

Year 7-8 Term 3 2026 Newsletter

Tuesday 21 July

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Whānau

Welcome to term three! We are thrilled to embark on another exciting term of learning, building upon the wonderful progress our students have already made. Please find below some important updates and general information to help us prepare for the term ahead.

The teachers in Year 7&8 are:

Room 5: Mr David Prickett

Room 6: Miss Hannah Fale

Room 7: Miss Sophie Zavaleta

Room 8: Mr Elijah Tay

Support staff includes:

Hard technology: Mr Peter McDonough

Multi Materials / Food technology: Mrs Amanda Abrahams

Music Specialist: Mrs Rachel Crellin/ Miss Sarah Dunn

Art Specialist: Mrs Jacqui Reid

Dance / Drama Specialist: Mrs Indy Miller

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher: Mrs Jeanette Starrenburg

Release Teacher: Mrs Gina Kennerley

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO): Mrs Joanna Emery

Phase 3 Team Leader: Mr Elijah Tay

Assistant Principal Y1-8: Miss Jessica Kidd

This term our Biblical theme is **God helps us grow and change**. The students will be exploring this topic throughout scripture, including the transformation of Paul, the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus meeting Zaccheus, and more. The unit will culminate in students presenting their own story of how God has helped them to grow and change.

In Integrated Inquiry, following the awesome engagement from students in our political unit from last term, we have another exciting practical unit ahead, focused on... Fashion! How it has changed throughout history across different cultures! The unit will culminate in a wearable arts fashion show in school in Week 10. Please support this unit by collecting different recyclable materials for students to use - cardboard, fabrics, buttons, string - be creative! You can send these into school as you collect them and whānau teachers will keep you updated on what we are still needing.

This term, our team foci are:

Elim Exploration: Change - Students will start to understand about past events, experiences and actions and the changing ways in which these have been interpreted over time.

Enduring Understanding: God wants us to develop resilience, perseverance and patience as we grow and change.

Key Question: How can I embrace change in my life so that I grow?

Literacy focus: Reading comprehension strategies and persuasive/speech writing

Numeracy focus: Number Strand, Measurement

Kotahitanga Value: Pukuahuwhenua - Diligence

Notices:

ATTENDANCE: The Ministry of Education has specific requirements for student attendance. They have set a target for students to attend school for 90% of the time every term. Therefore, holidays during term-time are strongly discouraged. There will naturally be times when it is appropriate for tamariki to stay home and recover from illness. However, minor symptoms do not always require time away from school. Below is a link to information that will help you decide when it is okay to send your child to school, when you should keep your child at home, and when you should contact a health professional for advice: [Healthy habits for learning](#). If your child will be absent from school, please complete the [absence form](#) on the school website.

HOMEWORK: Please take time to read the home learning [guidelines](#). Students will receive a homework sheet every week. Homework is due on Fridays. Homework will include work that reinforces what is happening in the classroom, including memory verse, reading, grammar/punctuation, social studies and maths.

STUDENT HANDBOOK: This can be located on our website for easy reference: [Student Handbook](#)

MEDICAL / CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send any changes in details, such as medical information, address or phone numbers to office@elimmtalbert.school.nz.

COMMUNICATION: Please refer to [our school website](#) where you can check email communications and our school Google calendar. If you are not receiving email notifications, please contact the office office@elimmtalbert.school.nz. School newsletters will now be emailed every third Tuesday of the month.

DEVICES/ LEARNING PLATFORMS: Students are required to bring a **fully charged** and **named** laptop/chrome book to school each day. Google Classroom is used to communicate within the classroom and share digital work. Ipads are not suitable at this level.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION: All students are required to take their morning-tea and lunch wrappers, uneaten food, etc. home with them. They cannot dispose of it at school. The recycling bins at our school have little provision for landfill items and food scraps. We would still like to strongly encourage all our parents to pack lunches in reusable containers and to buy in bulk.

BIRTHDAYS: We ask that you do not bring any food items to school to share with the class on your child's birthday. This includes lollies, chocolates, cupcakes, cake, etc. There may be students with allergies in the class and we want to encourage healthy eating choices.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Kowhai Kids Club provides after-school care off-site. Students are collected from school and taken to another school for after school care. More information about this service can be accessed via their website - [Kowhai Kids Club](#)

UNIFORM: During Term 3, students wear the winter uniform. Refer to the [school website](#) for requirements or the uniform section of the [Student Handbook](#) document. Please ensure that all items are **clearly named**. Hats are strongly encouraged this term. The intermediate students have a black and white Elim cap they can wear.

PARENT/CAREGIVER HELP: We are truly grateful for the support of our community. If you are a parent or caregiver who would like to help on future class trips and activities, please see the following: The school operates on the Ministry of Education's best practice. We have class trips and activities planned for this year. These cannot go ahead if the adult:child ratio is not met. **All volunteers are required to hold a current police clearance with Elim Christian College Mount Albert.** If you are unsure of your current police vetting status, please check with our admin staff. If you are not police-vetted via our school as yet, please note that this takes a few weeks to process.

OPEN-DOOR POLICY: We have an open-door policy. Teachers are in staff devotions until 8:30 am. We are available in the classroom to answer questions and to chat about minor issues from 8:30 am - 8:40 am. Alternatively, if you would like the time to talk further, please make an appointment with the teacher. We will be more than happy to discuss the matter with you.

If you would like to get in contact with us, our email addresses are:

Mr David Prickett - Rm 5
david.prickett@elimmtalbert.school.nz

Miss Sophie Zavaleta - Rm 7
sophie.zavaleta@elimmtalbert.school.nz

Miss Hannah Fale - Rm 6
hannah.fale@elimmtalbert.school.nz

Mr Elijah Tay - Rm 8
elijah.tay@elimmtalbert.school.nz

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you this term.

Yours sincerely,
The Year 7-8 Team
Elim Christian School Mount Albert