

Year 3-4 Newsletter Term 1 2022



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back! Hopefully you made the most of our lovely 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
Louise Noble	Room 1	louise.noble@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 2	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz
Marion Hair	Room 3	marion.hair@seatoun.school.nz
Jayshri Dayal	Room 4	jayshri.dayal@seatoun.school.nz

We are very pleased to welcome Louise Noble and Marion Hair to the Year 3/4 teaching team this year. Many of you will already know Louise and Marion from their work in other areas of the school. In addition, we have Amanda Jolly, a Masters student teacher, who will be working in Room 1, alongside the teacher, for 2 days a week, and for some blocks of time during the year. Matt Finnigan will be working with our team, providing CRT (classroom release time) for teachers and working with the children to build their knowledge and skills in science for the first half of the year, and then in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), later in the year. 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 8.30-8.45am 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

School Values

Each term this year, we will be focussing on 2 or 3 of our school values. Our focus this term is on **Responsibility** and **Respect**. We will be sharing and discussing what these values mean to us, and considering how we can display responsibility and respect in our daily lives. It would be great if you could follow this up at home.

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 between 8.30 and 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 **Mahi Tahi - Working Together**. This will focus on how we can work together to ensure the well-being of each of us. The unit will incorporate a number of programmes such as: Zones of Regulation, Pause, Breathe, Smile, KiVa, and Moving March. 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, which was introduced in 2020 as a whole school focus to support student wellbeing. KiVa is a school-wide prevention and intervention programme, which aims to reduce bullying at school. Moving March - Māehe Manawa Ora - celebrates the benefits of walking, scootering and biking to school.

In the second part of the term, we will be working on a unit of work called **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.

Physical Education

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

Our **swimming** programme this term is on Tuesdays 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.

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

Home Learning

Today, children will have brought home their Home Learning books, along with a notice about how our Home Learning programme works. Please ensure that you read this information carefully, as it will help you to support your child.

Children will bring Home Learning books home on Thursdays and return them to school on Thursdays. All students are helped to take responsibility for identifying what they need to learn or do, and how to do so. Steeple Rock Challenge and Mathletics are components of our Home Learning programme. More information will follow about these programmes.

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

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. (PATs will be done in Week 5. This testing gives us valuable knowledge about our students' learning and attendance is particularly important over this time)

The school will operate differently on conference 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. This term, we are trialling a "pack in, pack out" system whereby children will bring all packaging and uneaten food items back home with them.

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 2021 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.

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, Louise Noble, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair and Jayshri Dayal