

10 February 2022
Junior School Newsletter # 1 Information



Welcome back to 2022. We have made adjustments to programmes to manage the new circumstances that we are dealing with and greatly appreciate the whanau support we have received. The children have settled into school really happily and our focus is to keep them safe, happy and learning.

Our contact details are:

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Jemma Rapson	Literacy Support and SENCO		jemma.rapson@seatoun.school.nz

All the Year 1 and 2 teachers have worked in the Junior team for a number of years. In addition to the teachers listed above, Pip Troy and Karen Miller will be Learning Assistants who support across the junior team. Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy 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 be prepared with the necessary information.

Morning Drop off

Thank you so much for being so respectful of the current situation where we ask children to be dropped off at the gate or outside the door. It does reduce the number of people that staff and students are exposed to during the day. We notice the children are building wonderful independence and settle into the school day very positively.

Athletics

We are hoping to run the Year 1 and 2 Athletics morning on Tuesday 15 March . The postponement date is Wednesday 16 March. This will be reviewed and modified closer to the time subject to COVID restrictions. If possible, parents will be invited to come along in the morning to observe the children involved in a variety of activities that they have been introduced to, such as long jump, high jump, running and vortex. We will start at 9:15am and will finish the athletics before 11am, and parents are welcome to stay and have morning tea with their child. We will be practicing the skills every Thursday so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing ie. shorts, (or other comfortable clothes for athletics), sneakers and sunhats.

Integrated Studies for Term One

This term we have incorporated a number of programmes in our inquiry *Looking after Ourselves and Others'*. One focus will be a social studies/health unit called Kia Kaha. Through Kia Kaha students develop strategies for respectful relationships where bullying behaviours are not tolerated. 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 work, 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.

Over the term, we will also be reinforcing the "Zones of Regulation" which support children to understand where their emotions are and make adjustments to help them be the best they can be. The "Pause, Breath, Smile" programme is a whole school focus for the year which will also support student wellbeing. In addition to the the social studies/health focus we will be involved in 'Movin March' 'Māehe Manawa Ora' which celebrates the benefits of walking, scootering and biking to school.

Later in the term we will be participating in a whole school inquiry about **Early Voyagers: Kōrinorino o Nga Tupuna (In the Wake of Our Ancestors)**. This is a school-wide unit, integrating aspects of Social Science, NZ Histories, Science, Maths and Technology. In it, we aim for the children to be able to identify their turangawaewae - their place in the world- and why it is important to them, and to understand the history of settlement of our local area.

Music

Our music focus this term is exploring the story of "Peter and the Wolf". The children will listen and respond to the elements of music: beat, pitch, tempo, dynamics etc. They will also explore and identify instruments in a piece of music. We would love any parents who play an instrument to contact us as it would be wonderful to have you share and play the instrument for the class.

3 Way Conferences (Learner - Teacher - Parent) - Monday 4th April

We are looking forward to establishing the 3 way parent, teacher, learner conferences this year. These will be 15 minute conferences where we will confirm the first set of learner goals for the year, check in on the start and ensure we are all heading in the right direction for the year.

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.

Sunsmart

Please remember that all children need a named sunhat in their house colour every day this term. Please apply sunblock before school, and it is recommended that you send a roll-on sunblock 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 yoghurt. 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 it if families could provide litterless lunches ie. a minimum amount of paper and plastic wrapping on packages, or providing lunch in small airtight containers. At times, the school Enviroteam does a spot check of students' lunches in the mornings to encourage no litter. Students who have litterless lunches are rewarded with a house point. It is important to name containers as we have many unclaimed lunch containers at the end of each day. We are also encouraging a 'pack it in - pack it out' which means children will bring home everything not eaten in their lunch box.

Stationery/Goal Folders

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.

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 in the first couple of weeks, if requested.

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,

Susan Kliffen, Ben Haddock, Helen Taylor, Cath Hardy, Rebecca Quinn and Jemma Rapson