

— Term 3 - Week 2, 2025 —



Holy Cross School

Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 30th
July
Room 1 & 2
swimming
Week 3 -10
1.30pm-2.30pm

Friday 1st August
Teacher only day

Tuesday 12th August
Catholic schools
cultural celebration
SPC

Wednesday 13th
August
EZ Netball

Principal's Message

Talofa lava and kia ora e te whānau,

Today we had the joy of welcoming **Miley, McKenzie, Joshua, Oliver, and Charbel** to Holy Cross School at our pōwhiri. What's especially lovely about this group is that they each bring with them an existing bond to our kura – their siblings or parents are already part of our school whānau.

At the same time, we also welcomed **Noni**, a kaiako from the Heart Foundation, who has generously volunteered her time to support our cultural group. Noni is also working with our students to promote healthy, active lifestyles through engaging Māori games such as kī-o-rahi and tapuwae. Nau mai, haere mai koutou!

A New Bracket – A New Chapter

Today marked the debut of a new performance bracket introduced by a smaller group within our wider cultural rūpū. Fifty of our students were selected last week to represent Holy Cross at the upcoming Catholic Cultural Celebration being held at St Patrick's College on August 12th.

This special group introduced two brand new waiata, composed by Matua Sharez, who has been an absolute blessing to our rūpū. These waiata reflect our values, our faith, and our identity as Te Rotokura. I would also like to recognise the work that Matua Sharez, Noni & Ethel have put into getting our performers ready for the day.

Ngā Waiata o Te Kura Our New School Songs

Here are the lyrics to our two new waiata, created to reflect who we are and how we shine at Te Rotokura

Nei Rā te Mihi ki te Atua

Nei rā te mihi ki te atua
Nāna ngā kapua, me te whenua
Me ngā mea ki waenga
Ko ngā mea katoa
Mātou e kī, ka whiti mai te ra,
(mai te) Kotahitanga o ngā hou e whā
Ko te Karaitiana, (te ara o Te) Tokotorutanga

*Here we offer our thanks to God,
Creator of the clouds and the earth,
And all that lies between.
He is the source of all things.*

*We declare, "Let your light shine."
In unity, the four winds gather as one.
For Catholicism is the path of
The Holy Trinity.*

Toto o te Rotokura

Ko te kī tuatahi, ki te whānau tahi
Kei te whakawhaiti?
Kei te ū ki te rua? Whai i te aroha?
Whai ai me tō ngākau nui?
Kei ahau tonu he pātai – kei te ū ki te āe?
Me te māia ki te rangi?
Nāu i kī –

Chorus:

Nā te toto o te roto, toto o Te Rotokura e...
Nā te toto o te roto, toto o Te Rotokura e

He mihi ki te rohe, ki ngā uri o te...
Ātiawa ki Pōneke
Te mana whenua – Te Upoko o te Ika
Nāu te aroha o te kura e
Ka whai mātou tō kaha – ka whai hoki ō kawa
Kei a mātou te hōnore
Te waimarie.

Anei mātou ngā hunga e whai i te ara
O Te Tokotorutanga
Ko te Katorika – te hāhi o Te Atua,
Ihu Karaiti me Te Wairua
Ko tēnei te mutunga o te waiata
He mihi maioha ki te katoa
Anei rā

*To the united whānau,
Are we being inclusive?
Are we following the second value – Aroha?
Are we pursuing it with big hearts, with
kindness?
I still have a question...
Are we truly committed to "YES"?
With courage that reaches the heavens?
You must say it –*

By the blood within, the blood of Te Rotokura

*A tribute to this region, to the descendants of
Te Ātiawa of Pōneke, The mana whenua – Te
Upoko o te Ika.*

*Yours is the love that holds this kura.
We follow your strength, We uphold your
tikanga.
The honour is ours – such a blessing.
Here we stand – those who follow the path
Of the Holy Trinity, The Catholic Church – the
house of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.*

*A heartfelt acknowledgment to all.
Here we stand.*

Mid Year 2025 Data	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Above	9%	3%	9%
At	66%	57%	62%
Below	21%	36%	26%
Well Below	4%	3%	3%
At/Above	75%	60%	72%
Below/Well Below	25%	40%	28%

Overall Teacher Judgements – Mid-Year Update:

I've recently reviewed the data from our mid-year reports. One clear trend we've noticed is a **drop in writing achievement**, followed closely by mathematics. While this may seem concerning at first glance, it is **not unexpected** – and I want to explain why.

