



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."



Greetings | Giday | Kia Ora | Kia Orana | Malo e Lelei | Fakaalofa Lahi Atu | Talofa Lava
Nī hāo | Salut | Namaste | Bonjour | Bula Vinaka | Guten Tag | Goeie Dag | Shalom | Cìao
おはよう (Ohayoou) | 안녕 Ahn Nyeong | Olá | Privet! | Xin Chào | Salam

Newsletter 1 | Term One | Week 2 | February 13, 2025 | www.ellerslie.school.nz | www.facebook.com/ellerslieschool

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tena koutou katoa Ellerslie whānau

The year has successfully kicked off with a school roll of just under 750 students. The first cohort entry group of youngest students has settled well into the Nest room. Already we can see the benefits of new entrant students all starting on the same day. We have also had a number of new students joining the school across all different year levels. A warm welcome to all our new families and staff members.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP 2025

The makeup of the school leadership team remains the same in 2025. This group has a variety of roles and responsibilities within and across the school. They are:

- Nick Butler: Principal - nickb@ellerslie.school.nz
- Kate Giebel: Deputy Principal - Years 5-8 - kateg@ellerslie.school.nz
- Jillian Mitchell: Deputy Principal - Years 0-2 - jillianm@ellerslie.school.nz
- Fiona Bilsborough: Deputy Principal - Years 3-4 - fionab@ellerslie.school.nz

The team leaders who lead each school team also play a pivotal role in leading teaching and learning at Ellerslie. Team leaders provide regular support and leadership for both the students and staff within the teams they are responsible for. These leaders are:

- Fiona Yamamoto: Rimu Team - Years 0-1
- Joanne Pulman: Rata Team - Year 2
- Angela Fox: Mataī Team - Years 3-4
- Elisa Patterson: Pōhutukawa Team - Years 5-6
- Amanda Croft: Kauri Team - Years 7-8

PROPERTY UPDATE

It was fantastic to see the new bike / walking path installed before the start of the school year. This has been an Ellerslie School and community funded project and not only completes Stage one of the bike path but also provides an excellent all weather path that links the school to the back gate, making the site very accessible all year round. The next big project on the schedule is to install a 6 metre x 20 metre awning outside Rimu Pod 2. This will create a useful covered space for the Year 0-1 students. The school continues to work with the Ministry of Education regarding the future location and funding of the school hall.



MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Parents and Caregivers are encouraged to attend one of the most important events in the school calendar. Meet the Teacher evening provides an excellent opportunity for parents and caregivers to come and meet your child's Guardian Teacher and Pod teachers who will be supporting your child(ren) in 2025. The format for the evening is:

6:00pm - 6:20pm: Welcome - Presiding Member and Principal (if raining this will not happen)

6:30pm - 7:00pm: Session 1 in Pods

7:15pm - 7:45pm: Session 2 in Pods (repeat of Session 1)

6:30pm - 8:00pm: Fundraising and Engagement Coordinator available for questions and volunteer sign ups.

As mentioned above, we will conduct two identical sessions to allow flexibility for working parents/whanau and also for families with more than one child at school. At the welcome from 6:00pm we will briefly discuss the school's strategic focus for 2025. In our learning environments teachers will introduce themselves and then explain the teaching and learning programmes for the year. While this event is not a suitable time to speak to the teacher specifically about your child, teachers are always available to speak with you at a prearranged time that suits your family and the teacher.



SAFER INTERNET USE - Parent Webinars Term 1 2025

Online Safety for Children Under 10

Date and time: 5th March @ 7.00pm

Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Discover practical advice and helpful tools to support tamariki online with Netsafe's first parent webinar of 2025. Designed for parents and whānau of tamariki under the age of 10, this webinar will explore common concerns and introduce the Hector's World resource, designed exclusively for primary school children, their teachers and their families.

The webinar will explore:

- The opportunities and risks under 10s face online
- Resources available from Netsafe (including Hector's World) to help support online safety in the home
- What to do when things go wrong online



Whether you're seeking reassurance or taking your first steps in learning about online safety, this welcoming and judgment-free webinar is here to support you. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

Supporting Your Pre-Teens and Teens to Chat Safely Online

Date and time: 26th March @ 7.30pm.

Register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

This webinar is designed for parents and whānau who are looking for ways to support their 11-18 year olds to navigate the challenges and opportunities of chatting online.

Gain practical tips and advice for supporting your children's online safety when they chat and connect in the digital world.

