



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
Gill Billingsley	Room 1	gill.billingsley@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 2	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz
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We are very pleased to welcome Gill Billingsley back to the Year 3/4 teaching team this year. Many of you will know Gill from her work in the school, over many years. Matt Finnigan and Luke Roper will both be working with our team, providing CRT (classroom release time) for teachers. Matt will work with the children to build their knowledge and skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), and Luke will provide skills teaching in Physical Education. Wendy Bamber, our librarian, works closely with us to provide library and information literacy skills, and to 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 Meeting
Wednesday	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

Use of Information Technology

Our programme at Year 3 and 4 is strongly paper-based. Information technology is used to support our programme. We are very selective about the use of online programmes and all are chosen because they enhance learning. Online platforms often provide independent practice activities to run alongside our daily, guided reading, writing and maths sessions. We also use information technology for researching, for creating and for sharing our ideas with others. Our weekly slideshow, shared through Google Classroom, is used as a platform for teachers to communicate with students and parents about what is happening each week, and is a "go to" slideshow for children to refer to if they need reminders about tasks.

Integrated Studies for Term One

We will be commencing the year with an integrated social studies/health unit called **We can be Heroes**. This will focus on identifying how the actions of heroes vary, but reflect similar purposes, understanding that feelings, beliefs and actions, (both our own and those of other people) contribute to personal well-being, and discovering what we can learn from heroes to help others.

We will continue our three ongoing programmes to support well-being. The "Zones of Regulation" supports children to understand emotions and make adjustments to help them be the best they can be. Supporting this is the "Pause, Breath, Smile" programme, which teaches strategies to regulate emotions, and KiVa, a prevention and intervention programme, to reduce bullying at school.

We will also be doing an integrated studies unit covering te Reo Māori, social studies and art, about introducing ourselves. As part of this, the children will create a visual pepeha. We look forward to sharing these with you.

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 Wednesdays from 11.00 - 12.00 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 begin the swimming programme next 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 27th March

These will be short conferences, where we will confirm the first set of learner goals for the year, ensure we are heading in the right direction, and share some of our standardised assessments. For Years 4-8, this will be Progressive and Achievement Tests - known as PATs. This testing gives us valuable knowledge about 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. Booking times will be available in the weeks prior to the conferences.

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 waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate it if families could provide litterless lunches ie. a minimum amount of plastic wrapping on packages, or providing lunch in small airtight containers. The Enviroteam supports and encourages students to reduce litter. Students who have litterless lunches are rewarded with house points. 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.

Morning tea time is at 11am. However, we have a fruit break around 10am. Please ensure your child has either a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at this time.

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. Stationery which is not used initially will be 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 orglittery!!), as they tend to cause disruptions of one kind or another to the children's learning. We require all 2022 X-files/goal folders 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.

Parent helpers

Parents are welcome to come and support our programmes in a number of ways. Help during literacy and numeracy times is often valuable- if you are keen to help, talk to your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time.

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, Gill Billingsley, Louise Noble, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair and Louise Noble