As a school, we are navigating a period of **significant curriculum change**.

This includes:

- A shift to **Te Mātaiaho | The refreshed New Zealand Curriculum**
- The introduction of **structured literacy** across all levels
- The transition to **new assessment tools and expectations**

This kind of transformation takes time, and it's important to remember that **our kaiako are working incredibly hard** to adapt their teaching and assessment practices. I want to assure you:

Your children are learning deeply and making great progress.

What does this data tell us?

The majority of students are achieving at or above expected levels in reading (75%) and mathematics (72%), while writing sits lower at 60%. Writing also has the highest proportion of students below or well below (40%), compared to 25% in reading and 28% in maths. This suggests writing is the key area of concern across the school and will require continued focus and support.

Why are our results like this?

Writing: The way we now measure progress has changed. As a result, some students who were previously considered “at” the expected level may now appear to be “below” the new curriculum phase expectations. It simply reflects a shift in the **benchmarks**, with a stronger focus on core skills such as spelling, sentence structure, and vocabulary knowledge.

Mathematics: The new curriculum places more emphasis on number knowledge, reasoning, and mathematical thinking. Children are being introduced to more advanced number concepts earlier than before – for example, ideas previously taught in Years 4–5 are now appearing across all levels. Some learners may seem to be “slipping” based on the new judgements, but again, this reflects a **change in how we assess**, not a loss in learning.

Where to from here?

Despite the challenges, I am fully confident in the direction we are taking. This has been a year of huge professional growth for both teachers and learners. The shift to a refreshed curriculum is bold, but necessary – and we're proud to be leaning into it together. Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep going, with courage and unity – the Holy Cross WAY.



Principal's Message

Health & Sexuality Education Consultation
Year 4 - 8 Families in Week 5, Term 3



Health and Sexuality Education Consultation

As part of our responsibility under the New Zealand Curriculum, schools are required to consult with parents and the wider community every two years on how Health and Sexuality Education is delivered. For Catholic primary schools, this process ensures our programmes are not only aligned with curriculum expectations but are also firmly rooted in the values, beliefs, and teachings of the Catholic faith.

At Holy Cross, our approach is guided by the document “**Wonderfully Made in the Image of God**: A Catholic Approach to Relationships and Sexuality Education for Catholic Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

This resource reminds us that every child is created in the image and likeness of God, and that Relationships and Sexuality Education must:

- Uphold the dignity of the human person
- Support holistic wellbeing
- Reflect our commitment to Christ-centred formation

Through this consultation, we aim to:

- Inform parents and whānau about what we teach and why
- Listen to community perspectives and values
- Work together to ensure our programme is age-appropriate, culturally responsive, and consistent with our Catholic character

What's Next?

On the next page, you'll find a pamphlet that outlines what Health and Sexuality Education looks like at Holy Cross School. Please take a few moments to read it and reflect on what matters most to you as we walk this journey together with your tamariki.

We will be consulting with Year 4–8 families in Week 5, taking time to gather your thoughts and suggestions. We'll then use your feedback to co-design a programme that truly reflects the values, needs, and character of our kura.



Final Words

Our new waiata Toto o Te Rotokura reminds us of the unity, aroha, and courage that guide us at Holy Cross. These values are reflected in the hard work happening across our kura as we lift achievement and adapt to a new curriculum.

Thank you for your support as we help every learner grow in confidence, capability, and character.

