

Wednesday 16th July

Principal's Update: Welcome to Term 3!

Kia ora whānau,

A warm welcome back to all our students and families as we kick off Term 3! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break, and everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting and productive term ahead.

Term 3 is always a vibrant time at school, packed with learning, growth, and community events. Our teachers have been busy planning engaging lessons and activities, and we're looking forward to seeing our students dive back into their studies with enthusiasm.

Celebrating our attendance improvements!

We are incredibly proud to share the significant improvements in our student attendance from Term 2, 2024, to Term 2, 2025!

Our **Regular Attendance (students attending over 90% of the time)** has jumped from **60% in Term 2, 2024, to an impressive 73% in Term 2, 2025!** This is a fantastic achievement and reflects our collective efforts to ensure our students are present and engaged in their learning.

We've also seen positive shifts in other categories:

- **Irregular Absence** has decreased from 27% to 17%.
- **Chronic Absence** has significantly reduced from 6% to just 3%.

These improvements are a testament to the commitment of our students, families, and staff, and we look forward to building on this positive momentum throughout Term 3!

Important: Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

Next week, we're holding our **Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences**. These conferences are a fantastic opportunity for you to connect with your child's teachers, discuss their progress, and set goals for the remainder of the year. **All interviews will be face-to-face, and students are expected to attend with their parents.**

Please note the arrangements for each day:

- **Tuesday, July 22nd:** Students finish school at the usual time (Y0-6 at 2:50 PM, Y7-13 at 3:10 PM). Conferences run from **3:30 PM to 7:30 PM**.
- **Thursday, July 24th:** School finishes early for all students at **12:20 PM**. All students must leave school at this time and return only for their conference slot. Please ensure you are prompt picking up your child/ren as there is no provision for childcare at school after this time. Conferences run from **1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**.
- Online bookings close at 8 am, July 21st for all appointments.



New: Whānau Hui / Fono connection time

As part of our conferences, we are excited to introduce dedicated **Whānau Hui / Fono** gatherings. This is a new opportunity to connect directly with school leadership and staff in a relaxed setting.

We warmly invite all parents and caregivers to join us in the staffroom to share your thoughts, hopes, ideas, and feedback as we continue to grow together as a school community. Children will be able to spend time in the library during these sessions.

Whānau Hui / Fono Times:

- **Tuesday, July 22nd:** 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Thursday, July 24th:** 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Come for a chat and some light refreshments — we look forward to seeing you there and hearing your valuable perspectives!

Celebration: "Acts for ACTS" Campaign update: Exceeding our goals!

As you know, our **"Acts for Acts" campaign** to raise money for children in rural Cambodia to attend school is drawing to a close. We are absolutely delighted by the incredible support you and your children have shown in embracing this opportunity to help those less fortunate.

Thanks to your amazing generosity, we have already **exceeded our target of \$22,000!** We are incredibly grateful for every contribution.

The campaign officially **ends at the end of Week 2 this term**. Please ensure any cash donations or completed booklets (year 1-3) are returned to the school by **Friday next week**.

As a Christian school, we place great importance on mission outreach and supporting those in need. This campaign is a wonderful example of helping our students develop **empathy and understanding for others**, encouraging them to consider the needs of others before their own. Thank you again for your phenomenal support!

Exciting News: Our brand new school van has arrived!

We're absolutely thrilled to announce that our **brand new school van was delivered during the holidays – ahead of schedule!** This is fantastic news, and we're incredibly excited to put it to immediate use for Term 3's sporting and cultural events, expanding the opportunities available to our students.

While the van is here and ready to roll, we'll continue our dedicated fundraising efforts to fully pay for this valuable asset. There will be plenty of fun ways to contribute this term, including **pizza lunches, junior disco - Y1-4 and 5-8, and our highly anticipated school carnival day in Term 4**. More information on these events will be coming your way soon, and we truly appreciate your ongoing support in helping us reach this goal!



Join Our Team: Relievers and Administration Support needed!

We're looking to expand our dedicated team and invite members of our school community, or those connected to it, to consider two rewarding opportunities:

Relievers Needed: We'd love more qualified teachers on our relief list. If you are a **qualified teacher looking to return to work**, or have a teaching qualification and are interested in relief opportunities, please get in touch! We highly value the experience and flexibility that relievers bring to our school, ensuring continuity and quality learning for our students. Our Deputy Principals, **Marvin Anderson and Jessica Kidd**, are ready to help you navigate the process. Please contact them directly at (firstname.lastname@elimmtalbert.school.nz). If you have family or friends outside of our immediate school community who might also be interested, please encourage them to make contact.

Casual Administration and Reception Support: We're also looking for a highly organised and friendly individual with administration and reception experience to join our front office team on a casual basis. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Tania Calvert directly to learn more.

Key Term Dates for 2026

To help you plan, here are the essential term dates for the year ahead:

- **Term 1:** Monday, February 2nd - Thursday, April 2nd (9 weeks)
- **Term 2:** Monday, April 20th - Friday, July 3rd (11 weeks)
- **Term 3:** Monday, July 20th - Friday, September 25th (10 weeks)
- **Term 4:** Monday, October 12th - Thursday, December 10th (9 weeks)

Enrolments for 2026

A friendly reminder that **applications for enrolments for 2026 close on July 31st**. If you have any children in your family who will be starting school next year, please ensure you have completed and submitted their application. We also encourage you to share this information with friends or family who may be interested in enrolling their children at our school for 2026.

To ensure you stay up-to-date with all the exciting events and important information happening at our school, please regularly check our fortnightly **school newsletter** and access the **school calendar** available on our school website. These are our primary channels for communicating key dates, updates, and celebrations.

We truly value everyone in our school community and look forward to your continued connection and support as we embark on a successful Term 3 together.

Nāku noa, nā,

Tania Calvert

Principal