



Aidanfield Christian School

Growing in Wisdom and Stature | Stand and be Confident

House Points



Hauāuru
136899



Pōtonga
127085



Mārangai
126736



Tūāraki
120863

Kia ora Aidanfield Whānau

Christmas - too early?

Have you heard Christmas music yet? It's a little scary how early this starts. It seems for some the earlier the Christmas celebrations can get underway the better. For others waiting until much closer to the time is a good idea. In each scenario there is a sense of anticipation, and this is part of the time of year we are in. There is anticipation for the coming holiday season, which many families will enjoy to varying degrees. For some, the season will bring a reminder of loss, of empty seats and places, of grief. For others no such sense but one of excitement and joy. For others perhaps an interesting mix of both where joy and sorrow sit unusually comfortably together. Our lives are dynamic and complex and in this mix stands the constant and dependable promise that our saviour, Jesus, is with us, this is the very essence of Christmas - the reminder of this promise. We can both anticipate this: His presence as He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. We can also see through our history that this is true and therefore we can anticipate the promise of the Christmas season to be a sure and dependable - and this is surely a hope to celebrate and find joy in - no matter our circumstance. We aim to capture the depth of this in our programmes at ACS as we lead into the final part of 2024.



We have a range of aspects in the life of ACS to anticipate and celebrate - read on.

ERO report on ACS - A celebration!

Earlier in the year ERO reviewed our school and its functions. The report is now on the ERO website (<https://ero.govt.nz/institution/82/aidanfield-christian-school>) and is worth a read. Overall it is very positive and acknowledges the work that our staff team do day in and day out. It would appear you can have confidence that we are doing a good job!

Enrolment scheme - This is an anticipation. As mentioned before, the Ministry of Education has run a consultation period on the Christian School Networks enrolment scheme. This plays a significant role in determining who is able to gain entry to our school. We are now waiting to hear the final outcome of what the new scheme will look like. The scheme for our school is very important as it guides the decisions on who we are able to offer places to for the coming year. We have received over 300 applications for the 2025 year and as such clear guidance about priorities is vital.

Roll increase - This is both a celebration and an anticipation. What is exciting is the Ministry of Education have now granted our school a maximum roll increase over the next six years. In 2025 and 2026 we have a maximum roll of 450, an increase of 25 from this year. We are then able to grow by 25 students each year to a maximum roll of 550 in 2030. This is exciting for the many families who apply and who have not been able to gain enrolment to our school - we can now take more families in. The Proprietor has now begun the design process for new building additions to allow us to have classrooms for this increase and begin to have specialist rooms for the Arts and Technology. We intend to build through 2027 with new rooms available just in time in 2028. Your attendance dues are what pay for the new buildings and the ones we currently have - in this regards...thank you!

The Proprietor and Board have been working to achieve the 550 maximum roll since 2010 and it is a real blessing to finally have this approved. On this journey many families have commented that they do not want to lose the small school feel. They said this when we were 150 students and again when we were 250 students, and again 350 students...it seems we still have an aspect of this community based school and we are confident we can maintain this all the way to 550 students. We are community focused and relationally based.

Class placements 2025 - this is definitely anticipation! We do not ask for parent feedback on class placements. We retain the job of deciding which child goes in which class and with who. All our classes are mixed for very good reason and we spend considerable time and energy doing this well.

School App

- * Stay Up To Date *
- * Notify Absences *
- * Link to our Website *
- * School Calendar *

Download at

www.aidanfield.apps.school.nz/install/



We have a committed group of parents that are available to support you in prayer. Contact them in confidence at prayerrequest@aidanfield.school.nz



Has anything changed for you and your family this term? Moved house / changed email / contact details? Please do let us know.

office@aidanfield.school.nz

Friendship is only one aspect considered and is not the defining decision maker for placements. Sometimes we get feedback that a class placement has caused a child all sorts of issues over the summer break. Such change and challenge is resilience building for most children. Our experience shows that even the most anxious child adapts quickly to new classes, teachers and student groups and does the year well. I encourage you to trust our process when you get the class placement letter at the end of the year. Please also be aware that we are mixing up our teaching teams and have new teachers at all levels.

New Staff, 2025 - Definitely celebration! As mentioned above, we are moving many of our teachers around the levels and we have now made appointments for 2025 and we have the following new teachers joining our teams: Mrs Steph Gennills (New Entrants), Miss Grace Herring (Year 1 and 2), Ms Teresa Kim (Year 3 and 4), Mrs Sharon Yule is now with us permanently and in Year 5 and 6 in 2025 and Mrs Qaylah Beckmann joins the year 7 and 8 team. Mrs Ruth Richardson returns to Year 7 and 8 and Mrs Toni-Lee Nasolo returns as our kapa haka oversight and release teacher across a range of levels. Two of these teachers are getting married in the near future and names will change! Each is an excellent teacher and we look forward to welcoming each to our teaching team. If praying is something you do - please uphold our staff in your prayers as they lead and guide your young people.

