

Return to School - Further Details for Middle Years students and families

16th November 2021

Kia Ora parents,

We look forward to seeing our students return from Monday 22 November, we are looking forward to welcoming our Junior Years and Middle Years students back onsite. Students will return in the Lastname groups :

A-L on Mondays and Tuesdays

M-Z on Wednesdays and Thursdays

No students except those in existing registered bubbles will be on-site on Fridays.

These arrangements are for weeks 6 and 7 of the school term only.

We will reassess this plan on Friday 3rd December.

Blended learning through the access of course material or updates on Schoology continues whether Middle Year students are on-site or at home. This means that students on site are doing the same work as those who are off-site or at home.

I realise this arrangement is not ideal and will not suit everyone but as Mr Burton said in his email, "we can make this work as we are a kind and accommodating Christian School Community."

Monday 22 November onwards

Students will attend 2 consecutive days.

On **Monday/Tuesday** students with **last names, A-L inclusive** have the opportunity to go to school and on **Wednesday/Thursday** students with last names, **M-Z inclusive** have the opportunity to go to school.

On Friday, teachers will be available for a google meet/zoom at the usual time with classes. Pre-recorded links will be accessible in the Schoology tutor or student group or in the Upcoming calendar for your reviewing- this routine will not change.

Face-to-Face & Distance Learning

Teachers are continuing to set scheduled work in Schoology and this will not change. **Our use of Schoology ensures every student has equitable access to learning material and we will not leave students behind in terms of instructions, explanations, or feedback.**

In some instances, the teacher in front of the students may not be the same teacher on the timetable. This new normal may feel a little different and even strange and our commitment is to ensure that good learning continues while physical school re-emerges. Please bear with us as these arrangements are sorted and possibly updated each week.

Our physical spaces have been prepared so that physical distancing is possible and all students must wear a mask every day. Please can you make sure that these masks are named.

Even with the Delta variant, experts advise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools is low because of all the public health measures we will have in place.

What parents can do to help

- Stay at home if you or your child has any symptoms of being sick
- Avoid catching up with other parents, children, and whānau at the gates or inside, wear a face covering and maintain a two-meter distance from people not in your household bubble
- Get advice from your doctor if your child has complex medical needs (and please get in touch so that we can support your child to return onsite, wherever possible)
- Avoid having social catch-ups inside with children from other families at Alert Level 3
- Prepare your child for what to expect on their first day back e.g. how to physically distance (1 meter inside, 2 meters outside, how to wear a mask.
- Please be supportive of the challenge we are all facing - that certain students will be on-site and others won't be on-site YET.
- Particular friends may not have the same rostered days, this is only a temporary measure and with God's grace and help, we can get along with others for just two days.

What students will need to do on their return to the school site:

- **Year 7 and Year 8** students enter and exit the site at the **Simon Owen** (new concrete) walkway- make their way up to Mahi Tahi and access their classrooms that way.
- **Year 9 and Year 10** students enter and exit the school site from the **Montecito gate**.
- Younger siblings may enter through the same gate as the oldest child in their family.
- **Bus students** arriving and leaving enter and exit through the small car park gate at the side of the hall and walk along past the hall to enter their learning spaces.
- **For the first week, all timetabled PE will be low or no activity and no risk - therefore PE students will not be expected to change into PE gear.**
- **Be prepared for an enjoyable day of learning activities and a time to reconnect with teachers and friends.**

Parents on site

Parents are not permitted on-site in Alert Level 3, without prior arrangement. You can email the leadership team, whanau leader, or tutor teacher who will assist as needed.

New students to Elim Golflands Campus

During the lockdown, many new students joined our Elim Christian College community. We warmly welcome them again and will be on the lookout to assist this transition to onsite schooling.

Over time our 'new normal' will emerge and we hope you will be happy here and take advantage of the many opportunities we will be offering once again in the future.

