

Running Club: Starts next week Tuesday and Thursday 8.50 with Fiona Webster, come and join us.

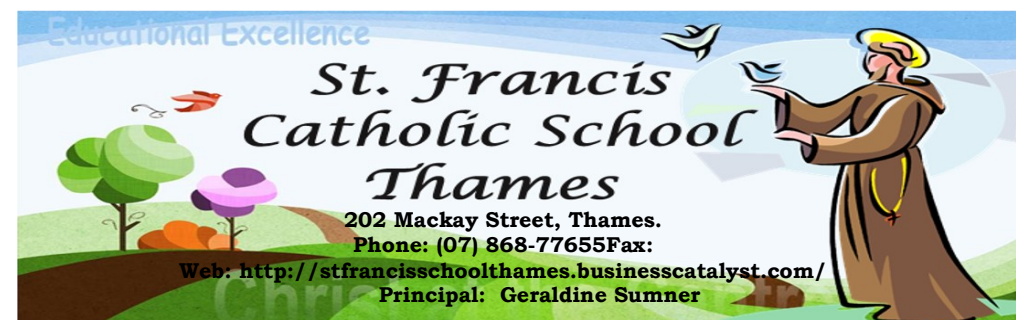
Can You Help? Do you have any Lego you would like to recycle or for a puppet theatre and puppets to help with developing oral language. We would like to get, a garage and cars and any simple jigsaws, knitting, threading etc for room Thank you to our very supportive families who have donated two dolls houses and a marble run, we are truly grateful and the children love them.

ICAS Exams

ICAS SUBJECT	ICAS SITTING DATE	Cost
Digital Technologies	Tuesday, 8 May 2018	NZD 9.50
Science	Tuesday, 29 May 2018	NZD 9.50
Spelling	Wednesday, 13 June 2018	NZD 20.50
Writing	Thursday, 14 June 2018	NZD 11.50
English	Tuesday, 31 July 2018	NZD 9.50
Mathematics	Tuesday, 14 August 2018	NZD 9.50

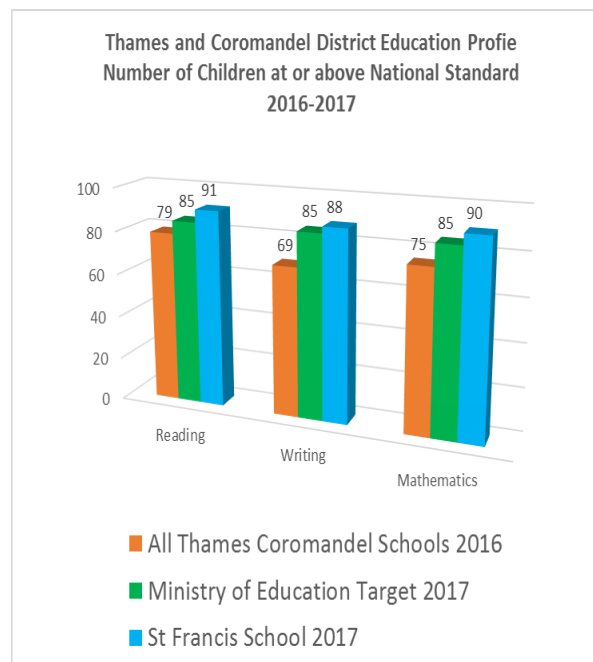
minimum of 3 entries per subject, irrespective of school year level, is required. Schools entering fewer than 3 students per subject will be charged the fee applicable to 3 enrolments (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region only). **Please place your orders before the 18th March.**

Upcoming Events for Term 1	
Please remember to watch the weekly newsletter as sometimes we do need to change dates.	
Every Tuesday and Wednesday	Sharyn Clark will be in for Piano Lessons Call Sharyn for any possible vacancies 027 4485089
Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Swimming for Rms 3 & 5
Mon—Tue— Wed	Swimming for Rm 1
Every Thursday	Rm 5 will be going to Technology Training at Thames High School
Every Wednesday	School Lunch orders (from Food for Thought) Class Mass starting in week 4 (9.15) in Church
Tuesday 13th February	PTA Meeting 3.15 in the library
Tuesday 13th February	Meet the Teacher and Family Takeaway Night from 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday - Whole School / Parish Mass 12.15 pm
Wednesday 21st February	B.O.T. Meeting
14th March	Thames Valley Swimming Sports
20th—23rd March	Hockey Big Day Out TBC
Date to be confirmed	Junior White Cluster Swimming Sports
Date to be confirmed	Senior White Cluster Swimming Sports
21st March	BOT Meeting
24th March	Good Friday—School closed
2 & 3 April	Easter Monday and Tuesday—School Closed
Friday 12 th April	Last day of Term 1
2nd May	B.O.T. Meeting



9th February 2018 (Vol. 02)

Welcome back everyone



**Meet the Teacher and takeaway Night
13th February**

**Please remember
Sun Hats and Sun Screen**

Swimming this term can you help?