Using the Carpark - a frustration! I have to admit to being more than frustrated at how some people use the carpark and kiss and drop zone. Any car that stops in the driveway so that others cannot get past is causing significant frustration - and it happens almost every day unless a school staff member is out there to ask people to move. **DO NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY** - please! When a car stops so others cannot get past it backs traffic out to Aidanfield Drive and sometimes back past the bridge, stops buses moving down the road, hinders the public using Aidanfield Drive and causes danger - just so a parent does not need to go around the circle again because their child isn't ready. Please think of others and do not block the driveway. The whole thing works beautifully if we all do what is right. Thank you to those parents that arrive five to 10 minutes later - it spreads the load of traffic and is actually much quicker for everyone - genius idea - thank you.

End of year and prizegiving's - anticipation and celebration

We are five weeks from finished for the year. We have our final full school prizegiving at the Lincoln Events Centre. Some parents ask why? Why in Lincoln? Why the whole school when we don't know most of the students who go across the stage? Why do the juniors have to sit for so long? And, why is it at such an awkward time?

Lincoln event centre is the only venue that is an achievable price and holds the number of people we need space for - close to 1000 now. It is worth the trip to Lincoln so we are able to be together.

But, why do we need to be together? Because we are a community of people and we want our students to understand that they are part of the larger community of our school - it fosters a sense of belonging, a pride in a place and helps to make students feel a part of something bigger than their corner. We also know that your students watching older students is inspiring. We have so many conversations with our older students who talk of seeing 'bigger kids' getting acknowledged and deciding they wanted to achieve well, do that job, strive for that leadership position. In this sense the whole school prize giving is not so much about the adults - its mostly about our students. We pick the awkward time so as to allow as many parents as want to be there the possibility of being there - even those that work until 5pm - it is inclusive. It also allows the younger students to perhaps have a later night than usual - but not terribly late. As we meet together, we can celebrate with our students, the year that has gone and give honour to our Lord for His faithfulness.

We invite you to join us at Lincoln Events Centre on Thursday night 12 December. All students need to be dropped off no later than 5pm. The event starts at 5.30 and usually runs for between 1.45 and 2.00 hours although we try to keep it shorter.

The final day of school is Friday 13 December. Students are to be picked up between 12.30 and 12.50 please.

More details will around end of year arrangement will follow in a few weeks time, please keep an eye out for it.

Grace and peace

Mark Richardson

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14 November :	Junior Primary trip to show
15 November:	Show Day (Public Holiday)
19 November:	Year 6 Orientation in Middle School
20 November:	All New Parents to the School Orientation
20 November:	Second hand uniform sale 2.45pm at school
21 November:	Triathlon
23 November:	Tuhono Festival
25 Nov - 6 Dec:	NE-Yr2 Yr 5-6 Swimming
28 November:	Mufti Day
29 November:	Library closed- All books must be returned
4 - 6 December :	The Journey
6 December:	Monster Music Concert 2pm
9 December:	Leavers Dinner , Yr 6 Celebration
11 December:	Junior Nativity Play
12 December :	Prize Giving evening
13 December:	Learning Tree Assemblies in the morning
13 December :	Last day for pupils - end 12.30pm
30 January 2025:	First day of school

Attendance Dues 2025

The CST have emailed attendance dues information for 2025. If you did not receive this email please contact Rhonda attdues@cst.org.nz. The information is also available on their website - please [click here](#) to view.

Multilingual videos to raise awareness about measles and MMR vaccine

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities, with the support of Te Whatu Ora, has released a series of three animated videos to explain what measles is, how to protect yourself from the disease and where you can access reliable health

- [简体中文 | Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)
- [한국어 | Korean](#)
- [日本語 | Japanese](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [ภาษาไทย | Thai](#)

Help Us Make our Fair a Success Next Year!

As Catharine and Fiona step down after 6 years from their work organizing the school fairs, we're on the lookout for someone (or a team) to help coordinate next year's event in March.

Don't worry—you won't be alone! We've got Claire Adams ready to handle the admin and voucher side of things, and a fantastic group from last year is excited to manage various departments. Your role would be to oversee the big picture, making sure we have enough volunteers, ordering tables, booking rooms, and so on.

Fiona and Catharine will be around to help with the transition and offer advice, so you'll have plenty of support. You can keep things as they are or introduce new ideas—it's up to you!

