the sidelines, in line with the values of our St John's community.



Parent Teacher Interviews

Our Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday, 18 March and Thursday, 19 March.

The focus of these interviews is to establish clear goals for your daughter and to provide an opportunity to meet with her teacher/s to discuss both her successes and her specific learning needs. We value this partnership in supporting her growth throughout the year.

Bookings will be available via the Skool Loop app within the next two weeks. Please keep an eye out for the notification to secure your preferred time.

Reminder - School closes at 2pm on Wednesday, 18 March, as interviews start early. After School Care will begin at 2:15pm.

ERO [Education Review Office]

On Monday, 9 March, we welcome the Education Review Office [ERO] to our school as we begin our current evaluation cycle. We are working alongside our evaluation partner, Michelle Irving, as part of ERO's collaborative approach to school improvement. The purpose of this partnership is to ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality of education and a supportive environment for our students. By focusing on our school's specific goals and student outcomes, this process helps us celebrate our successes while identifying meaningful ways to further enhance the learning journey for every girl at our school. Michelle will be at our school for three days.

Staff Only Day - Advance Notice

We have a Staff Only Day scheduled for Monday, 20 April [first day of Term 2]. School will be closed for instruction on this date.

We will be working with three other schools in our cluster [Windsor North, Salford, and Waikaia] alongside Sue Pine from The Learner First. We are continuing our three-year journey to embed our mathematics philosophy within the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. This significant investment in our staff's professional development will ultimately benefit our girls.

Invoices

Thank you again for your quick attention to ensuring these are paid on time. Your contributions ensure we can provide the environment we do for your daughters. We do accept regular automatic payments. Instructions on how to set this up are available on our school website.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ma te wa!

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 3 GRIP Leadership [Gore]
School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 5 All Saints Zone Athletics
- 9-11 Year 5 and 6 Camp [Columba]
ERO Visit
- 9 Firewise [Rooms 1/2]
- 11 BoP AGM and General Meeting [5.30pm]
- 13 House Bonding Day [Queens Park]
- 18 Interviews **[School finish - 2pm]**
- 19 Interviews **[School finish - 3pm]**
- 20 KIPRRR Day [Heat Kids Day]
Sausage Sizzle & Chill
PA Grocery Raffle Books Due Back
- 21 Southland Athletics
- 25-28 Year 8 Camp [Deep Cove]
- 25 Lit Quiz - Gore
- 30 Road Safety [Rms 1/2]

APRIL

- 1 Easter Service Rehearsal
- 2 Easter Rotation Jnr Syndicate [am]
Easter Service [1.30pm First Church]
Last day of Term 1 for Students
- 20 **Staff Only Day**
- 21 **First day of Term 2 for Students**
- 22 Swimming Rotation *[Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 22 April to 27 May - Whole School]*
- 27 **ANZAC Day [School closed]**
- 30 Constable Rosie Visit [Rooms 1/2]

MAY

- 7 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 21 Playhouse Theatre Performance

JUNE

- 1 **King's Birthday [school closed]**
- 4 School Swimming Sports [afternoon]
- 17 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 25 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]

JULY

- 3 **Last day of Term 2**
- 20 **First day of Term 3**
- 22 Circus Challenge Performance

AUGUST

- 20 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 24-28 Polyfest Week
- 24 **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

SEPTEMBER

- 9 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 25 **Last day of Term 3**

OCTOBER

- 9 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 12 **First day of Term 4**
- 15 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 26 **Labour Day [School Closed]**

WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Ellen Arnold, Olive Johnstone, Quinn Botting, Athena Parsons

