

Year 5-6 Newsletter Term 1 2021

4 February 2021
Newsletter 1



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to all our new students and their families to Kirikiri Tatangi (Seatoun School) and the Year 5/6 team.

Staff

We welcome Matt Finnigan to the Seatoun Year 5-6 Team. Matt will be leading the Year 5-6 team and working as Associate Principal.

Jessie Gregory	Room 15	jessie.gregory@seatoun.school.nz
Marion Hair	Room 16	marion.hair@seatoun.school.nz
Matt Finnigan	Room 17	matt.finnigan@seatoun.school.nz

Our team brings a wealth of experience; their passion for designing innovative, inclusive and rigorous curriculum experiences will generate high levels of enjoyment and engagement for our learners. We value highly the input from parents and experts in the community; knowing that your involvement raises engagement for the learners and builds parent confidence in our programmes.

Term One Inquiry - Guardianship of our Place - Kaitiakitanga

We are very excited about our Term One Unit of Inquiry. Learners will be inquiring into our coastal environment; building strong conceptual understanding of both Guardianship and Sustainability, and developing their knowledge of Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity. Our inquiries will be a catalyst for learners to take authentic and meaningful action in Seatoun's special local environment.

The cost to deliver this programme in the Year 5 and 6 team is \$69.00 and we are asking for a contribution of \$30.00 per child for this which will be loaded to student accounts in HERO. As part of this Unit of Inquiry, there will be regular excursions to the beach area. We look forward to sharing our learning with the parent community at the end of term.

We will be very much reliant on parent helpers. When taking children snorkelling we will need a 1:2 ratio of parents to children. Please keep an eye out for communication. Also, if you have any expertise or passion for water science and sustainability, we would love to hear from you.

Key Inquiry Dates:

17th of February	Year 5/6 Mountains to Sea Classroom Presentation - At School Room 15: 9 -10.30 Room 16: 9 -10.30 Room 17: 10.30 - 12.30 (with a break for morning tea).
24th of February	Year 5/6 Mountains to Sea Pool Session (Snorkel Skills) - Kilbirnie Pool Room 15: pick up Seatoun 9am(snorkelling 9:30-10:40), return pick up time 11am Room 16: pick up Seatoun 10:10am (snorkelling 10:40-11:50) return pick up time 12:10pm Room 17: pick up Seatoun 11:20am (snorkelling 11:50am - 1pm) return pick up time 1:15pm
2nd of March	Year 5 & 6 Mountains to Sea Field Trip 1 - Seatoun Rocky Shore Snorkel Rm 15: 9 - 12pm Rm 17: 12 - 3.00pm
3rd of March	Year 5 & 6 Mountains to Sea Field Trip 1 - Seatoun Rocky Shore Snorkel Rm 16: 9 - 12pm
9th of March	Year 5 & 6 Mountains to Sea Field Trip 2 - Snorkel Trail (Island Bay) Taputeranga Marine Reserve Rm 15: 9 - 12pm Rm 17: 12 - 3.00pm
10th of March	Year 5 & 6 Mountains to Sea Field Trip 2 - Snorkel Trail (Island Bay) Taputeranga Marine Reserve Rm 16: 9 - 12pm
15th/16th of March - Dates TBC	Kaitiaki Action Classroom Session

IPad BYOD Programme

There is considerable information on our [website](#) about this initiative.

Key points are:

- The school will manage this process, students just need to bring a charged iPad to school. They do not need to have an iCloud Account
- iPad must be in a case, without a case it will not be used.
- We have a locking charging station in each class, so students can leave these devices at school week nights (please let the classroom teacher know if this is the case).
- All devices are enrolled in [Jamf School](#), our mobile device management platform (MDM). This is how we will load required apps, give filtered access to the internet, restrict social media at school etc.
- We run a comprehensive digital literacy programme with learners in Term 1 and refer back to this throughout the year. We use [Commonsensemedia](#) for our Digital literacy programmes. They have a lot of valuable information for parents as well.
- We will be running a number of sessions for parents to assist them with managing these devices at home.

Support/Extension

Karen Millar and Lorraine Boennic will continue to provide support or extension programmes for identified students. The use of their hours is reviewed regularly. We will notify you very shortly if your child is involved in a programme.

Weekly Release Teachers

All teachers have eight days release per year for professional development, team meetings, testing, assessment, records etc. Teachers sometimes have release for extra responsibilities eg Management, Curriculum leaders.

Eleanor Stefanidis Room 17 Friday

Contacts

Email is checked daily and we strive to reply as soon as possible. We can be reached in class from 8.30-8.45am. Please send an email or note if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Weekly Teacher Meetings

Monday	8.10-8.30am	Admin Meeting
Tuesday	7.30-8.30am	Senior Leadership Meeting (Matt)
	3.10-5.00pm	Staff/Team Meeting
Thursday	3.10-5:00pm	Team Meeting

Enrichment

This four-week rotation programme involving 6 groups happens each Friday, and starts next Friday. Karen Millar, Wendy Bamber and Lyndal Linton continue their fantastic rotations in addition to the rotations taken by Y5/6 teachers. Our rotations will include Food technology, Craft/Sewing, Library/Information/Debating, Science, Music and Visual Art.

Maths Whizz

We continue this excellent online mathematics practice programme as part of home learning. All students will complete an on-line assessment at school on **Wednesday 19 February** to determine the level of their individualised learning pathway. The level automatically adjusts according to student progress. If possible, could your child **bring headphones** on the day of assessment for their personal use.

Home Learning

Home Learning will be set each week on a Friday. Students can access tasks via google classroom. All students will be helped to take responsibility for identifying what they need to learn or do, and how to do so. You can help by regularly asking them about this.

Reading	10-15 minutes, 4 evenings a week, at least
Spelling	5 minutes
Writing	Optional Writing task
Maths Whizz	60 minutes per week starting Week 3
Steeple Rock Challenges	Booklets will be sent home shortly, after being discussed with students at school. While optional at Y5/6, Steeple Rock Challenges are actively encouraged and strongly endorsed.

PAT Testing Week 4/5 1-13 March Attendance is important over these weeks as these tests provide valuable information for teachers; informing future learning pathways and next steps.

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

As a result of feedback received as part of our self review in 2020 we further enhanced our reporting practices. The first change was the introduction of a 3 Way Conference for early in the year. In 2020, due to Alert Levels, we were unable to run this event. These will be 15 minute conferences where we will confirm the first set of learner goals for the year, check in on the start for your child/children and ensure we are all heading in the right direction for the year. For relevant years, we will share standardised assessments. For Years 4-8, this will be [Progressive and Achievement Tests](#) known as PAT's.

The [school operates differently 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 next couple of weeks.

Self-Management All students are actively encouraged to take responsibility for:

1. Checking that they have all they need for school each day and caring for their property, including clothing
2. Arriving at school before the 8.45 a.m. bell to help get off to a good start to the day
3. Wearing a school sunhat and sunscreen whenever outside, and appropriate footwear/clothing for daily PE fitness.

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 Lunchboxes

Our school policy is no juice and no lollies. We have students who are highly allergic to nuts so request that children do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school. We want to reduce waste and litter and would much appreciate litterless lunches. Please 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 they can be returned to their owners. Property that has not yet been claimed can be found behind the yellow door beside the hall entrance.

Term 2 Swimming

Lessons will take place each Monday morning (except Queens Birthday).

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Our Home-School partnership plays a huge part in helping us to do the very best job we can for our students.

Kind regards,

Matt, Marion and Jessie