Fa'a fetai tele lava,
Ia Manuia,

Years 5–6: Growing in Awareness and Dignity

Key Learnings:

- Learn about puberty and the development of the human body.
- Explore basic reproduction with a focus on the sacredness of life.
- Understand personal dignity and self-worth as children of God.
- Learn about choices, consequences, and moral responsibility.

How Parents Can Help:

- Answer questions about puberty with honesty and clarity.
- Reinforce the idea that body changes are natural and part of God's design.
- Use prayer and reflection to talk about values and decision-making.
- Keep an open door for difficult or "awkward" conversations.

"You are precious in my eyes and honoured, and I love you."

—Isaiah 43:4



Years 7–8: Understanding Sexuality in Light of Faith

Key Learnings:

- Learn more deeply about sexuality, reproduction, and fertility.
- Understand God's plan for love, relationships, and the sacredness of marriage.
- Explore influence of media, peer pressure, and cultural messages.
- Develop skills for healthy, respectful relationships and responsible choices.

"God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."

—Genesis 1:27

How Parents Can Help:

- Talk about Catholic values and what love really means (faithful, free, fruitful).
- Set healthy boundaries around devices and media—talk about what's seen online.
- Model respect in your relationships—teens notice everything.
- Encourage self-respect, prayerful discernment, and open questions.



Holy Cross School

Miramar, Wellington

Te Rotokura

Health & Sexuality

Guided by the Te Pukenga document

Wonderfully Made in God's Image



Themes Reinforced Across All Levels

Theme	Emphasis
Human Dignity	Each person is made in God's image and is worthy of love and respect.
Body as Sacred	Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; we honour God with our bodies.
Safety & Consent	Children are taught bodily autonomy and to speak up if something is wrong.
Faith and Formation	Catholic values shape understanding of love, identity, and relationships.
Relationships	Emphasis on love, kindness, inclusion, and God-centred relationships.

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...'"

—Gen 1:26

Years 3–4: Valuing Ourselves and Others

Key Learnings:

- Recognise how people are the same and different.
- Deepen understanding of bodily autonomy and consent.
- Learn how to treat others with kindness, empathy, and inclusion.
- Explore early signs of physical growth and emotional development.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you."

—Jeremiah 1:5

How Parents Can Help:

- Use moments of conflict or emotion to model empathy and apology.
- Be open to simple questions about body changes.
- Talk about respectful relationships—model kindness and fairness in your own.
- Teach that everyone is worthy of love and inclusion.

Health & Sexuality

Years 1–2: Being Created in God's Image

Key Learnings:

- Recognise that we are all created uniquely and loved by God.
- Identify basic body parts using correct names.
- Begin to understand privacy, safety, and boundaries.
- Value family and friendships as part of God's plan.

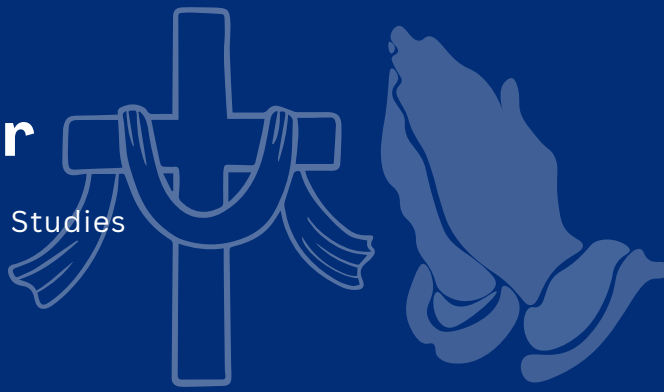
How Parents Can Help:

- Use positive affirmations: "God made you wonderful!"
- Teach boundaries through routines (e.g. asking permission to hug).
- Help them name emotions and talk about friends and feelings.
- Share bedtime stories or prayers that affirm their dignity.



Catholic Character

Director of Religious Studies
Simone Meech



Ordination to Priesthood

We're thrilled to share the wonderful news that Fr. Kinh has been ordained to the priesthood! His ordination took place on Saturday, July 12, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome him as a priest in our parish.

