

NEWSLETTER

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At Elim Christian College Henderson, we are committed to nurturing our students' potential and preparing them for a bright future filled with hope, excitement, and joy. To achieve this, we believe that developing a strong foundation of skills is essential.

The Bible emphasises the importance of skill and hard work. In Colossians 3:23, we are reminded to work with all our heart, as if working for the Lord. Ecclesiastes 9:10 encourages us to do whatever we find to do with all our might. And Proverbs 22 suggests that those skilled in their work will serve before kings.

One of the most visible and prominent spheres where we see refined and developed skills in action is the sporting world. Let's consider the example of renowned athletes like LeBron James, Serena Williams, Lindsey Vonn, Kelly Slater, and Lionel Messi. These individuals have not only excelled in their respective sports, they have done so with longevity, far exceeding the typical lifespan of an athlete. These individuals share a common trait: their dedication to continuous improvement and hard work. They have spent countless hours practising and honing their skills, allowing them to maintain their dominance for many years.

The secret to their success lies in their passion for their sport and their unwavering commitment to excellence. They have demonstrated exceptional technicality, physicality, mentality, strategy, endurance, discipline, and focus.

While these athletes have achieved remarkable success in the sporting world, the importance of skills extends far beyond athletics. Individuals from various fields, including academia, the arts, business, and beyond, have demonstrated the power of skills to achieve their goals.

At Elim Christian College Henderson, we believe that every student has the potential to develop valuable skills. By providing opportunities for learning, growth, and exploration, we aim to equip our students with the tools they need to succeed.

Let us encourage our children to embrace their passions, work diligently, and strive for excellence. With the right skills and a positive mindset, they can achieve great things and make a meaningful impact on the world.

Ngā mihi nui,



Andy Lawrence
Principal



THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

by Bev Smith

The likelihood of success in learning is strongly linked to active participation in school programs, which in turn is closely tied to arriving on time.

When children arrive at school punctually, they benefit from a range of positive outcomes:

1. **Enhanced Participation:** Being on time ensures that your child can fully engage in all the scheduled activities and lessons from the start, which contributes to their overall learning experience.
2. **Routine Building:** Developing the habit of arriving on time from an early age fosters discipline and responsibility, which are valuable skills throughout their academic journey and beyond.
3. **Social Benefits:** Timely arrival allows children to interact with their peers before classes begin, helping them build and maintain friendships and feel more connected to their school community.
4. **Reduced Stress:** Starting the day calmly and prepared can significantly reduce stress and anxiety, setting a positive tone for the rest of the school day.

We understand that mornings can be busy and sometimes unpredictable. If you encounter any challenges or need support, please feel free to contact us. **We are here to work together** to ensure your child's success and well-being. We have access to a number of external agencies who are willing to partner with us to address any of the above concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to your child's education.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

To help make this easier, here are a few suggestions:

- **Set a Consistent Routine:** Establishing a regular morning routine can help streamline the process of getting ready for school.
- **Prepare the Night Before:** Lay out school clothes and pack bags the evening before to minimise morning rush.
- **Plan Ahead:** Aim to leave the house a bit earlier to accommodate any unexpected delays.





EVERY DAY COUNTS: THE VALUE OF CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE

Academic Growth Depends on Attendance

Ākonga who attend school regularly are more likely to stay on top of their learning. Consistent attendance helps tamariki develop key skills in reading, writing, and maths. Even missing a few days can cause gaps in learning, making it harder for them to catch up.

Supporting Positive Behavior and Social Skills

When tamariki attend kura regularly, they learn important social skills, like teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. It also helps ākonga build routines, resilience, and friendships that support their emotional and behavioural development.

What the Ministry of Education Says

The Ministry of Education highlights that regular attendance (90% or more) is critical for ensuring ākonga have the best chance at success. Ākonga who attend regularly are more likely to achieve their learning goals and stay engaged in school life, opening doors for future opportunities.