ROOM 2

Addison Findlater, Harriet Telfer, Aggie McKenzie, Annabel Flannery

ROOM 3

Charlotte Dore, Eva Nicol, Lexi Dwyer, Gracie McCallum

ROOM 5

Tilly King, Sophia Risk, Eleanor Anstice-Shirley, Pippa Vaughan

ROOM 6

Victoria Dunca, Aoife Gordon, Nikita Zeestraten, Georgia Mead

ROOM 7

Rosie Laughton, Lydia O'Brien

ROOM 8

Evie Erskine, Bailey Cooper, Emily Bulling, Samantha Parry

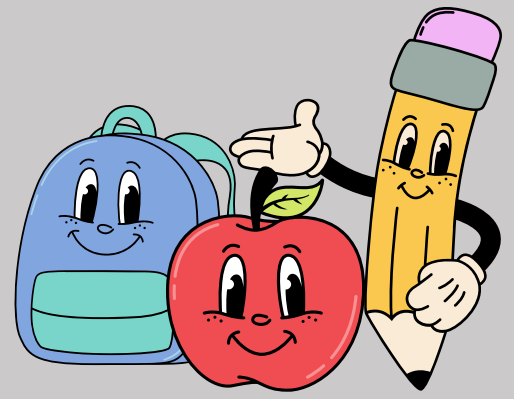
VALUES CUP

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Mackenna North
Rm 2 Kate McEwan, Darcy Beer, Alora Bosma
Rm 5 Lucy Dixon-Calder



SJGS Parents' Association



Welcome to everyone, we hope you are all well rested and ready for busy year. Hard to believe we are at the end of week 4 already!

Term 1 Meeting

On Tuesday 10th February, we held our first meeting of the year. It was great to see everyone again, and I look forward to working with you all this year.

2025 was a great year for the SJGS Parents' Association. We had a number of very successful fundraising events from the Great Gilmore Grocery Grab, Local Pac fundraiser, raffles, sausage sizzles and big chills. Without your support of these fundraisers, we would not been able to give back financially to the school community. Last year the Parents' Association financially contributed to all school camps, purchased Chrome Books and a charging station for Room 3, replaced the school BBQ, purchased PE equipment, covered the cost of filming the school production as well as giving every family a free link to this. Without your continued support this would not have been possible.

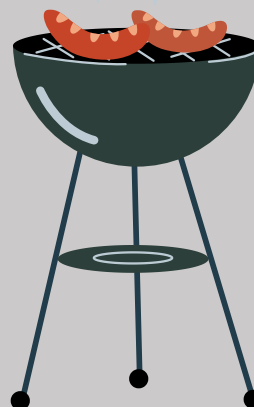
It was great to see so many families at our annual Family Fun Night. A special thank you to the parent volunteers, Year 8's and staff.

This year, we have some more exciting events and fundraisers happening. Please keep a lookout on Skool Loop as well as the school Facebook page.

Regards, Shae [Chairperson of SJGS Parents' Association]

Fundraising Term 1

- Grocery Raffle 2026: these will be distributed to each family on Monday 2nd March.
- Sausage Sizzle and Big Chill
- Easter Raffles
- Pepper&me discount code pepperandme.co.nz/FUNDSTJS3/26 (see next page for details)
- Precious Labels (see next page for details)



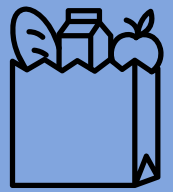
Sausage Sizzle \$2
and
Ice blocks \$1

Friday 20th March

Keep a look out on
Skool Loop for
ordering.



St John's Girls' School Parents' Association Grocery Raffle 2026



We are fundraising to provide financial contributions to additional resources for the school.

Each family will initially be allocated one raffle pack to sell, which contains 20 tickets. There are additional books available. Please contact the Parents' Association via email on stjohns-pta@stjohnsgirls.school.nz to request additional books.

All books are to be returned to the office by the 20th of March.

Please make payment for your tickets to:

St John's Girls' School Parents' Association
03 1750 0091815 00
Reference to include daughters name and class.
One payment per book please.



pepperme

Fundraising Programme

Simply use the code
FUNDSTJS3/26

This is Your Code

and **20% of all sales** using the code will be donated to support
St John's Girls' School Parents' Association

At checkout please use the code above. Valid from 01/03/26 to 24/03/26. Excludes Pepper Post.

Fundraising made delicious!

Check us out at
pepperandme.co.nz



FUNdraising

Cute, Colourful and Durable Labels

Join our Fundraiser Programme

Follow the steps below to participate in our fundraiser

- 1 Go to <https://preciouslabels.co.nz/?ref=STJOHNSGIRLSSCHOOL>
- 2 Choose your label pack
- 3 Go to Checkout
(Enter your School's name in the 'Notes' box on the Checkout page)
- 4 See the 'Fundraiser' tab on the website for more info

Thankyou for your support !

