

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School | 12 December 2025



MERI KIRIHIMETE, MERRY CHRISTMAS

It is almost surreal that we are approaching the very last days of the 2025 school year. I find myself pausing to reflect on what has been a truly remarkable and significant year here at St John's Girls' School.

This year has been defined by the very nature of change. This is a topic that, for many of us, can be both a little scary and incredibly exciting. Change, in its truest form, is not just an ending, but a doorway full of new opportunity.

This sense of change is felt most acutely as we prepare to farewell our wonderful group of leavers. They are on the cusp of a major transition, moving into high school and stepping into the great unknown. To our departing girls; know that it is absolutely normal to feel a mix of nerves and excitement.

We trust that the years spent here at St John's have provided you with everything you need to be successful in your new space. We hope you leave with a strong sense of self, a compassionate heart, and the courage to embrace new beginnings. You are well-equipped to face this change, to seize the opportunities ahead, and to succeed in whatever path you choose. We wish you all the very best. Go forth and shine brightly!

Remember the saying: 'Once a St John's girl, always a St John's Girl.'

St John's has also navigated its own period of transition this year. We welcomed a new principal [myself!], and next year, we will welcome new staff members who will bring fresh energy and perspectives to our school community. Our national curriculum has also changed significantly, and at an incredibly fast pace, prompting us to make adjustments to our learning programmes. It has certainly been difficult to keep up at times!

However, amidst these shifts, the ethos of St John's Girls' School remains unchanged. The core of everything we do continues to be centred entirely on our girls. Our mission is to empower every girl to be the best version of herself she can possibly be, fostering an environment where she is valued, challenged, and inspired. Our Christian values and special character are our anchor, and provide us with stability as we navigate these changes. The girls are, and always will be, the heart of our school.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your encouragement, and for entrusting your daughters to our care. You will have some very tired daughters at home next week. I know they are exhausted, but proud of all they have achieved this year. We are incredibly proud of them, too.

I wish you and your whānau a safe, restorative, and relaxing festive season. May your holidays be filled with joy, connection, and peace.

We look forward to welcoming you back for another wonderful year in 2026.

Mā te Atua koe e manaaki
Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal

CLASSES 2026

ROOM 1	New Entrant / Year 1	Mrs Sarah Jagoutz
ROOM 2	Year 2/3	Mrs Anita Bradley [<i>Junior Syndicate Leader</i>]
ROOM 3	Year 4	Mrs Anya Raines [Monday - Thursday] Mrs Lucy King [Friday]
ROOM 5	Year 5	Miss Eve McSoriley
ROOM 6	Year 6	Ms Emma Coatsworth
ROOM 7	Year 7	Mrs Kate McIlwrick [Monday - Wednesday] Mrs Lee Stewart [Thursday and Friday]
ROOM 8	Year 8	Miss Sara Woods [<i>Deputy Principal</i>]

Mrs Julie Dawkins will be back at St John's next year on a Friday. She will be in Room 8 in the morning and in Room 2 [leading the junior speech rotation] in the afternoon.

Mrs Rachael Devlin will also join us as a classroom release teacher. She will cover various classrooms on Monday mornings and throughout the day on Thursday. On Monday afternoons, she will be based in Room 5.





FAREWELLS

As the end of the year draws to a close, we are saying farewell to some valued staff members. As the saying goes, 'Once a St John's girl, always a St John's girl'. This applies to our wonderful staff members too!

Mrs Mary Kelly

Mrs Mary Kelly is retiring from her classroom teaching and management positions at the end of this year. Mrs Kelly has made the decision to focus completely on her health and well-being.

St John's has been a huge part of Mrs Kelly's life, and her commitment to our school over her long tenure has been immense. As a school, we are sincerely grateful for her dedication and the profound impact she has had on countless students and staff.

In her retirement, Mrs Kelly is looking forward to spending quality time with her family and relaxing at her holiday home in Clyde. We may even be lucky enough to see her back next year in a relieving capacity! We wish Mrs Kelly all the very best for a restful and fulfilling future.

Mrs Sharon Taylor

We also acknowledge the retirement of Mrs Sharon Taylor at the end of this year. Mrs Taylor is ready to embrace the role of being a hands-on Grandma and spend more time with her whānau.

Mrs Taylor has been an integral part of St John's for a long time, and her dedication and commitment have been immense. We will particularly miss her incredible contributions to our school's music programme, especially her work with our outstanding school choir and her organisation of our Christmas and Easter services.

Retirement will be busy for Mrs Taylor! Her young grandchildren have recently arrived to live in Invercargill, and she will continue to be involved with her outside choir commitments. We wish Mrs Taylor all the best as she moves into this exciting new chapter, and we are sure she will still keep a watchful eye on us here at school!

Mrs Amy Vaughan

A sincere thank you also goes to Mrs Amy Vaughan for admirably stepping up into the Christian Education role this year.

We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and commitment to ensuring our girls were delivered a robust Christian Education programme. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed Mrs Vaughan's lessons, which have been full of wonderful learning, creativity, and fun.

