

Year 3/4 Newsletter Term 3 2022

28 July 2022
Newsletter 3



Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to our new students and their families to Seatoun School. We hope you have all had a refreshing July break and are all set for Term 3. Term 2 was busy with, among other things, three-way conferences and our Matariki evening. We are looking forward to an equally exciting and busy programme in Term 3, with the work culminating in an arts celebration in Week 10.

Conference Goals

Thank you for the valuable three-way conferences held at the end of last term. We will be supporting the children to achieve their goals that were set in the conferences, and know that you will also support your child with these at home.

Term 3 Learning Plan Attached is our [Long Term Plan for Term 3](#)

Integrated Studies:

Our inquiry focus this term is “The Commonwealth Games and World Records”. We will be following the Games and thinking about what it takes to make an elite athlete, as well as considering the importance of team and country identity. We will also be gathering information about record-holders and following it up with our own attempts to create world records... more about this later!

Numeracy:

In Numeracy, our strand focus is Statistics. We will follow a statistical inquiry cycle- learning to gather data for a specific purpose, graph it and then analyse and draw conclusions. We continue to reinforce our Number Knowledge (including Basic Facts), develop addition/subtraction and multiplication/division strategies, and to build mathematical understanding through a range of problem-solving tasks.

English:

In our literacy programme, we are learning about instructional writing. We will be reading texts which use instructions (recipes, games, safety instructions) and learning to write clear instructions for others. Oral language will also focus on listening to and following instructions. Being a good listener, and being able to follow instructions, links well to several of our school values (respect, responsibility, self-control), and plays a very big role in our learning, so we are working hard to ensure that the children use the skills of a good listener. It would be great to reinforce this at home.

This term we are also having a strong focus on building skills in spelling (through our twice-weekly phonics rotations) and in handwriting (check this week’s slideshow for the criteria for good handwriting).

Physical Education:

This term, we will be completing the swimming sessions which we started in Term 1 and had to abandon! We will swim on Fridays starting Week 2 (leaving school at 12.00 and returning by 2pm). Please ensure that your child brings:

- named swimming togs, towel, and goggles in a swimming bag (this needs to be large enough to fit all of their clothing in when they change into their togs)
- a water bottle
- a jersey or jacket to put on after swimming to keep warm

Children will be grouped from Term 1 and new students will be tested. Swimming is an important part of the curriculum, and it is expected that children will swim every week. If your child is unable to swim for health reasons, please send a signed note to the class teacher.

Interchange:

Every Monday afternoon, children in the Year 3/4 team will continue to be involved in an interchange programme, which includes: Cooking, Digital Technologies, Library Skills, Drama, Art, Crafts, Te Reo and Music. We are very grateful to Vicki Chen, who helps us by running the craft session each week. We are also grateful to the parents who have supported us with cooking. We are looking for some new cooking helpers this term- if you are able to support on one or more Monday, between 1.40 and 2.40pm, please let Catherine know: catherine.miller@seatoun.school.nz

Te Reo Māori:

This term, in Te Reo Māori, we will be focussing on supporting the children to greet, introduce and farewell people, use politeness conventions, communicate about personal information (name, home, whanau) and understand/use numbers (including days of the week and months). Although the children have learnt most of this vocabulary in previous

years, our goal is for us all to become comfortable using Te Reo as part of our daily practice. Here is our [plan](#)- it would be fantastic if you were able to incorporate some of the vocabulary and phrases into your daily routine at home, too!

Home Learning and Steeple Rock Challenges

Each week, when the children bring home their Home Learning Books, there is a list of reminders (for parents AND children) on the bottom of the Home Learning sheet. We are attempting to make the children more independent with this, but please help your child with a routine to ensure that they practise Basic Facts and Spelling, fill in the Reading Log daily, and bring their Home Learning book to school each Thursday. Please also read the reminders on the bottom of the sheet, with your child, about things that are coming up at school, or things they need to remember on a regular basis.

Thank you for encouraging your children to undertake new and exciting opportunities, through the Steeple Rock Challenges. It has been great to see such a variety of quality challenges shared with classmates so far. We all enjoy being able to see and hear about what the children have been doing at home and it is fantastic to see the confidence that learners demonstrate when presenting. All challenges need to be completed by the beginning of Term 4.

Required Items for school

Clothing- as we need to ventilate rooms well, it requires windows to remain open (as well as doors, whenever possible). We also get the children outside whenever we can, despite the cold weather. Therefore your child needs a warm top and a waterproof jacket each day please.

Drink bottles: Please ensure your child has a named drink bottle so they can drink as frequently as possible- wearing a mask seems to make us more thirsty than normal!

Stationery: A number of students are missing stationery items. This makes teaching and learning difficult. Please check with your child if they are missing anything. There are also a few children who have not returned their X-files yet.

Dates for your diary:

This term, we have some special events happening:

- **Story Studio Live performance- Friday 5th August** (for Year 3/4 students only- a performance about Aotearoa and discovering where ākongā come from through our history and embracing te reo Māori)
- **School Swimming Sports - Tuesday 2nd August** (you will have already received information about this)
- **Smashplay Cricket- Week 3 Monday 8th August** (a programme developed by New Zealand Cricket to introduce our tamariki to cricket through fundamental movement skills and game play)
- **Arts Celebration- Week 10.** (This will be a combination of drama performances by our senior students and a visual arts exhibition for our Year 1-6 students. More information will follow about this)

As you can see, it will be a busy term and we are very grateful for the ongoing support that you provide.

Ngā mihi

Catherine Miller, Louise Noble, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair, Jayshri Dayal.