

9 February 2024
Junior School Newsletter # 1 Information



Welcome back to 2024 and a very special welcome to all the new children and families who have started this term, we are all looking forward to a productive, enjoyable year.

Our contact details are:

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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, Hannah Scott-McNeil, Vicky Wang, Nina Lindenbaum, Hope de Maio and Karen Miller will be Learning Assistants who support the junior team. Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy to discuss progress or concerns.

Athletics

We are hoping to run the Year 1 and 2 Athletics morning on Wednesday 13th March. The postponement date is Thursday 14 March, 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 practising 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

We will be commencing the year with an integrated studies unit covering Māori, social studies and art called 'Ko au'. It is about introducing ourselves. There will be a strong emphasis on using te reo to introduce ourselves and as part of this, the children will create a visual pepeha. We look forward to sharing these with you.

Our school are exploring and developing a shared understanding of some new school values of Responsibility, Perseverance, Manaakitanga (showing respect, support and kindness to each other) and Akoranga (striving for success by learning together and from each other). These will be introduced to the children this term and continue to be promoted throughout the year.

Later in the term, we will begin a science inquiry about dinosaurs and their adaptations. We will be exploring the distinctive features of dinosaurs that helped them live in their unique environments of the early eras. We will also be making comparisons to modern-day species and finding out how species become extinct. This inquiry will involve a **trip to Te Papa Museum to visit the Dinosaurs of Patagonia Exhibition on the morning of Monday 8 April (Year 2) or Tuesday 9 April (Year 1)**. We are keen to have parents helpers on this day so please let your child's teacher know if you are available. You will receive more information closer to the time.

Music

Our music focus this term is exploring the music 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) - Wednesday 3 April

We are looking forward to 3 way parent, teacher, and learner conferences closer to the end of this term. These will be short 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. Booking times will be available in the weeks before the conference.

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 book bag to school daily, pack their reading book and any maths activity or reading activity in it and take it out of their school bag 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

General

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 or suckies** 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 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.

Litterless lunches

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. The school Enviroteam supports and encourages students to reduce litter and they have decided that the children who have litterless lunches are rewarded with a house point on some days. 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.

Fruit/vegetable Break

We have a fruit break around 10 am. Please could you ensure your child has either a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at this time.

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 Colwill, Rebecca Quinn, Liz Irving