

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

Jessie Gregory (team leader)	Room 1	jessie.gregory@seatoun.school.nz
Marion Hair	Room 1 (Friday's)	marion.hair@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 2	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz
Sidney Spencer	Room 3	sidney.spencer@seatoun.school.nz
Louise Noble	Room 4	louise.noble@seatoun.school.nz
Gill Billingsley	Room 4 (Friday's)	gill.billingsley@seatoun.school.nz

Marion Hair and Matt Finnigan will provide CRT (classroom release time) for teachers this term. Ms Hair will provide a specialist music programme, and Mr Finnigan will run a specialist PE programme. Each programme will run for 1 hour per week. Wendy Bamber, our librarian, works closely with us to provide library and information literacy skills and add value to our reading programmes. To begin the year, we are fortunate to have a teaching assistant in our Year 3 and 4 classes. Hope Di Maio (Room 1), Pip Troy (Room 2), Hazel Rostron-Wood (Room 3) and Karen Millar (Room 4) will provide support in classrooms and will be working with groups and individuals in specific areas.

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 (Jessie)
	3.10-5.00pm	Staff Meeting
Thursday	3.10-5:00pm	Team Meeting

School Values

Each term this year, we will focus on 1 of our school values. Our focus this term is on **Responsibility**. We will be sharing and discussing what these values mean to us, and considering how we can display responsibility in our daily lives. Please follow this up at home. Each term, we will reflect on one of our school values.

Self-Management

Seatoun School focuses on encouraging children to be responsible for themselves. In Years 3 and 4, we work hard with the children to take 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.
 - 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

As you will be aware, as a school, we have been intentionally reducing the time children have access to devices throughout the school day. Your children will have less than five hours (one hour a day) of device access. Our weekly slideshow will no longer be shared through Google Classroom to students. However, the weekly timetable will be shared via Hero to the Year 3 and 4 syndicate for parents to access.

ICT Responsible User Agreements

Hopefully, you received an ICT Responsible User Agreement during your meet-the-teacher interview. Please take the time to read and discuss these with your child. Please return these to your classroom teacher as soon as possible. If you have not received the form, please see your classroom teacher.

3 Way Conferences (Learner - Teacher - Parent) - Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March

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 on Friday 21 March, and your child is to only come to school for their interview time. Booking times will be available in the weeks before the conference.

Inquiry for Term One

We will begin the year with an inquiry unit focused on celebrating culture and identity. We will build our learners' knowledge of different cultures, and children will complete inquiries into a range of cultures to identify differences and similarities. When we start home learning, you may notice that some of the activities are around family and family history. We will be using this information to support learners to make a visual pepeha.

As part of this unit, we would love to invite parents to participate in the learning. We hope to host parent-led workshops between the 25th of March and the 4th of April (week 8-9). This would be an opportunity to share about your culture by providing an activity. In the past we have had parents run workshops that involved art, shadow puppetry, storytelling and calligraphy workshops, making rangoli patterns and sharing food from their culture. Please email jessie.gregory@seatoun.school.nz if this is something you would like to help with.

We will continue our 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, Breathe, Smile” programme, which teaches strategies to regulate emotions, and KiVa, a prevention and intervention programme, to reduce bullying at school.

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 10.30 - 12.00 (12/2/2025 - 2/4/2025). 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, children must swim every week. We begin the swimming programme on 14th February.

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

Home Learning

Information will be shared about how home learning is run via Hero. 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.

Sunsmart

Please remember all children need a named sunhat in their house colour. Children need to apply sunblock before school and it is recommended that you send 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 throughout the school. We would appreciate it if families could provide litterless lunches (a minimum amount of plastic wrapping on packages or food in small airtight containers). The Enviroteam supports students in reducing litter. Students with litterless lunches are rewarded with house points. It is important to name containers as we have many unclaimed lunch containers each day. We are encouraging “pack it in-pack it out” so children will bring home anything not eaten in lunch boxes.

Morning tea time is at 11am, and 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 room 1.

Stationery and X-files/Goal Folders

Thank you for promptly sending stationery to school. The teacher will store stationery that is not used initially until needed. We remind you to please not send your child to school with items that are highly attractive and covetable (scented, fluffy or glittery!), as they tend to cause disruptions of one kind or another to the children’s learning. We require all 2024 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 will be running an interchange programme on Monday afternoons and will require help with cooking. A separate note will come home via HERO about this. If any parents are interested in running a regular interchange group please also let us know.

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,

Jessie Gregory, Marion Hair, Jayne Carey, Sidney Spencer, Louise Noble and Gill Billingsley