Many of us have gotten to know Fr. Kinh during his time here as a deacon. Now, as he begins this new chapter, we're so grateful to walk alongside him in his ministry. Congratulations Fr Kinh!



Pilgrims of Hope, and the Jubilee Year:

Walking the Path of Life

The teachers at HCS have been exploring the theme of this Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope. We have been reflecting on our own faith journeys, and where God is leading us next. Life is often called a journey—and like any journey, it has ups and downs, twists and turns. A pilgrimage is a powerful symbol of this path: a sacred journey made with purpose, prayer, and hope.

As we celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, the Church invites us to be Pilgrims of Hope—walking together in faith, seeking renewal, and drawing closer to God.

This holy year is a time of grace, forgiveness, and new beginnings. Wherever we are on life's path, let's walk with open hearts, guided by hope and God's mercy.



Junior Syndicate

Room 11, Room 12 & Room 7



Here we are in Term 3 already! We are looking forward to the following learning for this term.

Our topics this term will be science based, with many hands-on experiences for the children. We will be covering magnets and simple machines, with Room 7 also looking at the water cycle. Our reading and writing times will incorporate books and stories around these, as well as our structured literacy focus.

Maths: our structured maths continues, using the Numicon resources. We will also be covering measurement (length, mass and volume).

Mia, Simone and Virginia will be attending a Numicon PD hands-on workshop in August on one of our release days, and it will be exciting to bring back our new learning into the classrooms.

RE: In our RE lessons we will be focussing on Church:

- Developing an understanding that I am part of God's family, and what I do and how I behave towards others, is important.
- Recognising that the Church has rituals, symbols and holy things, and I can learn what to do and say to be part of them.

We will also celebrate the feast of The Assumption of Mary on the 15th of August.

PE: This term we will be focussing on running - short, medium and longer distance.

Kura Ahurea: The Hongi - The story of Hongi focuses on another trick of Tane's - breathing life into a woman. It is a story of life and connection.

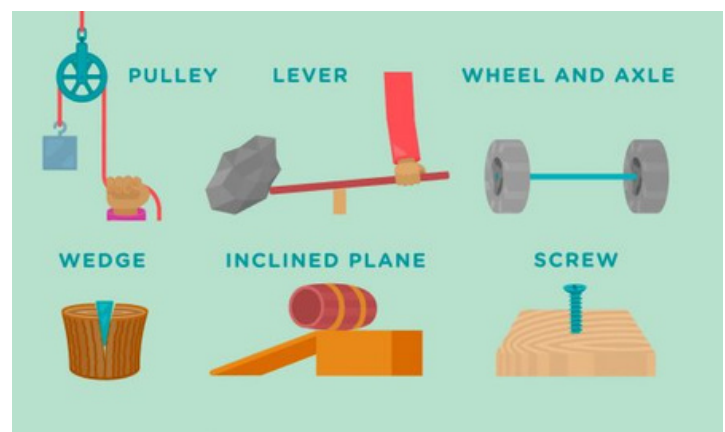
As always, if you have any questions, please see your child's teacher. We all look forward to teaching your children again this term!

Virginia, Simone, Mia, Brenda, Patsy and Penny



**"Be kind and
compassionate to one
another."**

(Ephesians 4:32)



