

3 February 2026

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whānau

Welcome back to a new year at Elim Christian College! We hope your holidays have been wonderful and refreshing. Our Term 1 theme is, "God knows all about me". Students will be learning about how God has made us all unique and for a purpose.

This term, our school wide focus is:

- Biblical Theme – **God knows all about me and wants me to understand my identity in Christ.**
- Elim Exploration – IDENTITY (TUAKIRI)
- Inquiry focus - Social Science -Society, communities, diverse cultures and our identity
- English focus - Reading, Writing, Spelling, Handwriting and Oral language
- Numeracy focus - Maths No Problem programme
- \*Vision – Confidently and responsibly living our Christian values
- \*Principles – Treaty of Waitangi / Inclusion / Community Engagement
- \*Values – Respect (Manaakitanga) / Integrity / Community and participation
- ARISE Key Competencies
  - Achievement: Using language, symbols, and texts
  - Responsibility: Managing Self
  - Kotahitanga Focus: We show respect/manaakitanga.

**SCRIPTURE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION:** We want to celebrate how students apply the Word of God in their lives. Students will have two larger passages of scripture to understand and apply each term. These verses relate to our Kotahitanga value for the term, with a hope to integrate character and scripture. On the homework sheet each week, there will be a copy of the scripture focus and discussion prompts for families to use at home. This is to help continue the conversation of scripture at home and deepen students' understanding and application of the verse. During the term, students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding and application of the scripture and will be able to choose a way to do this. It may be through memorisation and explanation orally, through journaling, drama, song, art work or a recorded presentation.

#### **SWIMMING LESSONS (YEAR 4 - 6 ONLY):**

Our Year 4 - 6 classes will also be participating in swimming lessons with the Community Swim programme this term. Year 3 will participate in these swimming lessons in Term 2. Seven 30-minute learn to swim lessons are delivered by qualified swimming instructors from the Swimgym swim school. The children are transported to and from school in special Community Swim buses.

The goal of the Community Swim Programme is to enable all children to develop the basic life skills of swimming and water survival skills. This aids them to realize the opportunities that await when the door to the world of aquatics is opened.

<b>Friday</b>	Starts: Friday 13th February	Last lesson: Friday 27th March	10.00am - Room 11 (Year 6) (Bus leaves at 9.30am) 10.30am - Room 3 (Year 4) 11.00am - Room 2 (Year 4) 11.30am - Room 1 (Year 4) 12.30 pm - Room 14 (Year 5 ) 1.00pm - Room 12 (Year 6)
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			1.30pm - Room 15 (Year 5) 2.00pm - Room 13 (Year 5/6)
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**The Community Swim Bus will pick each group up approximately 30 minutes before each lesson.**

**Please let your child's Pastoral Care Teacher know if you can help supervise these sessions, and come on the bus to ensure we have the correct adult/child ratio for safety reasons.**

**If we do not have enough adult helpers we will not be able to attend the lesson.**

**PARENT HELP:** The school operates on the Ministry of Education's best practice. We have swimming lessons, class trips and activities planned for this year. These cannot go ahead if the adult:child ratio is not met.

All Parent helpers / volunteers are required to hold a current police vetting done by Elim Christian College. If you are unsure of your police vetting status, or would like to submit a new one, please contact [golflands@elim.school.nz](mailto:golflands@elim.school.nz). If you are not police-vetted via our school as yet, please note that this takes a few weeks to process.

**UNIFORM:** Refer to the school website for requirements - <https://www.elim.school.nz/uniform/>. Please ensure that all items are **clearly named**.

**Please note:**

- Hats must be worn in Terms 1/4.
- Short-sleeved polo shirts must be worn in Terms 1/4.
- **PE uniform:** Regulation P.E. uniform shirt and shorts is compulsory for all Year 5 and 6 students, and for all Year 3 and 4 students who are representing the school in a sports team.

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

**HOMEWORK:** Students will receive a homework sheet every week. Homework will include spelling words focused on a sound pattern or rule that students will also be learning in class, scripture, a reading log and a math task. Spelling will be tested weekly on Fridays. Please refer to your child's homework book for more information. Please send any changes in medical information/address/phone number, etc. to: [golflands@elim.school.nz](mailto:golflands@elim.school.nz)

**WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION:** Please note that:

- 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.
- All containers/wrappers from our lunch providers (Subway, U-Sushi and Pita Pit) **must** be taken home to be disposed of. The bins at school cannot accommodate this volume of rubbish.
- The recycling bins at Golflands Campus have little provision for landfill items and food scraps.

Together with the above deliberate measures to reduce waste, increase recycling and improve sustainability, we would also like to strongly encourage all our parents to pack lunches in reusable containers and to buy in bulk.

**DROP OFF and PICK UP TIMES at Golflands Campus:**

As a school, we don't offer before or after school care. Regrettably, we are not resourced by the ministry to be able to do so. There are community groups that have some limited options for such care. We would encourage you to contact them regarding capacity.

At Golflands Campus, the earliest that students are able to be at school is **8:15am**. Before this time, there is no supervision or access to classrooms, toilets and safety provisions. Please do not drop students at school before this time.

All students need to be collected from school or have arrangements for their care in the afternoon by **3:30pm**. Beyond this time we lock the front gate for security reasons. Students are not allowed to remain unsupervised on site after 3.30pm.

There are a number of events happening this term so please ensure you take note of the term events and dates and complete the **Term 1 permission form** by clicking the link below.

**Please complete the online form by Monday 9th February, by clicking on this link:**

**[- Term 1 Permission Form](#)**

**Notices: To keep you up to date, please refer to our school website where you can check notices and our current school calendar. If you are not receiving these notifications, please contact the Golflands Campus.**

The following dates and activities may be helpful to know:

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Week 1 Monday, 2 February		<b>First day of Term 1</b>	
Week 1 Friday, 6 February		<b>WAITANGI DAY</b> <i>(public holiday, school is closed)</i>	
Week 2 Thursday, 12 February		<b>Photolife Photos</b>	GC hall
Week 2 Thursday, 12 February	6pm - 7:30pm	<b>Welcome to our Learning Spaces Evening</b>	GC hall & classrooms
Week 2 Friday, 13 February	Set class times	<b>Weekly Swimming Lessons begin</b> <i>(these continue until March 27th)</i>	Lloyd Elsmore Pools
Week 5 Thursday, 5 March		<b>Ministry Provided Teacher Development Day</b> <i>(School is closed for students from Year 1 - 8)</i>	
Week 7 Monday 16 March - Friday 20 March		<b>Travelwise Week</b>	
Week 7 Tuesday, 17 March		<b>Cultural Day</b>	
Week 8 Thursday, 26 March	6pm - 7pm	<b>New Entrants Parent Evening</b>	GC Staffroom
Week 9 Monday, 30 March		<b>Winning House Mufti Day</b> <i>(free of charge)</i>	
Week 9, Tuesday, 31 March - Thursday, 2 April		<b>Year 5 Camp</b>	Willow Park Christian Camp
Week 9 Thursday, 2 April		<b>Easter Assembly &amp; Displays</b>	GC hall
Week 9 Thursday, 2 April		<b>Last day of term</b>	

We have an open-door policy with regard to communicating with teachers. Please be in touch if there is an issue you want to discuss or seek clarification on.

We look forward to getting to know your child and partnering with you as they continue their learning journey this year.

Yours sincerely  
GCJY Leadership Team