Start and end of the day

It is normal for everyone to feel somewhat anxious about returning to school. Parents are encouraged to model a calm and positive attitude to children. If you anticipate significant difficulties on the first day, please email Mandy.heim@elim.school.nz or andre.loubser@elim.school.nz

Students may arrive at school between 8:15 am and 8:40 am (not earlier!) and are asked to go directly to their classroom, where teachers will be waiting to greet them. At 8:40 am our gates will be locked.

School finishes at the regular time of **3 pm**. Older siblings must wait for their younger siblings so they can exit through the designated areas.

Y9/Y10 Montecito place

Y7/Y8 Simon Owen place

Bus students out the staff car park small gate near the hall.

Bicycle or Scooter students exit out the car-park small gate- they must have a helmet and a mask on and must walk along the pavement until such time it is safe to ride.

Kelly Club can be contacted for after-school care for students in Years 1-8 only. Hours are from 3pm-6pm.

Thank you for supporting us with our return-to-school transition. **Please take the time to prepare your child(ren) for these changes, by discussing the above-mentioned points with them.** We will review our processes as needed, as new guidelines become available.

Please take the time to complete the following survey by **3pm on Wednesday 17 November** to give us a final indication of whether your child will resume face-to-face learning onsite with us from the week beginning Monday 22 November.

Survey Link: [Middle Years Return to School Survey](#)

| | Mon 22nd | Tues 23rd | Wed 24th | Thurs 25th | Fri 26th |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| School | A-L- Students Includes students of essential workers who have registered for the learning bubbles | A-L- Students Includes students of essential workers who have registered for the learning bubbles | M-Z Students Includes students of essential workers who have registered for the learning bubbles | M-Z Students Includes students of essential workers who have registered for the learning bubbles | All students are home learning on line unless they have been registered for a bubble. |
| Distance learning at home | M-Z Students Includes students who have not yet decided on return to school. | M-Z Students Includes students who have not yet decided on return to school. | A-L- Students Includes students who have not yet decided on return to school. | A-L- Students Includes students who have not yet decided on return to school. | |

- We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back soon.
- Ngā mihi nui, Mandy Heim

All staff teaching on site are fully vaccinated and will be wearing face coverings whilst teaching.

All learning spaces will be set up to cater for appropriate distancing and have good ventilation. Whilst ensuring we also follow safe sun practices we will teach students outside as much as possible.

You might be interested to know that in gathering the vaccination status of all our students 12 years old and up as required by the MOE, the results last week indicate that 77% of our students in that age group are fully vaccinated with a further 10% having had 1 injection so far. We respect the right of parents not to share their data.

We are not health clinicians but we do take seriously our responsibility to operate our state-integrated school according to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health Guidelines, doing our best for the health and safety of all on our sites.

General Public health Measures we Are Required to Meet

- minimize as much as possible, staff working across groups/classes of students.
- there is no specific physical distancing requirement inside or outside when at school, but a one-meter distance is recommended wherever practicable, particularly between adults.
- a two-meter distance from people you don't know remains a strong recommendation.
- if a child or staff member is sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if a doctor or health professional recommends them to do so)
- staff are to observe students/children on arrival checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up.
- Principals at state and state-integrated schools have the authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease under section 77 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
- regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into your elbow, don't touch your face (use hand sanitizer at entrances to classrooms for Alert Levels 2 and 3)
- The schools are required to display QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App (and to have other contact tracing systems in place including an attendance register and visitor register)
- indoor spaces should be well-ventilated for example by opening windows, doors, and any vents. Good practice would include fully opening all windows during breaks and after school for as long as possible. At Alert Level 3, outdoor learning is encouraged wherever possible.
- disinfect and clean all surfaces daily.
- exercising and singing must be held outdoors.
- hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with equipment.
- playgrounds can open
- itinerant music teachers will not be able to work across different schools at Alert Level 3.
- food should be eaten outside wherever practicable
- drinking fountains can now be used at Alert Level 3
- water bottles can be used and appropriate health and safety considerations followed for re-filling.