

9 February 2012



Year 3/4 Term 1 Newsletter

Welcome back to you all, and a special welcome to all the new children who have started this term. We have a wonderful team of teachers and support staff working in the Year 3/4 area of the school, and we are all looking forward to a productive, enjoyable year.

Contact

If you need to contact us we are best reached via e-mail. We check our email every day and will return messages as soon as possible.

Catherine Miller (Team Leader)	Room 13	catherine.miller@seatoun.school.nz
Sue Luxford	Room 10	susan.luxford@seatoun.school.nz
Chloe Marshall	Room 11	chloe.marshall@seatoun.school.nz
Michelle Pontifex	Room 12	michelle.pontifex@seatoun.school.nz

Teachers value the partnership between home and school and are happy to meet with parents to discuss progress or concerns. We can usually be reached in our classes from 8.35 - 8.50am, or from 3.00-3.30pm. We have several meeting times which will impact on availability to meet.

Monday	8.10am - 8.30am	Admin Meeting
Tuesday	7.30am - 8.30am	Leadership Meeting (Catherine)
Tuesday	3.15pm - 5.00pm	Staff /Team meeting
Wednesday	3.15pm - 4.15 pm	Team planning
Thursday	8.10am - 8.30am	Support Meeting

It is important to arrange a suitable time with your child's teachers and let them know the topic to be covered so they can come prepared with the information necessary.

Teacher Aides for 2012

Each Year 3/4 class will have teacher-aide support for 2 mornings a week to allow teachers to provide focussed group teaching. Helen Tume provides teacher-aide support in Room 13 two mornings a week, and Hazel Rostron-Wood provides in-class support in Room 11 two mornings a week. Katerina Jurriss will be working in Room 12 two mornings a week, and Room 10 two mornings a week. She will also be providing student support to small groups and individuals in Year 3/4 on four afternoons per week. Jess Ellis will work with a group of students on Tuesday mornings. You will receive a letter if your child is receiving extra support this term.

Teacher Release

Teachers are released for a variety of reasons:

1. All teachers are provided with 8 classroom release days a year. We use these for meetings, testing, analysis, records, professional development and so on
2. Teachers with specific responsibilities eg Sports, ICT, English, team leaders receive some release
3. Beginning Teachers have release to assist with planning, preparation, and professional development

Catherine is released each Friday for team leader duties. Friday will cause the least amount of disruption to major literacy and numeracy programmes for Room 13. Deb McNaught will teach in Room 13 on Fridays.

Chloe is released every second Wednesday as part of her Beginning Teacher requirements

Home Learning

TRUMP Challenge will begin in Week 4. This is the main component of our home learning programme. The TRUMP booklet will be sent home at the end of next week, and will have been discussed with your child. Please see your teacher if you have any queries about this programme, or check out the school website for more details.

As well as TRUMP, our weekly home-learning requirements are:

- **Reading:** Children need to read daily. Initially, your child will be bringing home familiar books at a level which they can easily read independently, allowing them to build their knowledge of vocabulary, words and comprehension. (It is important that school readers are kept in bookbags and come to school every day. The book bag will protect books from day-to-day wear and tear, and is a necessity)
- **Spelling/Basic Facts:** Children should spend at least 5 minutes, 4 evenings a week, on learning spelling words, and the same on learning basic facts knowledge. Spelling and Basic Facts practice will come home on a Friday, and needs to be completed by Thursday (this will begin in Week 3 after other routines are up and running).

Note: This week, as our spelling and basic facts testing is not yet complete, we will be sending home a small task in the home-learning books, which we would like you to work on with your child. We hope that you will find it enjoyable!

Swimming

The Year 3 and 4 children will begin their swimming programme at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre next week. They will be swimming every Monday, from 1-2pm.

We will be leaving school each day at 12.30 pm and returning around 2.30 pm each day. We will have lunch at 12.00 prior to leaving. Children will need:

- a fresh water bottle
- a jersey or jacket to put on after swimming to keep warm.
- named swimming togs, towel, and **goggles** in a swimming bag.



Children will originally be grouped from last year's data, and on day one will be tested and groups confirmed. Information from parents regarding current swimming lesson levels will also be useful to assist with groupings to meet the needs of the children. Please email us with any relevant information.

Integrated Studies for Term One

Over this term, we are undertaking a Social Sciences unit called "Celebrating Me, Celebrating Us". We will be looking at, and celebrating, ourselves as unique individuals (ME!), and our class/school/community as a unique group (US!) Integrated with this unit, children will be involved in a Health unit: "Kia Kaha-Building a Safe Happy Classroom", which covers topics such as similarities and differences, exploring acceptable behaviour in the classroom, recognising bullying and knowing that it is wrong, seeking help, making choices, and working co-operatively. This is a programme which has been developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Police and is at an appropriate level for young children. There may be some activities that the children bring home for you to discuss with them. It is important that you talk with your child about what they have been learning, to reinforce the messages that we are giving at school and help your child to use his or her new skills with confidence.

There is more information on the Long Term Plan that accompanies this newsletter.

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 bookbag to school daily, with their reading book and any home-learning/notices, take it out of their schoolbag 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.

