

Year 3/4 Newsletter Term 1 2018



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back! Hopefully you made the most of our lovely NZ summer! We have a number of new students joining us this term, and we offer a warm welcome to them and their families. We have an extremely busy and exciting term planned.

Staff

A big welcome to Jayne Carey, who will be joining our team and teaching in Room 13 this year. It is great to have her on board!

Catherine Miller (team leader)	Room 10	catherine.miller@seatoun.school.nz
Zeenat Vintiner	Room 11	zeenat.vintiner@seatoun.school.nz
Janine Imrie	Room 12	janine.imrie@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 13	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz

In addition to our classroom teachers, we welcome Gill Billingsley, who will provide release for Catherine (leadership) on Fridays in Room 10, and Hannah Abrams, who will provide release for Zeenat (PRT) on alternate Wednesdays in Room 11. All teachers also have eight days release per year for professional development, team meetings, testing, assessment and record-keeping, and we have a number of regular relievers who will work in classrooms at this time.

Hazel Roston-Wood and Pip Troy, our learning assistants, will be working alongside teachers to support some students with their learning and medical needs. You will be informed via Linc Ed if your child is involved in a support programme. Eleanor Stefanidis will be working with our team every Tuesday this term to provide an Enrichment Music programme and Wendy Bamber, our librarian, works closely with us to provide library and information literacy skills.

Contact

Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy to meet with parents to discuss progress. It is important to arrange a suitable time with your child's teacher and let them know the topic to be covered, so they can come prepared with the information necessary. The best way to contact us is by email. Email is checked daily and we strive to reply as soon as possible. We can often have a brief chat, in the classroom, before school from 8.30-8.45 am, or directly after school. Teachers will be unavailable to meet with parents during these weekly meeting times.

Monday	8.10-8.30am	Admin Meeting
Tuesday	7.30-8.30am	Senior Leadership Meeting (Catherine)
	3.10-5.00pm	Staff/Team Meeting
Thursday	3.10-5.00pm	Team Meeting

Responsibility/ Self-Management

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

1. Checking that they have all they need for school each day and caring for their property
 - Schoolbags- pack their bag themselves and carry it to and from school.
 - Bookbags - bring bookbag to school daily, with their reading book, and Home Learning book (on Thursdays)
 - Sunhats and clothing- ensure their clothing is in their bag or hanging on their hook when they are not using it.
2. Arriving at school before the 8.45 a.m. bell to ensure a good start to the day
3. Wearing a school sunhat and sunscreen whenever outside, and appropriate footwear/clothing for daily PE fitness

Integrated Studies for Term One

We will be commencing the year with a social studies/health unit called Keeping Ourselves Safe. Keeping Ourselves Safe consists of a range of child protection resources to help children and young people learn and apply a range of safety skills that they can use when interacting with others. It is a programme developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Police, and is at an appropriate level for young children. Constable Aaron Dan will be supporting us with this unit of work. More information can be found on the NZ police website. 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 Keeping Ourselves Safe 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.

Later in the term the whole school is undertaking an inquiry into our marine environment and the impact that people have on it. The Junior school will visit the Island Bay Marine centre on Wednesday 6th March in the morning. We will be supported in this inquiry by personnel from the 'Mountains to Sea' Trust. They will provide interactive lessons for the students about our marine

environment and how it is effected by stormwater drains. Classes will be finding stormwater drains in our local neighbourhood. This will lead into further investigation, in terms of putting traps in the drains and finding what is in them, to evaluate our impact on the environment.

Swimming

Our swimming programme is on Wednesdays, 11.00 am- 12.00 pm. Lessons are held at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre, and we travel to and from the pool by bus (leaving school at 10.30am and returning by 12.30pm). Please ensure that children have named togs and towel in a named swimming bag, goggles, and warm clothing to put on after their swim. The children will be assessed by pool instructors, and grouped according to need. To get the best from the lessons, it is important that children swim every week.

Capital E Arts Festival

In March, we will be attending the 2019 Capital E National Arts Festival. This is New Zealand's biggest Arts Festival for children, and offers a superb opportunity to see theatre, music, and dance from the best of local and international talent. Rooms 11 and 12 will go on Monday 18th March, Room 13 on Tuesday 19th March and Room 10 on Thursday 21st March. Each group will be seeing 3 performances during the day:, selected from the following

- The Eel and Sina
- Young and Cinematic
- GABEZ
- Treat
- WIND
- Wolfgangs Magical, Musical Circus

We will provide more information closer to the event. For more details about the Festival, go to: <https://www.capitale.org.nz/>

Athletics

The school athletics day is on Monday 11th March (postponement date- Thursday 14th March). We will be practising the skills of long jump, high jump, running, relays, quoits and vortex over the next few weeks. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear daily.

Home Learning

Home Learning begins next week. All students are helped to take responsibility for identifying what they need to learn or do, and how to do so. Children will bring Home Learning books home on Thursdays and return them to school on Thursdays. Steeple Rock Challenge and Mathletics are components of our Home Learning programme. More information will follow about these programmes. Please ensure that you read this information carefully, as it will help you to support your child.

PAT (Progressive Achievement Testing) This will be happening in Week 4. This testing gives us valuable knowledge about our students' learning and attendance is particularly important over this week.

Sunsmart

Please remember all children need a named sunhat in their house colour. It is important for children to apply sunblock before school and it is recommended that you send a roll-on sun block to school with your child.

School Food

Please give careful consideration to what you send with your children in lunchboxes. School policy is no juice, please, and no lollies. We do have some children who are highly allergic to nuts so we request that children do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school. We are endeavouring to reduce our waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate it if families could provide litterless lunches. It is important to name containers, as we continue to have many unclaimed lunch containers at the end of each day.

Lost Property

Please name all school clothes and hats, so that 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.

Stationery and X-files/goal folders

We would appreciate it if all children bring all stationery by the first day of school, if possible. The books and equipment which are not used initially will be collected and stored by the teacher until needed. We remind you to please ensure that all stationery is named, and not to send your child to school with items which are highly attractive and covetable (scented, fluffy, noisy, glittery), as they tend to cause disruptions of one kind or another to the children's learning. We require that all X-files/goal folders from 2018 are returned to school as soon as possible. If you are new to school, an X-file can be purchased from the school office.

We are looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible education for your child. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Catherine, Janine and Zeenat