The fair is a key fundraiser for PAACS, and we'd hate to see it not happen. If you're interested in helping out or want to learn more, just drop us an email at aidanfieldparents@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

Aidanfield Christian School invites international students to study with us throughout the year and enjoys them as part of our school community. As part of this, we are looking for Homestay families who would be able to welcome a student (or more than one) into their homes for part of the year in 2025. The stay could be as short as a week, or occasionally, a longer term. The student would be at least 11 years old, and attend Aidanfield Christian School everyday. This is a wonderful way to introduce a range of cultures to your home, and to share the love of Christ, reflecting hospitality and love to 'strangers in the land'. If you would like to be involved in this ministry or would like more information, please contact homestay@aidanfield.school.nz OR kaye.lawn@aidanfield.school.nz

RELIEF TEACHERS NEEDED

ACS is keen to add to their pool of valued Relief Teachers. These would be for day relief, often at short notice within the school. If you are a registered teacher, are looking to get back into teaching, wish to have ACS as one of the schools you relieve at AND can uphold the Christian character of the school, please don't be shy - get in touch with Kaye Lawn who will be very grateful to chat with you about the possibilities. This could be for Primary or Middle School (or both). Please email kaye.lawn@aidanfield.school.nz or call in at the office to speak with her. Please also ask those friends and whānau who may be interested in this. Thank you!



AIDANFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FINAL WEEK!

Sunday 10 November is the last day for PAACS Cookie Dough and Croissant Fundraiser. If you would like to make an order click on the link below. Orders to be picked up at the school from 3pm on Thursday 28 November. All funds go towards updating the school playground.

<https://aidanfieldchristianschoolcookies.raiseit.co.nz/aidanfieldchristianschool>

Stay up to date with a snap of your fingers



IT'S EASY!

Our School Communication All In One Spot

- School Alert Groups
- Cancellations
- Direct Absentees
- Contacts Directory
- School Events
- Daily Notices
- Plus Much More!

 **School Apps** NZ Simple free download: In Google Play & App Store search 'SchoolAppsNZ' & choose our school once installed.

FAMILY EPISODES UPDATES

Listening to Families videos provide answers to everyday questions about health and wellbeing challenges facing children and adolescents. Many of these challenges can affect overall attendance. The questions the videos answer are real - they come directly from families. The answers are provided by trusted specialists.

Eczema

<https://www.listeningtofamilies.co.nz/eczema>

Aimee Mackey-Clinical Nurse Specialist in Eczema/ Allergy, answers families questions.

ADHD - Parent Program

<https://www.listeningtofamilies.co.nz/adhd/parent-education>

Hania Wagenvoort-Social worker, Jan Hassan-Educational Psychologist and Christchurch Methodist Mission talk about the ADHD Parent program.



On the 23rd of November at 1p.m, our Kapa Haka is performing at the Town Hall in the Tūhono festival. We have spent this year working towards this event. If you are free and would like to come along to support us tickets can be purchased at humanatix.com.

PRIMARY NEWS

We started the term with a real treat - Emmanuel Christian School bought 70 of their very talented musicians over to perform for us. We got to see and listen to their worship band, orchestra, recorder ensemble, Junior and Senior Choirs. It was amazing!

Our Kapa Haka performed our school Waiata Rautāwhiri for the Emmanuel performers.



After a significant period of Parent Association fundraising, planning and construction, the GaGa pit is now up and going. It's a well utilised space adjacent to the hall and it's AMAZING! Our students are loving it, the wider community are using it at weekends and after hours, and we could not have done it without the support of our parent body.

Feel free to come down one weekend or evening and have a look - bring the extended whānau and a ball (dodge ball softness is best) and have a go!

Thanks to all those involved - we are blessed to have an active group of parents always striving for opportunities for our tamariki at school.



They have also had some exciting visitors for their 'People Who Help Us Topic' work. So far, they have had a Nurse and a Police Officer in to talk about their roles.



Sir Peter Beck Zoom Call

The junior school had an exciting surprise zoom call with Sir Peter Beck from Rocket Lab. At the end of last term, we all wrote letters filled with questions. Peter Beck read all our letters and offered to Zoom call us to answer some of them!

We even got to pray for him at the end, which was pretty cool.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

In October 2024, our student Muno Saruwaka represented New Zealand South Island at the prestigious Chinese Bridge Competition in Tianjin (China), competing against 69 contestants from five continents. The journey was nothing short of a thrilling, intense experience filled with challenges, powerful cultural exchanges, and unforgettable moments that will stay with us forever.