Middle Syndicate

Room 8, Room 3 & Room 5

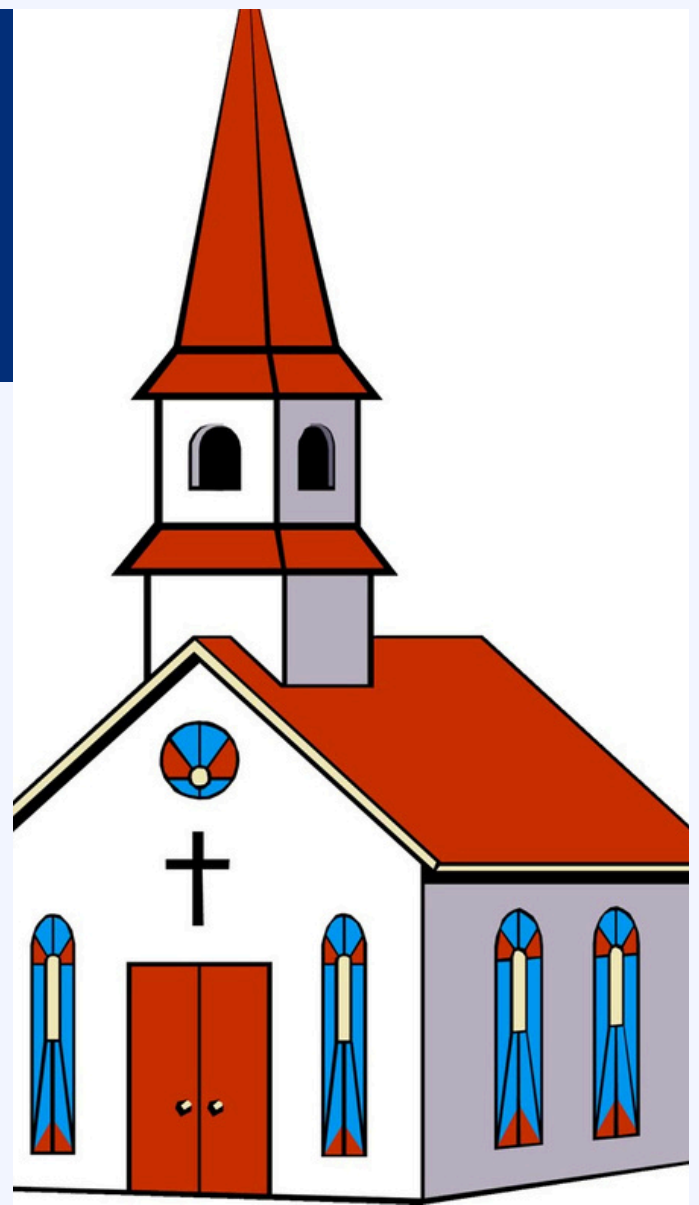
Term 3 is a busy time for learning- our tamariki often 'take off' and seem to have an extra burst of motivation and enthusiasm as the learning they have been doing starts to consolidate.

Our focus for the term is based around our **Religious Education** theme which is 'Being Church'. As our local church, Holy Cross is now closed due to being a safety risk, many of our tamariki have not been into a Catholic Church in recent times. We are hoping to walk to St Anthony's Church in Seatoun to have the opportunity to explore what a church looks like and feels like and also to join with the whole school and visit Sacred Heart Cathedral in the city towards the end of the term.

In other subject areas we are covering

Maths- Fractions (all), Decimals (Year 4 above) and Percentages (Year 5 and 6). Concepts around decimals and percentages will be new to our tamariki as the revised curriculum now has these being taught at a lower year level.
Geometry- Shapes and spatial reasoning.
Probability and Statistics.

We will be sending home material this week on how you can support your tamariki as they learn basic facts- we have assessed what facts they know and will be setting goals around the facts they need to learn. We are very grateful for families to support us here. When basic facts are remembered and can be recalled automatically, then there is more brain space to work on the complexities in maths.



Literacy- Our reading and writing will be linked. Room 8 and 3 are covering Narrative writing, Poetry and persuasive writing. Room 5 are focusing on aspects of how we create texts- sentence structure, paragraphs, expanding ideas and punctuation. All classes continue to work on explicit letter sounds and morphology in spelling and improving handwriting speed and presentation.

Other activities-

Garden to Table- we will continue to explore the garden and the kitchen as we cook up a storm and prepare for spring.

Art- tamariki are preparing art for Grandparents day to be displayed in the hall and in classes.

Kapa Haka- Some of our tamariki have been chosen to take part in the Cultural Celebration at St Patrick's Wellington on Tuesday 12th August. Those not involved will be learning a new Purakau (story) in Kura Ahurea about hongī.