20% of your purchase will go to our school

Don't forget to spread the word!
Forward this website url to your family and friends!

Questions?

Please email us at - info@preciouslabels.co.nz

www.preciouslabels.co.nz 09 3930093

Next PA Meeting & AGM

28 April 2026 @ 7pm

SJGS Staff Room / New members welcome

Interviews with the Kaiarahi

Amelia B, Avery B, Elise D, Danielle K, Emily L, Rosie L, Lydia O, Simone P



Mrs Bradley

This week we caught up with Mrs Bradley, our new Room 2 teacher and junior syndicate leader. Mrs Bradley comes to us from Sacred Heart School and is having a great time learning all things St John's. She told us that she loves teaching spelling and her favourite thing about being here is getting to know all the girls in her class.

St John's is lucky to have you Mrs Bradley!



Darcy Beer

We are delighted to have Darcy joining us in Year 2. Darcy already has a special connection to our school - her big sister, Charlotte, was a Year 8 student here just last year. Darcy's favourite colour is pink, and she is a very keen reader. When she isn't busy with her books, you can usually find her having a great time in the sandpit!

We really enjoy having you at St John's Darcy!



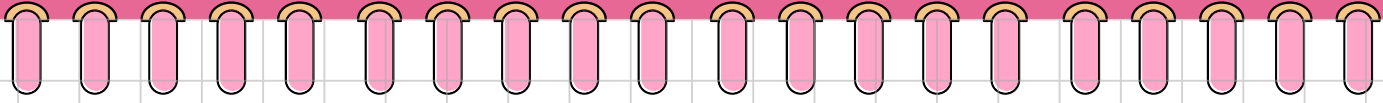
Eva Nicol

Eva, who is 8 years old, has joined us in Room 3. She is fitting into St John's like she has always been here. If you're looking for Eva at lunchtime, you'll probably find her on the big metal slide - it's her favourite thing at school! She also loves the colour teal and enjoys her maths learning at school.

We are so happy you're here Eva!



Room 1



Visitors

Room 1 have had an exciting start to the year with many different visitors.

Sergeant Jason Gordon came to school with his Police puppy called "Lad". We talked about how to be safe around dogs and we got to have some lovely, fluffy cuddles with Lad, who is just 10 weeks old.

The Firefighters brought their fire truck to school as a leap into starting the programme to teach us all about being Firewise. The girls got to go up into the fire truck and they took turns to squirt the fire hose. Even though it was a warm afternoon, the firefighters showed the girls all of the things they have to put on before going into a fire.



Mackenna
Wrote

"We got to go on the fire truck. We got to bang him on the head."

[The girls learnt that in a fire, if they see a firefighter, to get their attention, they can bang on their helmets.]

Jasmine
Wrote

"The firefighters came to school and I got a turn with the hose. We got to tap him on the head and we got to look in the fire truck."



Road Safety

Constable Rosie visited too this week as we are also learning about Road Safety. We learnt about looking for sneaky driveways and what to do before we cross the road.

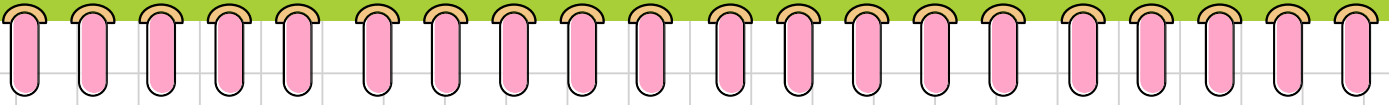
This term's learning will all be based around keeping ourselves safe and we are so fortunate to have local services who love to be in schools working directly with our girls.

The girls have been outstanding in their manners, listening and appreciation of this. Each visitor has expressed how wonderfully behaved our girls have been. We are very proud.





Room 2



Welcome!

Welcome to Room 2 for 2026! I feel very privileged to be joining the staff at St Johns' Girls' School this year and am so excited for the journey ahead.