**PTA Meeting
Tuesday 13th Feb
at 3.15 pm in the library**

**Lunch Orders on
Wednesday
Juices on Fridays**

Whakatauki

**Ma tini ma mano ke rapa te whai
Many hands make light work unity is strength**

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic faith community committed to quality education

**Celebrating
150 Years**

Focus for Term 1 is Love
Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind.' This is the
first and greatest commandment. And
the second is like it: 'Love your
neighbour as yourself.'

Principal's Pen



Dear Parents, Caregivers and
Friends of our school

Welcome back to another fun-filled, action-packed, learning orientated year everyone, - it has been so lovely catching up with all the children and families over the last few days and hearing about the wonderful holiday experiences enjoyed by everyone.

We have our homework policy up for review on school docs, this is called home learning. Please have a look and make comments on your views on what you would like the policy to contain. All reviews will be taken into consideration.

<http://stfrancis-thames.schooldocs.co.nz>

Username: **stfrancis-thames**

Password: **mackay.**

To make a comment press the review tab, read and then press the green tab on the top of the document to make your comment. This policy will also be reviewed by the board and staff.

To aid with communication with families and the board, we have decided as a board to have an opportunity for families to talk with a board member one to one by phone once a term. A board member will contact you directly and check in to make sure that all is well and listen to anything that you wish to discuss. This will then be brought to the next meeting for discussion. If a reply is required the board member will follow up accordingly.

**Kia te Spirit tapu ki runga ki a koutou katoa. ~
May the Holy Spirit be upon you all.**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Jesus heals a leper'

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Psalm

31 Mark 10:40-45

The way Jesus treated people with kindness and compassion was as important as his miracles. Invite the children to share their own experiences of being unwanted or left out and who made them feel better. Remind the children that this is the way that Jesus wants us to live. When and how can we do this?

How would it be if we, when spiritually sick or after having sinned, should be made to shout "Unclean, unclean!" to ward people off and away from us for fear that they too might be infected by our downfall? Instead we are asked to befriend outcasts and those afflicted and to offer forgiveness.

Reflect today on the people in our society who are on the outside, the poor, the weak, the ones we don't take time to get to know or understand. Be wary of making judgements based on other peoples opinion, take time to get to know them for yourself.

Meet the Teacher and Family takeaway Night

On Tuesday 13th February we will be having our annual school picnic/takeaway evening. This year we want to make it a fun night with activities for everyone to have fun together, but it is also a time to catch up with the classroom teacher and to ask questions. This has no formal outline and is just a night to come along with your takeaway dinner and meet the new staff and parents, and catch up with everyone else. Starts around 5.30pm

Assemblies

We will be holding school assemblies on a Thursday morning until Swimming finishes. Team Green to be held every other Thursday morning. If you would like to help out with any whole school environmental activities then please let the office know. The next assembly will be at 9 am on 15th February.

School Uniform

The children are currently being reminded that if they do not wear their hats they are expected to sit under the shade cloth during breaks. If you could remind your child in the morning to bring their hat along to school, it would be great. A reminder also that all children are expected to wear their correct school uniform to and from school - i.e. pinafores, dress, culottes or skirts for girls and grey shorts for boys. Black sandals are also to be worn each day – no jandals or bare feet. If headbands are worn they are to be blue or black plain head bands only please. Thank you so much for your help with this – together we will keep up the high standards that we are known for.

School Lunch Orders

Just a reminder that these yummy lunches will be available to order every Wednesday. Children's orders should be dropped off to the school office before 9am please. Putting the money in an envelope with the child's name and order on the outside would be helpful. The menu is available on our website under the Newsletter tab or at the school office. Thanks.

PTA Juicie Friday has Returned!

Juicie Friday has returned this term! Juicies will be sold at lunchtime each Friday so if your child wishes to enjoy a frozen treat, these will be sold for \$2 each outside room 1 (forms will not be distributed). All proceeds are going to our PTA. Any questions, please contact Wendy Johnson. Many thanks!

School Tennis — Starting Friday 16th February for 4 weeks. Shannon Paki will be working with the teacher and the children on the astroturf.

Ash Wednesday—School Mass

This Wednesday we have our School Mass. This is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The children will be leading and organising the Mass. The mass is at 12.15 in St Francis of Assis Church. Everyone is very welcome.

What is Lent?

Lent represents the 40 days Jesus wandered the desert praying and fasting after he was baptized. Lent begins on Feb. 14 and ends on Holy Thursday, which is March 29, when there is a mass to represent Jesus' last supper.

On Good Friday, (March 30) Jesus was crucified and on Easter (April 1) he rose from the dead.

Why the ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ashes represent two Biblical themes.

The first comes from the saying "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return". The ashes are burnt palm leaves that represented last years Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into the town of Jerusalem and the people laid palm leaves on the ground for him to ride upon saying ***"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"***.