

8 February 2018
Year 1 and 2 School Newsletter # 1 Information



A special welcome to all the new children who have started this term, we are all looking forward to a productive enjoyable year. Our contact details are:

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Helen Taylor	Year 1	Room 8	helen.taylor@seatoun.school.nz
Cath Hardy	Year 1	Room 9	catherine.hardy@seatoun.school.nz
Louise Noble	Year 2	Room 6	louise.noble@seatoun.school.nz
Ben Haddock	Year 2	Room 5	ben.haddock@seatoun.school.nz
Jemma Rapson	Reading Support		jemma.rapson@seatoun.school.nz

In addition to the teachers listed above, Gill Billingsley will be working in Room 5, every second Thursday, to provide release for Ben Haddock. Eleanor Stefanidis works in a variety of classes on a Friday morning. We have a large team of Learning Assistants (previously known as Teacher Aides) supporting 2 mornings a week in each junior class. Penny Swain provides support in Room 8 and Room 9, Lyndal Linton works in Room 5 and Angela Boulieris will be supporting in Room 6. We also welcome Tessa Murphy who is a trainee teacher completing a Masters of Teaching and Learning. She will be working every Tuesday and Wednesday in Room 6.

Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy to meet with parents to discuss progress or concerns. It is important to arrange a suitable time with your child's teachers and let them know the topic to be covered so they can come prepared with the information necessary.

Athletics

The Year 1 and 2 Athletics **morning** is on Tuesday 20 March. The postponement date is Wednesday 22 March. Parents are invited to come along in the morning to observe the children involved in a variety of activities they have been introduced to such as: long jump, high jump, running, and vortex. We will start at 9:15am and will be finished the athletics before 11am but parents are welcome to stay and have morning tea with their child. We will be practising the skills every Thursday so please could you ensure your child wears appropriate clothing ie. shorts, (or other comfortable clothes for athletics) sneakers and sunhats. Please note that in the past we have held this event in the afternoon this year it will be in the morning.

Integrated Studies for Term One

We will be commencing the year with a social studies/health unit called Kia Kaha. We will be commencing the term with a social studies/health unit called Kia Kaha. Over the next 4 weeks the children will be involved in a Health unit: "Kia Kaha". This unit of work is called "Building a Safe Happy Classroom". It covers topics such as similarities and differences, exploring acceptable behaviour in the classroom, recognising bullying and knowing that it is wrong, seeking help, making choices, and working and playing co-operatively. This is a programme which has been developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Police and is at an appropriate level for young children.

There may be some activities that the children bring home for you to discuss with them. It is important that you talk with your child about what they have been learning as this will reinforce the messages that we are giving at school and help your child to use his or her new skills with confidence. Alongside the Kia Kaha unit we run a school wide prevention and intervention programme called KiVa which aims to reduce bullying at school. Children, parents or teachers are able to make referrals to the KiVa team.

In the second half of the term the whole school is undertaking a unit about commemorating the Wahine disaster. This will look at how members of a community work together in times of need. It will also explore why we should remember and observe major events. We will focus on our class and school community and Seatoun community. This unit will culminate in various events on April 10th to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wahine disaster. We welcome parent or grandparent input if you have experiences to share.

Sunsmart

Please remember all children need a named sunhat in their house colour every day this term. Please apply sun block before school and it is recommended that you send a roll-on sun block to school with your child. It is also important for children to wear clothes that reduce the amount of skin exposed to the sun.

Responsibility

Seatoun School has a strong focus on encouraging children to be responsible for their learning. This starts with children being responsible for their belongings and organising themselves. Please encourage your child to manage the following items independently:

- Schoolbags
 - Pack their bag themselves and carry it to and from school.
- Bookbags
 - bring their bookbag to school daily, pack their reading book and any maths activity or reading activity in it and take it out of their schoolbag themselves and put it in the correct place in the classroom.
- Sunhats and clothing
 - Ensure their sunhat is hanging on their hook when they are not using it.

School Food

Please give careful consideration to what you send along with your child in their lunchboxes. School policy is **no juice** please – only water and no lollies. A good rule of thumb is to send food that children can manage independently. We request that children don't bring **yoghurt pottles** to school. We have seen many instances of students unable to manage opening or eating yoghurts. Often the yoghurt is spilt over tables, the carpet or students themselves. We do have some children who are highly allergic to **nuts** so we also request that children do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school and would prefer no peanut butter. However, we also support this by having a 'nut free' zone at school where children can eat their lunch.

We are endeavouring to reduce our waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate if families could provide litterless lunches ie – a minimum amount of paper and plastic wrapping on packages or providing lunch in small airtight containers. It is important to name containers as we continue to have many unclaimed lunch containers at the end of each day.

Stationery

Goal Folders (x files) and Reading Diaries are available from the office for children who are new to the school this year. If your child had a goal folder last year they will not need to purchase one but please could they ensure it has been returned to school.

Lost Property

Please name all school clothes and hats, with first and last name, so if they are mislaid they can be returned to the children. Property that has not yet been claimed can be found behind the yellow door beside the hall entrance.

Parent helpers

Parents are welcome to come and support our literacy, numeracy and parent reading programmes. Talk to your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time. The first few weeks are crucial to settle children into school routines so help will only be required for specific children in the first couple of weeks, if requested.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your child.

Susan Kliffen, Helen Taylor, Cath Hardy, Ben Haddock, Louise Noble, Jemma Rapson