The girls and I have spent these first few weeks building our classroom community and getting to know one another. It has been a joy seeing their personalities shine as we learn new routines, discuss our expectations, and look into the many exciting activities we have planned for the term. I am looking forward to a fantastic year of growth and discovery with this wonderful group.

Anita Bradley [Room 2 teacher]

Me in a Bag

As part of our writing programme and getting to know each other the girls' brought in a 'Me Bag'.

This bag had 3-5 items that told me about them. It was very special listening to the girls' explanations as to what was in their bag and why it was so special. They completed their writing explaining all about their items.



Highlight

One of the highlights in Room 2 so far this term has been our ongoing conversation about what it means to be an author.

We have been discussing how every girl has a unique voice and a story worth telling. To celebrate this, each student is curating her own personal collection of stories. These portfolios will grow throughout 2026. This will be a wonderful record of their creative journey and evolving writing skills.

Visitors

Room 1 and 2 have had some very important visitors in our classroom recently who are all teaching us some very valuable skills. We had Jason and Lad the Police Puppy come, who taught us about how to be safe around dogs.

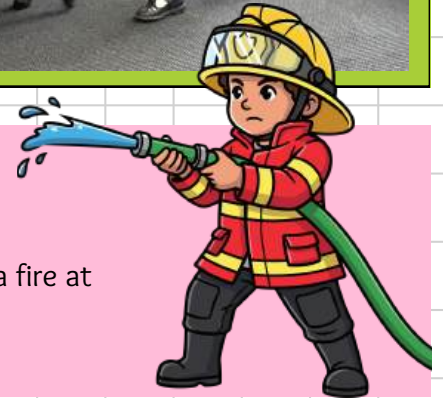
- Did you know that if a strange dog is running towards you out in the community, you should stand as still as you can, like a tree!
- You should always ask first before you pat a strange dog.
- You should pat a dog down its back.



Firewise

The firefighters came this week to teach us about being firewise!

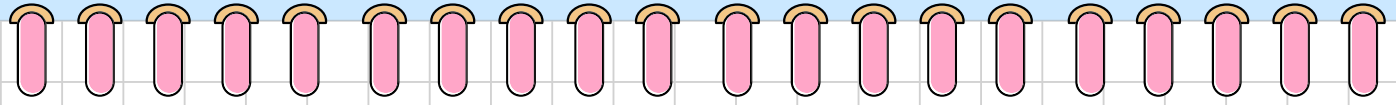
- Talk with your family about a plan as to where you should meet if there is a fire at your house.
- Get down and get out. Smoke rises so keep low to the ground.



We have enjoyed being back at school and are excited about the term ahead. Feel free to pop in and look at our work on display.



Room 3



New Year

2026

GOALS

Room 3 are pleased to back at school, starting new routines and getting to know our classmates. It's exciting to be in Year 4, to think about our new goals for the year and settle back into school life. We have been very busy over the last few weeks working on producing some great work to brighten up our classroom, get to know each other and set the scene for a great 2026 together.

'All About Me' Posters



McKenzie Kyle



Amelia Gladwin



Wallpaper Self Portraits



These are our 'Wallpaper Self Portraits'. We used old wallpaper books and designed and made these portraits of ourselves. We had to do a lot of cutting and glueing and there was a rather large mess in our room for a couple of days. We are super proud of our portraits.



Elliece Goodwright



Gracie McCallum



Class Kākahu

This is our 'Class Kākahu' which has all our names and KIPRRR values on which we all agree to uphold throughout the year.

Our Class Kākahu

We all agree to uphold our STGS values.



Summer Holiday

We have written about our 'Summer Holiday'. We chose one activity we loved and wanted to share with everyone. It was an activity we did while on holiday and we explained about it using lots of details. We all had some fantastic experiences to share. We also worked on our Summer Acrostic Poems and our Summer Jandal Art.