Each day was packed with full immersion in vibrant local culture, with a few days of competition rounds, rehearsals, and recordings at the TV station. The resilience Muno showed in the face of pressure and competition is a true testament to his strength of character, sportsmanship, and dedication. His perseverance paid off when he secured 7th place overall and proudly brought home the Oceania champion title!

This adventure has taught us invaluable lessons about the power of unity, hard work, and faith. Through mutual effort and unwavering support from everyone involved, the support of the ACS community, and the love of God, we discovered that potential and possibility are only limited by the boundaries we set for ourselves. Meeting people from all around the world, sharing diverse experiences, and learning about each other's lives reminded us of the beauty of global citizenship—how we're all connected through shared dreams and aspirations.

We thank God for this exceptional opportunity - to see, to hear, and to feel the world in new ways through the eyes of others - and that with the love of God, we can overcome any challenge.

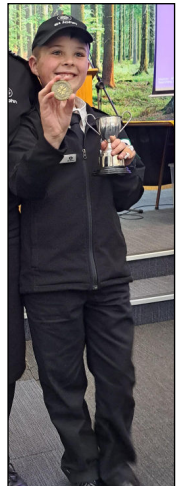
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ~Philippians 4:13~



Congratulations to Claire who participated in the New Zealand Gymnastics Championships during the school holidays. She was placed 2nd overall.



Congratulations to Elliot who participated in the St John Placings in Regional competition for first aid. He won 1st place in resuscitation (CPR) and 3rd place in Communications. Both of these test had 15 people from the whole of the South Island in the St John's youth programme.



CONGRATULATION to our Athletes: South West Zone Athletics

BOYS

High Jump

1st Place - Seth (Y6)

1st Place - Elijah (Y7)

Discus

1st Place - Joshua (Y5)

1st Place - Pao (Y7 AWD)

Shot Put

2nd Place - Joshua (Y5)

1st Place - Pao (Y7 AWD)

Long Jump

3rd Place - Isaac (Y5)

1st Place - Elijah (Y7)

3rd Place - Ryan (Y8)

80m Sprint

2nd Place Seth (Y6)

2nd Place Emma (Y6)

100m Sprint

1st Place - Elijah (Y7)

3rd Place - Ryan (Y8)

800m

2nd Place - Isaac (Y5)

1500m

3rd Place - Ryan (Y8)

GIRLS

High Jump

2nd Place - Emma (Y7)

Shot Put

3rd Place - Nori (Y6)

Long Jump

1st Place - Briana (Y5)

3rd Place - Hannah (Y7)

80m Sprint

Emma (Y6)

100m Sprint

3rd Place Beth (Y7)

800m

2nd Place - Briana (Y5)

1500m

3rd Place - Claire Li (Y7)

The 'From Bellies, Babies to Tweens' market is on SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER from 9am-12noon at the Halswell RLFC, Halswell Rd.

This is a buy/sell new & pre-loved market to help families in the community find maternity, baby, kids & tweens items all in one place at affordable prices. If you're interested in coming along or would like to be a stallholder, follow on Facebook & Instagram or send an email to fbtmarket@gmail.com



**BUY/SELL
PRELOVED
MARKET**

Maternity / Babies /
Kids / Tweens

Halswell Rugby League
Football Club

17 NOV
9AM-12NOON

fbtmarket@gmail.com

A REMINDER FOR US ALL

Park smarter around schools

Help us create a safer environment around your kura – for all ākonga (students), mātua (parents) and kaimahi (staff).

Common parking restrictions

Parking restrictions are in place to help keep everyone safe and reduce congestion.



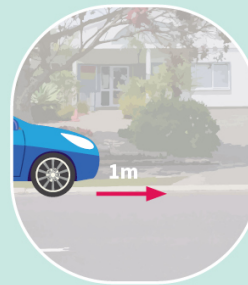
This will be at the safest drop-off and pick-up place. You can stop here for three minutes only – enough time for children to say goodbye and leave the car.



This means parking is restricted to the number of minutes on the sign. P120 means you can only stop there for 120 minutes.



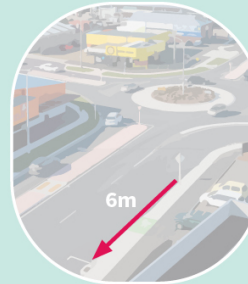
Broken yellow lines along the edge of the road mean you can't stop, pull over, or park there at any time.



You must leave a one metre gap between your car and any driveway.



You must not park your car on the footpath or in a way that blocks the footpath.



You must not stop or park within six metres of any crossing or intersection.

Breaking these rules can result in a fine.

For more tips, head to

ccc.govt.nz/schooltravel