Working Together for Success

We understand that whānau face challenges that can make regular attendance difficult. Please reach out to us if you need support—we're here to help! By working together, we can ensure that every day at school counts for your tamariki.



Quick Facts about Attendance

- 1. Just two days a month matter:** Missing just two days of school a month adds up to 20 days a year—that's a whole month of learning missed!
- 2. Early habits make a big difference:** Tamariki who develop strong attendance patterns in their early years are more likely to continue these habits through secondary school.
- 3. Attendance builds confidence:** When ākonga are in school regularly, they feel more confident in their learning and build strong connections with their peers and kaiako.

GOD'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND CHANGE: LESSONS FROM OUR PAST

by Bev Smith

Over the past term, our Social Science learning has been rooted in the idea that “**God helps us grow and change; and God wants us to develop resilience, perseverance, and patience, as we grow and change.**” Our ākonga have been exploring various aspects of New Zealand’s history and reflecting on how the past shapes who we are today. History provides the context for our experiences, guiding us to learn from past mistakes, shaping our values and beliefs, and helping us to connect with our cultural heritage.

By understanding history, we connect with others and find meaning in our personal stories. Reflecting on the past gives us insights that influence our future decisions, fostering personal growth. This journey mirrors the spiritual journey of growth that we all undertake with God's help, where resilience, perseverance, and patience play a vital role.

Cultivating Patience through Faith

Patience is perhaps the most challenging yet rewarding virtue in both personal growth and parenting. In our fast-paced world, waiting can be difficult, but it is in these moments that we learn to trust God's timing. Patience fosters a nurturing environment where our tamariki can thrive.

By practicing and encouraging patience, we model a sense of peace and understanding for our tamariki, helping them grow in their own faith and resilience. As we grow and change, we lean on our faith to guide us through the trials of parenthood, fostering resilience, perseverance, and patience in both ourselves and our tamariki.

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE IN PARENTHOOD

As we navigate the beautiful journey of parenthood, we are reminded that our growth and transformation are not just personal but spiritual journeys. **God plays a vital role** in helping us cultivate resilience and perseverance, qualities crucial as we raise our tamariki.

- **Resilience** teaches us to bounce back from challenges. Just as our tamariki face their own ups and downs, we too encounter obstacles. Through prayer and reflection, we find strength and support, allowing us to model this resilience for our tamariki.
- **Perseverance** encourages us to continue, even when times are tough. God’s unwavering presence reminds us that every struggle is an opportunity for growth. When we persist, we demonstrate the importance of dedication and hard work, guiding our tamariki on the same path.



ARISE FOCUS: TERM 4

At Elim Christian College, we believe that education is a holistic endeavour. While academic achievement is undoubtedly important, we recognize that a well-rounded education encompasses much more. Our ARISE Framework is a reflection of this belief, outlining the five key elements we deem essential for our students' success: Achievement, Responsibility, Inspiration, Skills, and Elim Christian Character.

Skills: Building a Strong Foundation

The "S" in ARISE stands for Skills. We believe that it's essential for our students to develop a strong foundation of skills that will equip them for success in their akomanga. Our intention for next term is to equip our ākonga to exclaim the following with pride:

"I work well with my classmates on group projects"
And
"I listen to other people's ideas and respect their opinions"

Year 5-6

"I join in class discussions and share my ideas"
And
"I volunteer for school activities and events"

Year 3-4

"I ask my teacher questions when I don't understand something."
And
"I ask my classmates questions to get different perspectives"

Year 0-2

"I use technology to research information and complete assignments"
And
"I create digital projects to show what I've learned"

Year 7-8

NATIONAL CURRICULUM UPDATE : TE MĀTAIAHO

Te Mātaiaho is the new name for the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. This refresh aims to make learning more engaging, relevant, and inclusive for all students.

A recent development, which you may be familiar with is the acceleration of two curricula areas implementation, namely, Maths and English. This significant change will not only enhance the quality of education your children receive but also align our school's strategic direction with the latest educational research and best practices.

