



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the Christmas and New Year period. The Year 3 and 4 team are really looking forward to an exciting year ahead. The teachers in this syndicate this year are:

Staff

Jessie Gregory (team leader)	Room 1	jessie.gregory@seatoun.school.nz
Matt Churchouse	Room 1 (Fridays)	matt.churhouse@seatoun.school.nz
Jayne Carey	Room 2	jayne.carey@seatoun.school.nz
Sam Healy	Room 10	sam.healy@seatoun.school.nz
Louise Noble	Room 11	louise.noble@seatoun.school.nz
Gill Billingsley	Room 11 (Fridays)	gill.billingsley@seatoun.school.nz

Marion Hair and Nikki Ureña will provide CRT (classroom release time) for teachers this term. Ms Hair will provide a music programme, and Mrs Ureña will teach Mathematics. Each programme will run for 1 hour per week.

We are also very fortunate to have teaching assistants in our Year 3 and 4 classes. Hazel Rostron-Wood (Room 1) and Karen Millar (Room 11) will provide support in classrooms.

Contact and communication with teaching team

Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy to meet with parents to discuss progress. It is important to schedule a suitable time with your child's teacher and let them know the topic to be covered so they can come prepared with the necessary information. The best way to contact us is by email. Emails are checked daily, and we strive to reply as soon as possible. We can often have a brief chat before school from 8.30 -8.45 am or directly after school. Teachers will be unavailable to meet with parents during these weekly meeting times:

Monday	8.10-8.30 am	Admin Meeting
Tuesday	7.30-8.30 am	Senior Leadership Meeting (Jessie)
	3.10-5.00 pm	Staff Meeting
Thursday	3.10-5:00 pm	Team Meeting

At the beginning of the year, it will be a particularly busy time for us with swimming. Please keep an eye out for communication via Hero. Each week we will share our timetable so that you know what's coming up and how you could support your child's learning.

Swimming

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 a towel in a large 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.

Swimming Dates

- Wednesday the 11th of Feb
- Wednesday the 18th of Feb
- Wednesday the 25th of Feb
- Wednesday the 4th of March
- Wednesday the 11th of March
- Wednesday the 18th of March
- Wednesday the 25th of March
- Wednesday the 1st of April

School Values

Each term this year, we will focus on 1 of our school values. Our focus this term is on **Responsibility**. We will share and discuss what these values mean to us and consider how we can demonstrate responsibility in our daily lives. Please follow this up at home.

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 organise 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. before the bell to ensure a good start to the day.
3. Wearing a school sunhat and sunscreen whenever outside and appropriate footwear/clothing for PE/fitness.

Social Sciences (Inquiry Learning)

This term, our syndicate will learn through an integrated Social Sciences unit titled "Seatoun – Our Place." The focus of this unit is helping children understand the place they live in, the people connected to it, and how we can care for it together. We will explore Seatoun through local walks, stories, photos, maps, discussion, art, writing, and inquiry activities.

ICT Responsible User Agreements

Hopefully, you received an ICT Responsible User Agreement during your meet-the-learner. 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.

Mathletics

In previous years, we have used an online maths program called Mathletics to support mathematical learning. We continue to review costs and technology, and we will not be subscribing to Mathletics this year. If you are interested in a subscription, you can purchase one through the Mathletics website.

Sunsmart

Please remember that all children need a named sun hat 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 (with minimal 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 any uneaten items in their lunch boxes.

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

We also ask that you not bring food to school for class celebrations, for example, celebrating birthdays with birthday cakes.

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 unused stationery until needed. We remind you not to send your child to school with highly attractive, covetable items (scented, fluffy, or glittery), as they can disrupt children's learning. We require all 2025 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 sessions 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.

We are all refreshed after the summer break and look forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning experience for your children. If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jessie Gregory, Matt Churchouse, Jayne Carey, Sam Healy, Louise Noble and Gill Billingsley