



Dear Parents and Caregivers

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

Staff

Catherine Miller (team leader)	Room 1	catherine.miller@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 2	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz
Janine Imrie	Room 3	janine.imrie@seatoun.school.nz
Jayshri Dayal	Room 4	jayshri.dayal@seatoun.school.nz

We are very pleased to welcome Jayshri Dayal to our full-time teaching team this year. Many of you will already know Jayshri as a reliever and parent at Seatoun School. In addition to our classroom teachers, we welcome Gill Billingsley, who will provide release for Catherine (leadership) on Fridays in Room 1. Hazel Roston-Wood, our learning assistant, will be working alongside teachers to support some students with their learning. You will be informed if your child is involved in a support programme. Wendy Bamber, our librarian, works closely with us to provide library and information literacy skills, and add value to our reading programmes.

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 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 independently:

1. Checking that they have all they need for school each day and caring for their property
 - School bags - 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 Whanaungatanga Hauora- Healthy Relationships. This will incorporate a number of programmes such as: Keeping Ourselves Safe, Zones of Regulation, KiVa, Pause, Breathe, Smile, and Moving March.

Keeping Ourselves Safe consists of resources to help children learn and apply a range of safety skills when interacting with others. It is a programme developed in conjunction with the NZ Police, and is at an appropriate level for young children. 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 to talk with your child about what they have been learning, to reinforce the messages and help your child to use new skills with confidence. Harold and The Life Education Van will be visiting the school and supporting our learning in this area.

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. There is more information about the KiVa programme on our Seatoun School website.

We will revisit two programmes with the students. The "Zones of Regulation" is a programme which supports children to understand their emotions and make adjustments to help them be the best they can be. Supporting this is the "Pause, Breathe, Smile" programme. This was introduced last year as a whole school focus to support student wellbeing. Moving March - Māhehe Manawa Ora- celebrates the benefits of walking, scootering and biking to school.

Physical Education

Our **swimming** programme this term is on Wednesdays from 10.00-11.00 am. Lessons are held at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre, and we travel to and from the pool by bus. 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.

We are very fortunate this term to have some **tennis** sessions, provided by Miramar Tennis Club Kids Programmes. This will involve an initial "taster" followed by 4 weeks of 45 minute sessions to introduce children to basic tennis skills

There will also be a Year 3-8 **Fun Athletics Day** this term. More information will follow about this day.

We do some type of PE or fitness every day, so please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate footwear.

Home Learning

Home Learning will begin 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.

3 Way Conferences (Learner -Teacher -Parent) - Friday 26 March

Last year we had planned to introduce 3-way conferences in term 1. Unfortunately these were cancelled, due to Lockdown. We are looking forward to establishing these conferences this year. These will be 15-minute conferences, where we will confirm the first set of learner goals for the year, ensure we are all heading in the right direction for the year, and share some of our standardised assessments. For Years 4-8, this will be Progressive and Achievement Tests (known as PATs).

The school will operate differently on this day, and your child is to only come to school for their interview time. We will be sending home a brief agenda the week before these conferences, which you will return with your feedback. Booking times will be available in the following couple of weeks.

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 sunblock 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 any kind of 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.

Lost Property

Please name all school clothes, hats, lunchboxes and drink bottles, so that if they are mislaid they can be returned to the children. Property that has not yet been claimed can be found in the corridor outside the library.

Stationery and X-files/Goal Folders

Thank you for sending stationery to school promptly. The books and equipment which are not used initially will be collected and stored by the teacher until needed. We remind you to please not send your child to school with items which are highly attractive and covetable (scented, fluffy, noisy, or glittery!!), as they tend to cause disruptions of one kind or another to the children's learning. We require all X-files/goal folders from 2020 to be returned to school as soon as possible. If you are new to school, an X-file can be purchased from the school office.

Chess Club

The chess club is open to all students from Year 3 up, and will be held on Thursdays (beginning 11th February) at lunchtimes in Room 2. Students will eat lunch first in the courtyard. For more information, check the noticeboard outside Room 2.

Parent helpers

Parents are welcome to come and support our literacy and numeracy programmes. Talk to your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time. At times, we will also request help for other programmes. We are always very grateful for any support offered.

We are all feeling refreshed after the summer break and looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning for your children. If you have any queries please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui,
Catherine Miller, Janine Imrie, Jayne Carey and Jayshri Dayal