PE- Large Ball skills are the focus this term with the Eastern Zone's netball competition and winter sports in full swing after school

Senior Syndicate

Room 1 & Room 2

Senior Syndicate – Term 3 Learning Overview: **Rūma Tahi & Rūma Rua**

This term, we welcome **Ben Gittos**, who is covering Mrs Stefanidis' duties in Rūma Tahi and Rua.

Fundraising for Camp 2026 is going well—our Read-a-thon finishes in Week 6, and a mid-winter raffle is coming soon. Thanks to your support with the sausage sizzle, bake sale, and sponsorship, we've already reduced the camp cost by around \$20 per student.

In **Religious Education**, we're exploring Whakapapa – Our Story, Being Church, and Oho Ake – Inspired, with a focus on Mary, the Saints, the Holy Spirit, and Catholic Social Teaching. Emotional learning continues through the Zones of Regulation programme.

Our **literacy** programme includes persuasive writing, personal narratives, and group discussions that build respectful communication. In reading, students are developing critical thinking through School Journals, novel studies, and short films. Spelling follows The Code programme.

In **maths**, our focus includes positive and negative numbers, probability, algebra, measurement, and geometry.

Year 7–8 students attend **Technology at Mt Cook School** on Tuesdays. **Performing arts** include kapa haka and singing, and our Ko Wai Au? te reo Māori unit helps students talk about themselves and their whānau.

Swimming continues every Wednesday, alongside netball, movement, and Māori games like Tapa Wae and Kī-o-Rahi.

Leadership opportunities include tuakana-teina roles, patrol duty, and peer support through Tuakana Āwhina. Ethel and Evelyn







Garden to Table Tuesday 15th July - Room 5

Kitchen - Garlicky Greens and Pasta

Today in the kitchen we were making garlicky greens and pasta. First we cut garlic really finely and we cut up our greens from the garden. Next Aarav poured the pasta into a pot of boiling water and Avery and Cleo were trying to find the sunflower oil in the cabinet near the door. A garden to table kitchen specialist was in the kitchen and took pictures of us doing our cooking. We put the greens into a bowl and Aleksandra put them in a pan with garlic. It was really fun and tasted good. I would make it again at home

By Tyler

Garden:

Today in the garden Nyakua and I collected the community compost and added it to the garden compost. Nyakua measured the temperature of the compost and it was 20 degrees C. Anaya, Gabby and Hosanna were cutting some weeds that they pulled out of the garden. Niki, Rory and Robbie were digging out the old fennel plant and cutting dead branches off the trees. Last we played a game where we had to guess the smell of herbs and plants. The smells were mint, lavender and lemon leaf.

By Thinbeth



School News

Exciting News

Keep an eye out for our new Skooloop website and school app which is coming soon. Tell us what you think about our new newsletter?



Happy Birthday to...

Antoine, Christian,
McKenzie, Mikiyas, Kruz,
Daniel H and Flynn
Birthday wishes to you all

BOT ELECTIONS

Kia Ora Holy Cross Whānau,

It is now time for our triannual board elections. Please read the following information for board nominations.

If you would like more information about the role of a school board please click on the link below or pick up a hard copy with your information pack at our school office.

[Community Member Guide to the role of school boards](#)

Our school board has appointed Karin Graham as the Returning Officer and she will be responsible for managing the election process.

This week your children will come home with letters with further details on the election process.

We have 5 parent representative roles that we will be appointing and nomination packs will be available at the school office from Friday 18th July 2025.. If you are interested or would like to nominate a parent who you think would be a great addition to our school board, please pick up a nomination pack.

Nominations will close on Wednesday 6th August 2025 at 12pm.

Community News



Book now at skids.co.nz/book

14th July – 19th September 2025

0800 274 172

Please ensure all food complies with allergy guidelines. Contact your service for detailed information.