We are pleased that Mrs Vaughan will still be involved in our school next year as a regular reliever, and, of course, as a valued parent. Thank you, Mrs Vaughan, we appreciate you!



LEADERSHIP ROLES 2026

Alabaster House Captain
Alabaster Deputy Captain

Greer Pine
Bailey Cooper

Enderby House Captain
Enderby Deputy Captain

Samantha Parry
Maya Preininger

Lester House Captain
Lester Deputy Captain

Willow Murray
Briar McKenzie

Marchant House Captain
Marchant Deputy Captain

Briar Nicholl
Indi Howden

Kaiarahi

Simone Paganelli, Rosie Laughton, Amelia Bosma, Danielle King,
Avery Botting, Lydia O'Brien, Elise Davison, Emily Laughton

Librarians

Maya Preininger, Briar McKenzie, Morrigan Parsons, Bailey Cooper

Tech Crew

Morrigan Parsons, Willow Murray

Lunch Monitors

Aliviah Giles, Peyton Cornish

Rec Shed Managers

Briar Nicholl, Greer Pine, Evie Erskine

PALS

Emily Bulling, Samantha Parry, Briar Nicholl, Greer Pine, Evie Erskine

Sports Equipment

Emily Bulling, Bailey Cooper

Art Monitors

Peyton Cornish, Aliviah Giles



AWARDS

- ROOM 1** Olive Johnstone, Lola Devlin, Ellen Arnold, Lara Valli
- ROOM 2** Olive Reilly, Navy Sloane, Mackenzie Smithies, Georgia Cochrane
- ROOM 3** Beau McRae-Bothamley
- ROOM 4** Portia Smith, Nikita Zeestraten, Georgia Mead, Kyla Howden
- ROOM 6** Amelia Kemna, Greer Valli, Danielle King, Jaynee Holms-Johnston
- ROOM 7** Morrigan Parsons, Bailey Cooper, Aalivia Giles, Emily Bulling
- ROOM 8** Gwynedd Ryder, Sophie Crosbie, Gracie Dennis, Tayla Nel



VALUES CUP Rm 3 Grace McLeod-Young

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1	Delilah McKenzie
Rm 2	Saffron Smith
Rm 3	Mahya Gilmete, Charlie Visser
Rm 4	Madeleine Davison, Eloise Smith

STRIPES & BONUS POINTS

STRIPES

Sport [White]

Emily Laughton
Evie Erskine
Meila Iosefo
Drew Peddie
Emma Visser
Sophie Crosbie
Luna Welsh
Martina Bosma

Sport [Gold]

Meila Iosefo
Drew Peddie
Isla Patterson

Cultural [Lilac]

Briar Nicholl
Maya Preininger
Gracie Dennis
Willow Harper
Mia Padgett
Emily Bulling

BONUS POINTS

Gussie Affleck
Elliece Goodwright
Millie Dobbie
Charlee Miles
Elise Davison
Samantha Parry
Paige Robertson



DATES

DECEMBER

- **15** Prizegiving / Christmas Service Rehearsal
- **16** Christmas Service [6.00pm First Church]
Last Day for Students
Prizegiving [1.30pm First Church]
Leavers' Function [3.15pm School Hall]
Reports Out

2026

- 3 February **First day of school for students**
- 4 February **Chris Knight [Athletics]**
- 6 February **Waitangi Day [school closed]**
- 12 February **Yr 7 Camp Parent Help Info Night**
- 17 February **Family Fun Night**
- 19 February **School Photos**
- 20 February **Staff Only Day**
- 23 February **Chris Knight [Athletics]**
- 24-27 February **Yr 7 Camp Stewart Island**
- 3 March **GRIP Leadership**
- 9-11 March **Yrs 5/6 Camp Columba**
- 25-28 March **Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp**
- 2 April **Last day of Term 1**
- 20 April **Staff Only Day [Learner First PD]**
- 21 April **First day of term 2 for students**
- 27 April **ANZAC Day Observed [School closed]**
- 21 May **Playhouse Theatre School Visit**
- 1 June **King's Birthday [School closed]**
- 3 July **Last day of Term 2**
- 20 July **Day 1 of Term 3**
- 24 August **Staff Only Day [School closed]**
- 25 September **Last day of Term 3**
- 12 October **Day 1 of Term 4**
- 26 October **Labour Day [School closed]**
- 15 December **Last day of Term 4**
Prizegiving
Leavers' Function

THANK YOU

The Year 8 students and their parents would like to thank Buster Crabb so much for their generosity providing a discount for all those attending the parent organised end of year leavers' meal.



SATIONERY

An email and paper copy of the 2026 Stationery Lists went home last week. We highly recommend purchasing the stationery through OfficeMax - click on the following link which will take you straight to their website for ordering <https://www.myschool.co.nz/stjohnsgirls> - If you place your order in December you go in the draw to win \$1,000. You can also find a copy of the stationery lists on Facebook and Skool Loop, as well as our school website - <https://www.stjohnsgirls.school.nz/information-for-parents/stationery-lists/>



Order Back to School stationery now and **beat the rush!**

Class lists are ready to view at [myschool.co.nz](https://www.myschool.co.nz)

