Henderson South School

Caring Sharing Learning | Cultural Creative Critical Thinkers

Wednesday 25th November 2026

Principal's Important messages

I am writing to inform you of a few subtle yet impactful changes to our weekly timetable, designed to enhance learning outcomes for all our students commencing in Term 1 2027.

*Starting on **Tuesday 2nd February 2027**, our daily school finish time will move from **2:45 pm to 3:00 pm**. Alongside this extra 15 minutes each day, we are adjusting the frequency of three of our regular school-wide programmes:*

- ***Assembly** will now run on a **fortnightly** schedule, Week 1, Week 3, Week 5, Week 7, Week 9 and Week 10 (final assembly).*
- ***Bible in Schools** will also run on a **fortnightly** schedule as per assemblies.*
- ***Waiata kura** will run on a fortnightly basis as per assemblies*

Why We Are Making These Changes

Our teaching staff have consistently reflected on the challenge of navigating a crowded curriculum. Delivering thorough, high-quality instruction in our core subjects—Maths, Reading, and Writing—requires sustained focus, while our wider Topic work (Science, Social Studies, the Arts, etc.) is typically slotted into the afternoons.

*By extending the day slightly and streamlining our non-classroom schedules, we will gain **three additional hours of targeted teaching time every week**.*

I am confident that these adjustments will give our classroom programmes the breathing room they need to operate at a far more productive and meaningful level, giving teachers the time required to cover essential learning areas thoroughly.

Summary of Changes

- ***New Dismissal Time:** 3:00 pm (Monday to Friday)*
- ***Assembly:** Fortnightly Week 1, Week 3, Week 5, Week 7, Week 9 and Week 10 (final assembly)*
- ***Bible in Schools:** Fortnightly as per assembly weeks.*
- ***Waiata-a-kura:** Fortnightly as per the assembly weeks.*

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continuously seek ways to optimize learning and growth for our students. If you have any questions regarding pick-up routines or schedule updates, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office.

TEACHERS ONLY DAY AND IMPORTANT DATES

Just a friendly reminder that ***Friday 27th November*** *is Teachers* ***Only Day.***

There will be no school for students on this day as teachers have math professional development.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ***Friday 27th November – Teachers Only Day – School Closed***
- ***Friday 27th November – Year 6 Orientation Morning Bruce McLaren School***
- ***Thursday 3rd December – Kapa Haka Group are preforming at Bruce McLaren Intermediate. Weather permitting.***
- ***Friday 4th December – Whole School FUN DAY – See timetable below***
- ***Wednesday 9th December – Class Parties – All classes***
- ***Thursday 10th December – Reports go home***
- ***Friday 11th December - Year 6 Graduation assembly 9.30 am – 11.00 am***
- ***Monday 14th December – Children will be visiting their classes for 2027***
- ***Tuesday 15th December – Medal Assembly at 11.00 am – 11.45 am***
- ***Tuesday 15th December – Last Day School finishes at 12.00 noon. Please be on time to collect your child/ren as all staff will be off site.***

We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar.

PLEASE NOTE: *Class parties are NOW on* ***Wednesday 9th December*** *NOT Monday 14th December.*

FUN DAY TIMETABLE

8:55 am - *Children in class for roll check; prepare their class activity.*
9:30 am *- Start class activities (parents can arrive)*
10:00 am *- Sausage sizzle/Ice blocks*
11:15 am *- Activities stop; pack up children back to classes.*
11:30 am *- Picnic / Playtime on the field*
12:00 pm *- Children back to class for roll check; performers get dressed into their national costumes*
12.30 pm *- Assemble in the hall*
12: 45 pm *-* ***Cultural/class performances start in the hall***
2:15 pm *- Cultural and club performances finish; children back to class, tidy up, pack up*
2:45 pm *- Bell goes; children can go home.*

Warm regards,
Trevor Diamond
Principal
Henderson South School