We'll cover:

- Popular chat based social media apps and online games, and the practical safety steps that can be used on them
- Tips for discussing safer online chatting with your rangatahi
- What to do when things go wrong online

Whether you're seeking reassurance or taking your first steps in learning about online safety, this welcoming and judgment-free webinar is here to support you. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

LEARNING DISCUSSIONS AT HOME

Talking about the school day at home can be very helpful to both children and parents. Here are some useful questions that might help to get conversation happening:

1. *Can you tell me about the best part of your day?*
2. *What was the hardest thing you had to do?*
3. *Who did you play with at break times?*
4. *Did anyone do anything funny?*
5. *What did you talk about or learn today?*
6. *What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today?*

Remember, like adults, sometimes children just don't feel like talking at certain times. You will know what is best for your child. This could be at the dinner table, in the car, while playing a game or just before they go to sleep.

Thank You!

The infographic to the right shows the various fundraising events and activities that happened in 2024. Thank you to all those members of the school community who supported these events last year. This includes all those fantastic volunteers who provided time and support to ensure all these excellent events and activities could happen.

As well as the money raised through events a big thank you must go to Sarah Nuttall our Engagement and Fundraising co-ordinator who throughout the year raised nearly \$50k worth of grants which went towards Teacher Aide salaries and essential resources.

An exciting year ahead of Fundraising and Engagement events has been planned as we continue to improve our school environment, to ensure we have all the resources we need to cater for everyone and continue to strengthen our school and whanau connections.

See you at the Ellerslie School Big Picnic on Thursday 27 February 5.00pm-7.30pm

Ngā mihi nui
Nick Butler - Principal
'To be the best we can be'



THIS WEEK AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOCUS

School Focus for Week 2: Teacher's Choice.

School Focus for Week 3: Be Responsible - I can be organised and prepared.

School Focus for Week 4: Be Respectful - I can be respectful by following the rules.

REMINDER - STAFF ONLY DAYS 2025

Please note that Staff Only Days will be held on **Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April, 2025**. Ellerslie School will be **CLOSED** for instruction on these days. Kelly Club will be open to those who require child care services - ellerslie@kellyclub.co.nz.

2025 SWIMMING PROGRAMME

From Week 2 to Week 9 this term, all students will take part in swimming lessons at the YMCA Panmure pool. Students will have eight 30 minute lessons across a 2 week block. Students will travel to and from the pools by bus. Permission forms and further information will be emailed out in the coming weeks, depending on when your child's swimming lessons will start. Swimming fees can be paid on Kindo.



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child requires the school to hold any medical equipment such as asthma inhalers or epi pens, please deliver these to the school office with a completed medical form, which can be found on the Ellerslie School website under "Forms and Info".

SUNSHADE, HATS AND SUNSCREEN

We are committed to keeping our children safe in the sun and have developed Sun Safe Procedures accordingly. Children are required to wear school uniform hats when playing in the sun in Terms 1 and 4. It is essential that children have hats at school every day. We strongly encourage the wearing of hats to and from school, and also suggest the use of sunscreen. Hats can be purchased through the Argyle online website, via Kindo or at the school office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The cut off date for orders from the latest Scholastic Book issue is 3:00pm on Monday 17 February. If you have any queries, please email Sharon Wilson - sharonw@ellerslie.school.nz.

WEETBIX TRYATHLON - SUNDAY 30 MARCH

This year's Weetbix Tryathlon will be held on Sunday 30 March at Point England Reserve. The Early Bird Discount closes on 2 March 2024. Their Splash and Dash event is open for 6 year olds and Tryathlon options are open for students 7 years old and above. Ellerslie school is registered so you have the option to have your child's registration pack delivered to school and give us a chance to win some prizes for the school. Click on this [LINK](#) for more information and to register your child/ren. Contact Sam Small if you have any questions - sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2025

We are looking forward to another great football season this year. Registrations are open for the Ellerslie Tamaki League. If you wish to sign up for a school team (available for age groups Under 6 years - Under 8 years only) please use this link and indicate if you wish to be part of a school team - [LINK](#). Key information about the season dates, fees, uniform etc. can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions please contact Sam Small - sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Please ensure that your child is aware of any after school arrangements, prior to arriving at school. If there are any urgent changes, please call the office prior to 2:00pm and we will try to pass the message on. Teachers and students are immersed in learning in class and unable to respond to last minute emails. Kelly Club is open for after school care - ellerslie@kellyclub.co.nz.

CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please be mindful of our school community by keeping safe in the car park and roads around school.

- The school car park is for staff only.
- Parents/whanau are reminded to use the Kalmia Street crossing safely, at all times.
- Please do not park in the bus stop outside the school.
- Be respectful of the businesses in our community whose car parks are for their staff, customers and visitors only. This particularly applies to The Heart Foundation.
- When using the drop-off/pick-up zone outside the school, please note that this is a 2 minute area, and passengers should alight safely on the passenger's side of your vehicle.



ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC - THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Please come and join our Ellerslie School BIG Picnic on Thursday 27 February from 5:00pm to 7:30pm - which will be held on the school field. It's the perfect chance for catching up with friends and getting to know new families from your children's year and Guardian Groups. We can't wait to see you and your whānau there - this is an annual event not to be missed!

Bring your own picnic to enjoy, or we will have the following food on offer to buy Curry, Sushi, BLT's, Pizza, Sausage Sizzle, Ice Blocks and Snow Cones. We'll have a Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Crazy Course for the kids to have fun on, plus you can throw wet sponges at teachers!

We are in need of many more helpers to ensure we have enough people to sell all the delicious food we'll have, and keep children safe on the bouncy castles - if you can help please email Sarah Nuttall on sarahn@ellerslie.school.nz.

ICE BLOCK SALES - FRIDAYS

A reminder that ice blocks are for sale every Friday after school during Terms 1 and 4. Ice blocks are only \$2.00 each - cash accepted and Eftpos available. These can be found next to the junior playground. Thank you for your support.



The Ellerslie School
Big Picnic
Thursday 27 February
5:00pm - 7:30pm
at Ellerslie School

Bring your family and a picnic blanket to relax with old and new friends.

Bring a picnic or buy:
Curry and sushi (available to buy before on Kindo),
BLTs, pizza, sausage sizzle,
ice-blocks and snow cones!

Other fun activities:
Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Crazy Course \$2.00
Throw wet sponges at your teachers \$2.00

See you there!

Free dance lessons with
Free sports games with
KELLY CLUB

IMPORTANT DATES

13 FEBRUARY 2025 - MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - from 6:00pm

27 FEBRUARY 2025 - ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC - 5:00pm-7:30pm on the school field

(Dates can also be found under "Calendar" on the Ellerslie School App, and can be downloaded to your own diary.)

REMINDERS

TERM DATES FOR 2025

Please note that the following dates for the 2025 school year have been finalised as follows:

- **Term One - Monday 03 February to Friday 11 April** (Holidays - Waitangi Day 06 February)
- **Term Two - Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June** (Holidays - King's Birthday 02 June, Matariki 20 June)
- **Term Three - Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September**
- **Term Four - Monday 06 October to Wednesday 17 December** (Holiday - Labour Day 27 October)

STAFF ONLY DAYS 2025

Please note that Staff Only Days will be held on **Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April, 2025**. Ellerslie School will be **CLOSED** for instruction on these days. Kelly Club will be open to those who require child care services - ellerslie@kellyclub.co.nz.

ABSENCES

If your child/ren is/are going to be away from school, please do one of the following **BEFORE 9:00am** each morning:

- call the school (579-5477), press option 1 and leave a message on the answer phone.
- use the Absence submission template on the Ellerslie School App.
- send an email to office@ellerslie.school.nz
- use the Absence submission form on the school website.

Please clearly state your child/ren's name, Guardian Group and reason why they are absent.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is away for 5 continuous days or more, please note that you are required to either:

- Before Travel - complete an "Application for Student Extended Leave Form" - [link](#)
- Illness which is not Covid-19 related - provide a Medical Certificate.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

8.30am Bell	Learning areas are open for all students.
Block 1	8:50am - 10:00am
Snack Break	10:00am-10:10am
Block 2	10:10am - 11:20am
Morning Tea Break	11:20am - 11:40am
Block 3	11:40am - 12:50pm
Lunch Break	12:50pm - 1:35pm
Block 4	1:35pm - 2:45pm
2:45pm	School finishes for all students.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

We always encourage feedback both positive and anything you think we need to work on to keep making our school a great place for our learners. The Concerns and Complaints procedure encourages concerns to be resolved informally through discussions with the person concerned. If this is appropriate, please contact the relevant person directly. If this is not appropriate, the procedure provides for other avenues to resolve issues. Copies of our procedures can be found on the [school website](#).



The poster features the Ellerslie School crest in the top left corner. The main title is "Ellerslie School's Entry Dates 2025". Below the title, it states "We will have 8 entry dates for 5 year olds throughout the year." The central part of the poster is a photograph of children playing on a playground structure, with two columns of dates overlaid on it. The left column is titled "Start of Term Date" and the right column is titled "Mid Term Date". At the bottom, it says "For more information and online enrolment, visit our website: www.ellerslie.school.nz".

Start of Term Date	Mid Term Date
• 03 February 2025	• 10 March 2025
• 28 April 2025	• 26 May 2025
• 14 July 2025	• 18 August 2025
• 06 October 2025	• 10 November 2025

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