Te Reo Māori

This term the simple phrases we are all incorporating into our daily conversations are:

Kia Ora, Kei te pehea koe?- Hello. How are you? /Kei te pai- I'm fine

Mahi Tahi- Work as One

Whakarongo mai- Listen

Sunsmart

Please remember all children need a named sunhat in their house colour every day this term. Please apply sun block before school and it is recommended that you send a roll-on sun block to school with your child.

School Food

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 do have some children who are highly allergic to nuts so we request that do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school and would prefer no peanut butter. We are endeavouring to reduce our waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate if families could provide litterless lunches ie - a minimum amount of paper and plastic wrapping on packages or providing lunch in small airtight containers. It is important to name containers as we continue to have many unclaimed lunch containers at the end of each day.

Stationery

Goal Folders (X-files) 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; however, could you ensure that it has been returned to school.

Lost Property

Please name all school clothes and hats so if they are mislaid they can be returned to the children. Property that has not yet been claimed can be found behind the yellow door beside the hall entrance.

Parent helpers

Parents are welcome to come and support our literacy, numeracy and parent reading tutor 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 for specific children in the first couple of weeks if requested.

We are looking forward to working with you to continue to provide the best possible education for your child.

Regards

Catherine Miller, Sue Luxford, Michelle Pontifex, Chloe Marshall

TEACHERS Catherine Miller Michelle Pontifex Sue Luxford Chloe Marshall	WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	DATE	1-3 Feb	6-10 Feb	13-17 Feb	20-24 Feb	27 Feb- 2 March	5-9 March	12-16 March	19-23 March	26-30 March	2-6 April	
	EVENTS	Meet the teacher -2nd Feb	Waitangi Day -6 th Feb			PAT Tests Year 3/4 Hui - 2nd March		School Gala -18 th March			Good Friday - 6 th April	
Language	Speaking	Listening and Speaking Using oral language for meaning and effect. News Focus- personal news, interviews										
	Writing	Organise text, using simple structures Sequencing ideas and information. Using simple sentences with variation in beginning Self- monitoring. Introducing author cycle. Transactional Writing- PERSONAL RECOUNTS Reporting on OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL										
	Reading	Personal Reading - Selecting and reading independently for enjoyment and information. Instructional Reading - Group reading Shared Reading - Teacher/student reading. Reading for information. Developing reading comprehension. Skills; discussing genres, structures, language features, meanings & ideas in a range of text										
	Spelling/ Grammar	Testing - As per school target Essential Lists from Spell Write. Grammar/Word Study - Spelling patterns, High Frequency Words.										
	Viewing/ Presenting	Develop critical thinking when viewing. Form and express simple ideas and information drawing from personal experience and knowledge.										
	Handwriting	Letter Formation, size, position, shape. Write letter and number forms legibly when creating text.										
	Māori	Pronunciation , Greetings/Farewells, Nga Mihi										
Mathematics	Measurement & Geometry Time			Measurement & Geometry Money			Number Place Value/ Addition and Subtraction.					
	Basic Facts- ongoing learning and testing, based on individual needs Maths Interchange- focussing on strands of geometry and measurement, and statistics											
Integrated Studies		Health: Kia Kaha Social Science: Celebrating Me, Celebrating Us										
The Arts	Music, Drama, Dance	Music Appreciation and Elements- Exploring music from a range of environments. Singing/Playing										
	Visual Art	Collage - Personal collage to celebrate "me" -Group collage to celebrate "us"										
PE/Health		Swimming					Cross Country					



9 February 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In 2011, we introduced a very successful web-based package called Mathletics to the Year 5-8 students. It was exceptionally well-received by students, and those students who consistently used it appear to have made significant gains in their mathematical expertise. We aim to continue to provide school-based mathematics programmes using this resource. Subscribing to Mathletics will entitle students to 24-hour web access, and a variety of fun and challenging maths activities, aimed at children of all learning abilities.

Mathletics caters for those children needing remedial work, consolidation of learning or for those needing extra challenges and extension work. Tasks are set at the required level for each child and are designed to be completed independently, at home and at school. Once tasks are completed, they are instantly marked and the children receive feedback on their progress. As parents, you can also have access to their account to view their progress and achievements on Mathletics, and you can choose to receive emailed reports each week.

For Year 3-6 children, the Mathletics programme will be linked with the Trump Challenge. It will be classed as a challenge completed, if the child engages in the set activities for the required time. For Year 7/8 children it will be the basis for basic facts/number knowledge homestudy, to be completed each week.

At Seatoun School, we are offering a subsidised price for the programme. As an indication, a normal one-year subscription to this site costs a parent \$99 per child. However, when joined as a school it costs \$30 per child. We are offering it to you at \$15 per child for a full year. We strongly encourage each child to take this excellent opportunity to participate in a fun and engaging programme. This cost will be added to your child's invoice, along with the voluntary donation and the activity fee unless you specify by Friday 17 February, through email to the office admin staff, that you do not wish your child to participate in Mathletics. If the cost is a difficulty but you would like your child to participate in this programme, please contact us to discuss options.

Any questions feel free to contact Catherine or Susan or have a look at the website yourselves on: www.mathletics.co.nz.

Thank you

Susan Kliffen and Catherine Miller