

# Year 3-4



10 February 2011  
School Newsletter # 1 Information

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer break. We are all looking forward to a productive, enjoyable year. We extend a special welcome to all the new children who have started this 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	catherine.miller@seatoun.school.nz
Sue Luxford	susan.luxford@seatoun.school.nz
Tina Schmid	tina.schmid@seatoun.school.nz
Chloe Marshall	chloe.marshall@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 do 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	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Staff /Team meeting
Thursday	7.40am - 8.10am	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 Release

Teachers are released for a variety of reasons:

1. All teachers are provided with 8 classroom release days a year to complete work. We use these for meetings, testing, analysis, records, and so on
2. Teachers with specific responsibilities eg Sports, ICT, English, Team leaders receive some release time
3. Beginning Teachers have a day's release per week 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 17.

Chloe is released every \_\_\_\_\_ as part of her Beginning teacher requirements

## Teacher Aides for 2011

Each Year 3/4 class will have teacher-aide support for 2 mornings a week to allow teachers to provide focussed group teaching.

Room 14 and 16	Sona Preislerora
Room 15	Katerina Jurriss
Room 17	Helen Tume

In addition, Karen Millar and Tracey Coupe will be providing one-to-one support to some individual students. You will receive a letter if your child is receiving extra support this term.

### Swimming

The Year 3 and 4 children will begin their swimming programme at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre tomorrow. They will be swimming every Friday, except Weeks 5 and 6 of the term. The dates are as follows: 11, 18, 25 February. 18, 25 March. 1, 8, 15 April.

We will be leaving school each day at 10.20 am and returning around 1:00 pm each day. Children will need:

- a large lunch/afternoon tea on swimming days
- 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.

The bulk of the swimming lessons are paid from the parent activity fee with a \$12 subsidy from the 'Kiwisport' component of our operational funding.

### Integrated Studies for Term One

Over the next 2 weeks the children will be involved in a Health unit: "Knowing What to Do" - "Me Mōhio Kia Pēhea". This unit of work is part of the personal safety programme "Keeping Ourselves Safe" (KOS), which has been developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Police and is at an appropriate level for young children.

KOS has been designed to give children the skills to cope in a wide range of situations including abuse. "Knowing What to Do" will be taught by your child's teacher, with help from the local Police Education Officer. 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 as this will reinforce the messages that we are giving at school and help your child to use his or her new skills with confidence.

In the last part of the term, we will be doing a unit about "Identity"- looking at personal, community and national identity. As part of this focus, we will be visiting the "Back and Beyond and Here" exhibition at the Museum of City and Sea in Week \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### 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 has 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 some specific home-learning tasks which we would like the students to work on. We suggest they complete a little each night, as well as reading, to begin a daily "home-learning habit". There is also a small task for you, which we hope you will find enjoyable!

### 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
  - Pack their reading book and any maths activity or reading activity in their bookbag, bring it to school daily, take it out of their schoolbag themselves and put it in the correct place in the classroom.
- Sunhats and clothing
  - Ensure that their sunhat is hanging on their hook when they are not using it.

### Punctuality

Another focus for the year at Seatoun School is to ensure classes start promptly at the beginning of the day and after intervals. This relies on students being punctual to class to ensure maximum learning time. We would appreciate your support in having children settled at school by 8.45am, ready to begin class at 8.50am. We will try to ensure that children are released promptly at 2.55pm. To do this, children will be packing and collecting their bags from the corridor at 2.45pm. We would appreciate it if parents could leave the corridor free until after this time, so that children are able to reach their bags independently.

### Sunsmart

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

### School Food

Please give careful consideration to what you send along with your children 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 children do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school and would prefer no peanut butter.

Last year we had a strong focus on litterless lunchboxes, which was successful in raising awareness and reducing the amount of rubbish that we create in the school. We would appreciate it if you would continue to provide lunches with a minimal amount of packaging, plastic and paper.

### Stationery

Please ensure that your child has all stationery items they need and that items are labelled. 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.

### 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 in the first couple of weeks, if requested.

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

Regards

Catherine Miller, Sue Luxford, Tina Schmid, Chloe Marshall