TERM 3

Secure your spot today!
skids.co.nz

<p>14th – 18th July</p> <p>Vive la France Celebrate Bastille Day and the French Revolution through hands on crafts, games and story telling.</p>	<p>21st – 25th July</p> <p>Space Week Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure! Learn about planets, astronauts and space missions through fun games, crafts and activities!</p>	<p>28th July – 1st August</p> <p>Amazon Antics Explore the rainforest and play fun games that explore the Amazon environment. Create flicking frogs, dirt pudding and build the tallest Kapok tree!</p>	<p>4th-8th August</p> <p>Sweet Treats Week It's Sweet Treats Week! Cooking, STEM, Team Challenges and activities to make you feel good!</p>	<p>11th-15th August</p> <p>Blast From The Past Welcome to our totally rad trip back in time — get stuck into cave murals, stone crafting and sing-along to 90s karaoke! It's a step back in time all week long!</p>
<p>18th - 22nd August</p> <p>Kindness Crew Celebrating World Humanitarian Day on 19th August, we will be honouring the people who help during emergencies and disasters.</p>	<p>25th – 29th August</p> <p>Daffodil Day Explore with us the significance of Daffodil Day through engaging activities including crafts, puzzles, poetry, and baking!</p>	<p>1st-5th September</p> <p>Inventors Lab This week celebrates inventions, sparking creativity and inspiring future problem-solvers each day.</p>	<p>8th – 12th September</p> <p>Safety Week Teaching kids essential life skills through fun, hands on activities, from first aid to basic fire safety and emergency responses.</p>	<p>15th-19th September</p> <p>Aroha ki te tangata Celebrate Māori Language Week, International Charity Day and Father's Day with a variety of crafts, games and mindfulness activities.</p>

Community News



Engineers Workshop



Use your brain to solve problems
and create cool stuff with Mr Twist!

sKIDS

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Build epic towers, boats, rockets and more
- ✓ Try real engineering tricks like a pro
- ✓ Earn stickers to track your progress

WED 30 JULY
**BUILD
IT**



WED 6 AUG
**MARINE
ENGINEERING**



WED 13 AUG
**FLYING
HIGH**

WED 20 AUG
**TINKER
LAB**



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Wednesdays
in Term 3!

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Holy Cross School

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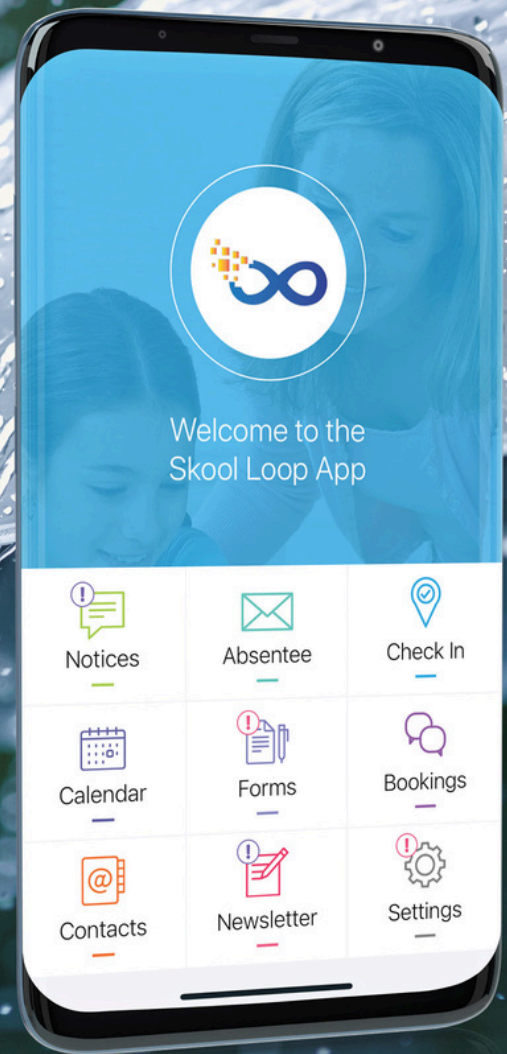
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2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379

