

PRINCIPAL'S PĀNUI

6 May 2026

UPDATES TO HOW WE REPORT PROGRESS AND LEARNING

This year, in line with Ministry of Education guidance, we are updating the way we report student progress in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, as well as other curriculum areas. You will notice some new wording in reports. Instead of the previous indicators, we will now use the Ministry's five **Progress Descriptors**:

EMERGING

DEVELOPING

CONSOLIDATING

PROFICIENT

EXCEEDING

These **descriptors** help show how your child is progressing with the **essential learning** for their year level. This learning is described through **Progress Markers**, which outline the **foundational knowledge** and **skills** students need in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics by the end of each year. A helpful way to think about the descriptors is that they **indicate** where your child is on the journey from first learning something – whether it is skills or knowledge – to how **confidently**, **routinely** and **independently** they can use this learning in new and familiar learning contexts.

Emerging means your child is at the early stage of this learning. They are beginning to show some of the expected learning but require continuous support such as modelling, prompting, or scaffolding from the teacher.

Developing means your child is starting to use some of the expected skills or knowledge. They can often do this in familiar or supported situations, but still need regular guidance, reminders, examples, or prompting

Consolidating means your child is using many of the expected skills or knowledge more routinely with increased confidence in familiar learning tasks. They require occasional support to ensure accuracy or consistency.

Proficient means your child is using the expected skills or knowledge with growing confidence, consistency, and independence in familiar learning contexts that have been taught

Exceeding means your child is already meeting the expected learning and is extending it in new or more complex contexts. They may make connections across subjects or situations, explain their thinking in greater depth, use more precise strategies or language, or apply what they know in ways that go beyond the expected year-level learning.

While the **Progress Markers** focus on key areas of learning, they are just one part of the wider curriculum. Students will continue to **experience a rich and varied programme** that supports curiosity, creativity, and many other important skills.

Teachers will use a **range** of information when **selecting a Progress Descriptor**, including classroom learning, conversations, observations, student work, and assessment information. This helps us build a clear and balanced picture of your child's progress. Our aim is to make reporting clear, helpful, and focused. We will continue to implement the required reporting changes, outlined by the Ministry, throughout the coming months and into next year, keeping you apprised of the key developments.

OPEN DAY AND SCHOOL TOURS

We have two great opportunities coming up for prospective families who would like to learn more about our kura.

Our **school tours** will be held on **Wednesday 13 May** and **Wednesday 10 June**. These are a chance for families to visit during the school day, see learning in action, and get a feel for our environment.

We will also be holding our **Open Day** on **Wednesday 27 May**. This is a larger showcase of our kura, with displays and presentations that share more about who we are and what we offer, including our curriculum, pastoral systems and processes, learning opportunities, and the wider life of the school.

We warmly encourage our current whānau to spread the word. If you know friends, family members, neighbours, or colleagues who are considering schooling options, please let them know about these upcoming dates. **Word of mouth is one of the most meaningful ways new families come to understand the heart of our kura**, and we are always grateful for your support in helping others connect with our school community.

More information can be found on our website or by making contact with the office via email (office@elimhenderson.school.nz) or phone (09 242 3516).

SUPPORTING STRONG ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance continues to be an important focus for our kura. Being at school consistently helps students build strong learning routines, maintain friendships, take part in the full life of the classroom, and make steady progress over time.

As part of this focus, we are introducing our new **Show Up and Shine Award**, which has been and will continue to be presented each week to the class with the highest attendance. This is a positive way to **celebrate the collective effort students make** to be present, engaged, and ready for learning.

The award sits alongside a number of other initiative that will be introduced throughout this year, all of which are designed to strengthen attendance across the school. Our approach is not just about numbers; it is about **supporting every child to access the learning, relationships, opportunities, and sense of belonging** that come from being at school each day.

We are grateful for the continued support and partnership of our whānau in this important area. Every day matters, and by working together we can help our tamariki show up, shine, and make the most of all that school has to offer.