

A Message from Lisa Broadmore: Reflecting on a Wonderful First Term

Kia ora koutou,

As I reflect on my first term as Principal of St Thomas More Catholic School, I want to thank the All Saints by the Sea parish community for the warmth, kindness, and support you've shown me. It has been a rewarding and inspiring beginning to my time here.

My first term was full of special moments — our tamariki deepened their faith, embraced culture, and found new ways to connect with the world around them. A number of our students celebrated their First Holy Communion and Confirmation, sacred milestones of faith, joy, and community, shared with their families, our school whānau, and the wider parish.

We also marked Catholic Schools Day with a special liturgy and engaging House activities that encouraged tuakana-teina — the valued Māori tradition of mentoring and support between older and younger peers. This day brought great fun and cooperation, strengthening school spirit by promoting leadership, shared learning, and mutual respect across all ages.

Most recently, we celebrated St Thomas More Day, where our students learned about the life and legacy of our school's patron saint — a man of deep faith, wisdom, and unwavering conviction. His example continues to inspire our tamariki to live with integrity, courage, and a strong sense of what is right, even when it's not easy.

Outside the classroom, our tamariki explored the world in many meaningful ways. We celebrated Matariki, the Māori New Year, embracing new beginnings and reflecting on our connection to the wider world. Our senior students also enjoyed a visit to The Elms in Tauranga, where they explored the region's history and learned about the early missionaries and local heritage — deepening their understanding of the foundations and stories that shape our community.

In keeping with our commitment to Kaitiakitanga — the guardianship and care for our environment — many of our children took part in dune planting, helping to protect and restore our precious coastal ecosystem. It was a meaningful way to honour our call as stewards of God's creation and to care for the earth He has entrusted to us.

Earlier in the term we shared a lovely Mother's Day High Tea, bringing families together in gratitude and connection. We're incredibly thankful to our hardworking PTFA, whose support and dedication continue to enrich school life in so many ways. The term was also full of energy and enthusiasm, especially during our school cross country, where our students demonstrated fantastic resilience, sportsmanship, and team spirit.

I feel blessed to be part of this vibrant community and look forward to all that lies ahead. If you'd like to learn more about our school or find ways to get involved, please scan the QR code below to visit our website, or contact the school office.

Ngā mihi nui,
Lisa Broadmore
Principal / Tumauaki