The new curriculum will be introduced a year earlier than originally planned, ensuring that our students benefit from a knowledge-rich approach to mathematics and pāngarau from the start of 2025. This means that your children will have access to engaging and relevant learning experiences that will equip them with the skills they need to succeed in the future.

As we thoughtfully plan and consider the successful and sustainable implementation of this curricula, one key priority will be to support our teachers in implementing this new curriculum effectively. This will mean providing professional learning and development opportunities, including dedicated maths teacher only days. These sessions will ensure that our

Key Changes:

The curriculum will prioritise student achievement and look to accelerate and celebrate progress. Additionally, the curriculum will clearly outline what students need to know and be able to do. All ākonga will have the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the curriculum and kaiako will receive resources and support to help them implement the new curriculum.

What is the Intended Effect for my Child?

The rationale and purpose of the redesign is to ensure that all ākonga will have the opportunity to experience more interactive and relevant learning activities. Teachers will have a more detailed and structured scope and sequence, allowing greater tailoring of their instruction to meet your child's individual needs. The new curriculum will provide a solid foundation for your child's future learning and success.

educators are well-prepared to deliver high-quality instruction and support your children's learning.

In addition to the curriculum refresh, we are continuing with a minimum of twice-yearly assessments to monitor student progress and identify areas where additional support may be needed. These assessments will provide valuable data that will inform our teaching practices and ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our school's strategic direction and professional learning priorities will be aligned with the goals of the curriculum refresh, prioritising the needs of our ākonga in the prioritisation and rolling out of these. We are committed to providing your children with a world-class education, and will continue to communicate our progress around these areas.



2025 CALENDAR

As we look ahead to the upcoming academic year, we are excited to share our plans for balancing various initiatives to enhance our school's curriculum and overall experience. Some notable mentions regarding the structure of next year is outlined below, including an update on teacher-only days for the curriculum refresh which have been allocated since previously communicating this calendar.

- To ensure our kaiako are well-prepared to design and implement learning programs that align with the curriculum refresh, we will strategically utilise the two dedicated teacher-only days allocated by the Ministry of Education. These days will likely be scheduled in Term 1 and Term 3, ensuring a balanced approach that accounts for other teacher only days and public holidays throughout the year.

We're currently looking to coordinate the opportunity to connect staff from across Elim kura and will communicate these dates prior to the end of Term 4, 2024.

- Our commitment to Christian pedagogy will influence our academic calendar. Term 2 will conclude on a Thursday to allow for spiritual reflection and renewal.
- To honour the mahi of our ākonga throughout each term, we are implementing several refinements. These include a 2pm finish at the end of each term and a 12pm finish on the last day of the year.
- Building upon our established processes, we will be working closely with our Elim counterparts to achieve greater alignment with professional learning and networking which will result in starting earlier than our current year, on January 31st.

Please note that while our current calendar may not reflect all community events, we are actively planning for a variety of activities throughout the year. We are also partnering with the ARISE parents committee to explore fundraising opportunities that bring our whānau together.

We understand the importance of providing ample notice for your planning. Therefore, we will always communicate upcoming events ahead of the upcoming term.

We are confident that these initiatives will contribute to a positive and enriching learning environment for your children. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.



Elim Christian College Henderson Calendar 2025

JANUARY						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Key

Term Time

Teacher Only
Day

Public
Holidays

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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DECEMBER						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Term 1

First Day: 31 January, Friday
Last Day: 4 April, Friday (2pm)
Teacher-Only Days: None
Public Holidays: None

Term 2

First Day: 28 April, Monday
Last Day: 26 June, Friday (2pm)
Teacher-Only Days:
27 June, Friday
Public Holidays:
2 June, Monday (King's B'day)
20 June, Friday (Matariki)

Term 3

First Day: 14 July, Monday
Last Day: 19 Sept, Friday (2pm)
Teacher-Only Days: None
Public Holidays: None

Term 4

First Day: 6 Oct, Monday
Last Day: 16 December, Tuesday (12pm)
Teacher-Only Days:
17 & 18 Dec, Wed & Thur
Public Holidays:
27 Oct, Monday (Labour Day)