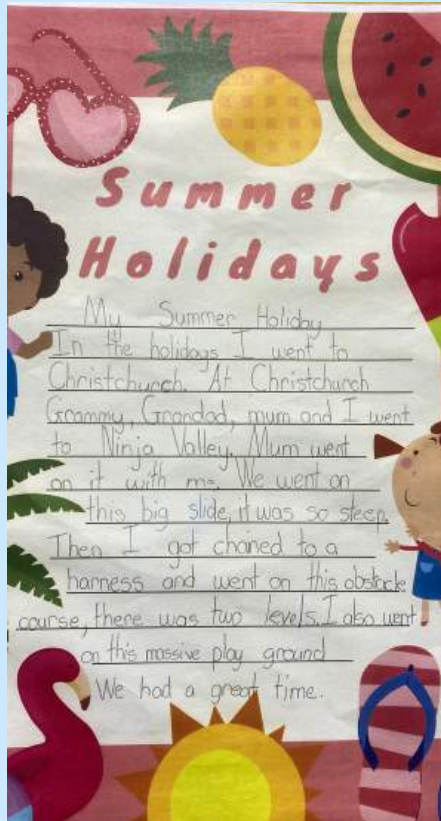
Charlotte Dore



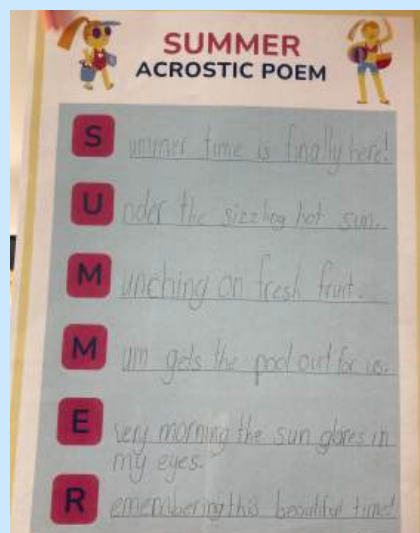
Eliece Goodwright



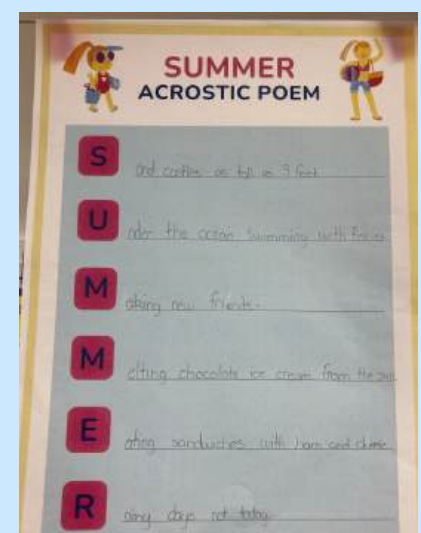
Heidi Lawson



Mackenzie Smithies



Heidi Lawson



The Magical YET

We read a wonderful story called 'The Magical YET'. It had a great message about how sometimes we can't quite do something yet. But with lots of effort, trying again, being resilient and plenty of practice we will get there and achieve our goals. We made these Yets and on the inside they have reminders of what we can do if we aren't quite there yet. Our class magical 'YET' is stuck onto our TV to remind us of this message.

Saffron Smith

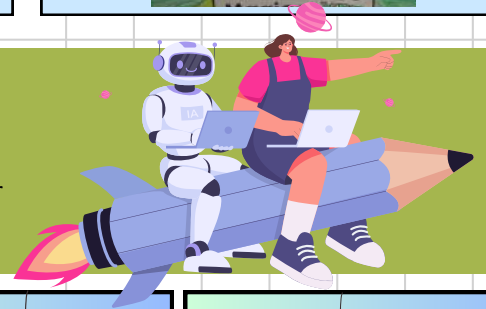


Eliece Goodwright



Up, Up & Away!

We are swept up in the excitement of the new term, up, up and away on our learning journey!



We are proud of what we have been working on, so feel free to pop into Room 3 and look at our work display.



Kennedy School of Music



SPACES AVAILABLE NOW

FOR AFTER SCHOOL IN-STUDIO MUSIC LESSONS

 GUITAR

 UKULELE

 PIANO

 DRUMS

 SINGING

 AND MORE...

Group
Lessons

Private
Lessons

Join a
Band

City Centre Level 1/51 Deveron Street, Invercargill

CONTACT US NOW: INFO@KSOM.NZ