

Junior Syndicate YO - 2 Newsletter



**Te Kura o Kirikiri Tatangi
Seatoun School**

Thursday 5th February, 2026

Dear families,

Welcome back to 2026 and a very special welcome to all the new children and families who are starting at Seatoun School this year. We hope you have had a wonderful break and we are all looking forward to working hard and having lots of fun together this year.

I'm delighted to be joining Seatoun School as Associate Principal for the Junior School. After spending the past 12 years overseas teaching and leading in international schools in China, Qatar, and Costa Rica, I'm excited to be back in Aotearoa with my family and to work in such a positive learning community.

I'm looking forward to getting to know our ākonga and whānau over the coming weeks and months. Please come and introduce yourself, and feel free to contact me or your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Our contact details

Nikki Ureña	Associate Principal (Year 1-4) & Team Leader (Year 1-2)		nikki.urena@seatoun.school.nz
Rebecca Quinn	Literacy Specialist & Classroom Release	Room 9	rebecca.quinn@seatoun.school.nz
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Liz Irving	Year 1	Room 7	liz.irving@seatoun.school.nz
Sidney Spencer	Year 1	Room 8	sidney.spencer@seatoun.school.nz

In addition to our classroom teachers, we also have Vicky Wang, Pip Troy, Sofia Magallanes Leal & Hope Di Maio supporting learning in the junior school.

Athletics

Year 1 & 2 athletics will be held on Thursday, 19th March. We'll start at 9:15 am and finish around 11:00 - parents are welcome to come and support, and stay for morning tea with their child after we finish. We will be practising the skills every Wednesday so please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and shoes for athletics on those days.

Integrated Studies for Term One

Our main inquiry this term is a social sciences inquiry into belonging. Students will explore who they are and the different groups they belong to, including their family, class, school, community and culture. As part of this inquiry, we will be learning our pepeha and sharing our identities in meaningful ways.

An important focus at the start of the year is developing a shared understanding of our school values: Responsibility, Perseverance, Manaakitanga (showing respect, support and kindness to others), and Akoranga

(learning together and from each other). These values will be introduced this term and reinforced throughout the year.

As part of our belonging inquiry, students will take part in the Kia Kaha programme, developed with the NZ Police. The programme supports respectful relationships and helps children understand that bullying behaviour is not acceptable, with a focus on appropriate behaviour, seeking help, and working cooperatively. Some learning may come home for discussion. Talking with your child about what they are learning helps reinforce these messages and build confidence. We also run KiVa, our school-wide bullying prevention and intervention programme. Referrals can be made by children, parents, or teachers, with more information available on the Seatoun School website.

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.

Weather - clothing

Please remember that all children need a 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. On the other hand, it is compulsory for your child to have a jacket at school every day, as it can get quite cold with the wind and part of our emergency preparedness plan. This can stay at school on their hooks so that they don't need to bring it to and from school every day.

Please make sure to clearly name your child's belongings with their first and last name so that they can be easily identified.

Responsibility

Seatoun School has a strong focus on encouraging children to be responsible for themselves, their belongings and their learning from an early age. We appreciate you supporting your child's growing independence by encouraging them to:

- Pack their own school bag each day with the items they need
- Carry their own bag and belongings to and from school
- Take their book bag out and put it in the correct place in the classroom
- Hang their sunhat on their hook when it's not being used

School Food

Please give some thought to what you include in your child's lunchbox. Our school policy is that children have water only to drink, and we don't allow lollies at school.

In keeping with our focus on developing independence, we ask that all containers and food are able to be managed independently by your child. You could have them practice opening and closing containers at home so they know how to do it in the classroom. Yoghurt pottles and "suckies" can be difficult for children to open and often result in spills, so we ask that these are not included in lunchboxes.

We also have students with severe nut allergies. Please do not send peanuts, cashew or pistachio nuts, and peanut butter is discouraged. To support these children, we also provide a nut-free eating area at school.

In an ongoing effort to reduce waste in our school, we encourage "Litterless lunches", using as little paper or plastic wrapping as possible. Please make sure all containers are named so that they find their way back

to you! We are also encouraging 'pack it in - pack it out' which means children will bring home everything not eaten in their lunch box.

We have a fruit break around 10 am. Please make sure that your child has a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at this time.

Although we enjoy celebrating birthdays at school, it is our policy to not celebrate with food so that we ensure safety for those children with allergies. Please do not send cake or snacks to your child's class for their birthday - the teacher will be able to talk with you about other options.

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 return these to school if you haven't already.

Home Learning

If your child has a sound/phonics book or a 'Maths Mahi' from last year, please have them bring them into school. Your child's teacher will send more information about home learning for 2026.

Parent helpers

We love having parents to support our programmes, so please talk to your child's teacher if you would like to help in the classroom. This would start after the first few weeks, once children have had a chance to settle into classroom routines.

Family photo

As we'll be starting with a focus on belonging this term, we'd really love it if your child could bring a recent photo of their family - just something casual, a selfie on the couch is fine! You can send in a printed version or just email it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

That's a lot of information so well done if you made it all the way through! Please do not hesitate to be in contact with any of the junior team, we really value close relationships with families and we're looking forward to a great year ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nikki Ureña, Helen Taylor, Ben Haddock, Bex Quinn, Sidney Spencer, Cath Colwill & Liz Irving