TERM 4 KEY DATES AND EVENTS

- ✓ **Labour Day:** 28th October, Monday
- ✓ **Walk-a-thon (Fundraiser):** 5th December, Thursday
- ✓ **Teacher-Only Day (Curriculum Refresh):** 6th December, Friday
- ✓ **End-of-Year Prizegiving:** 18th December, Friday
 - Maunga: 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.
 - Ngahere: 2.15 - 2.45 p.m.
- ✓ **EOY Reports and Classroom Placement Notification:** 19th December, Thursday
- ✓ **End of Term:** 20th December, Friday @ 2 p.m.

PARENT CONSULTATION AND VOICE

At our kura, we believe that open communication and collaboration are essential for creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all. We are committed to hearing your aspirations and partnering with you in a timely and effective manner.

We value your input and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas in a variety of ways:

School events: Attend our hui, fale fono, and cottage meetings to discuss school matters and share your perspectives.

Strategic planning: Participate in our larger-scale reviews and consultations when setting new school strategic plans.

Direct communication: Contact your child's teacher, senior leadership team, or a member of the school board to discuss your concerns or complaints.

The school have a number of policies and procedures around reporting to parents and addressing any concerns in a manner that upholds the highest standards and allows us to develop optimal learning environments for our ākonga. If you require more information, please see our **SchoolDocs** site.

- Username: elimhenderson
- Password: arise3628
- Website: <https://elimhenderson.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Alternatively, reach out to our senior leadership team at slt@elimhenderson.school.nz



PTA MEETING

We have recently had a wonderful opportunity to connect with our parent community during this term, sharing updates about the formation of our Parent Teacher Committee, known as ARISE Parents. This committee will serve as a valuable extension of our school, playing a crucial role in supporting our strategic goals related to community and culture.

ARISE Parents will focus on three key areas:

- **Fundraising:** Supporting kura endeavours through fundraising initiatives
- **Community Connection:** Fostering connections among whānau in our school community
- **Whānau Support:** Offering support to whānau and ākonga through prayer and practical means when needed.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the role of chairperson. Please stay tuned for more information and opportunities to get involved. We encourage all parents to watch this space as we embark on this exciting new venture together.

TERM 4 UNIFORM GUIDELINES: TRANSITION TO SUMMER UNIFORMS

As we move into the warmer summer months, it's time for our ākonga to transition from winter uniforms to summer uniforms for Term 4. To ensure all our students are comfortable and appropriately dressed for the season, we would like to remind parents and caregivers of the updated uniform expectations.

The summer uniform helps keep our tamariki cool while maintaining a tidy and consistent appearance that reflects the values of our school. Below are the key guidelines for Term 4:

- **Hats:** All children **MUST** wear an Elim school hat when outside during playtimes, including during PE lessons. This is essential for sun protection, especially with the stronger summer sun.
- **Shirts:** Children are to wear the **Elim logo royal blue polo shirt**. Please note that **no visible t-shirts or undergarments** should be worn under the polo shirt to keep the uniform looking neat and in line with our school standards.
- **Girls' Uniform:** Girls are expected to wear the **black Elim skorts**. **Tracksuit pants** or other winter wear are **not** allowed during Term 4, as they are no longer necessary with the warmer weather.
- **Boys' Uniform:** Boys should wear the **black Elim shorts**. As with the girls, **trousers or tracksuit pants** are **not** permitted during Term 4.
- **Socks and Shoes:** All students must wear **plain black socks and shoes**, with **no visible trim or additional colours allowed**. This ensures that all children maintain a unified and tidy look.

Additionally, we kindly remind you to **label all clothing items clearly** to help us return any lost items to their rightful owners.

For more detailed information on **fashion accessories, jewellery, and hair**, please refer to our school [website](#). These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and to maintain a consistent appearance across the school community.

Thank you for your cooperation!



It's time for
Summer Uniforms

Bye Bye, Winter Uniforms 👋