Dear Parents of 1/2A,

The year has started off very well, everyone has seamlessly made the transition into their new grade and has settled in beautifully. The information below is to help you better understand what your child will be learning this term, as well as other information that is relevant to our classroom.

Our Timetable
Our Term 1 specialist timetable for 1/2A is:

- **Wednesday**: Indonesian, Art and Music
- **Thursday**: Physical Education
- **Friday**: Friday Fitness, Library and Computer Lab

Communications Folder & Homework
Each Friday the children will bring home ‘1/2A News.’ This includes information about what we have been learning at school and provides an opportunity for you to reinforce these concepts at home. 1/2A News will also include a list of spelling words for your child to practise. This year we will be working through the Oxford Wordlist. The list is research based and includes the words that are most frequently used in children’s writing from Foundation to Year 2. There will be three separate lists for different groups within the class. I will highlight the list I would like your child to practise. Please make an effort to complete spelling activities throughout the week as we will have a test each Friday.

Classroom Helpers
During the year there are several opportunities for you to volunteer to help our class. In particular, we need parents (grandparents, carers etc.) to help swap the Take Home Books each day and/or spend time listening to students read. A Working With Children Check (WWCC) can be applied for online and is free to volunteers. You will also receive training and a privacy briefing from Ms Braakhuis before you start. Please contact me via the Communications Folder if you are able to help or if you need assistance accessing the WWCC.

Take Home Books
The Home Reading Program will begin next week. It is very important to read with your child every night. You will be asked to sign your child’s Take Home Reading Diary each night so that our volunteer parents know it has been read and will change it. It is also recommended that children engage with a variety of literature at home to support their reading development as well.

PMP
Another activity that relies heavily on help from parents is the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP). This program will begin during Term 2 and involves one session each week. A notice will be sent home requesting volunteers later this term. As this program relies heavily on parental assistance it will not run unless we have sufficient helpers.
**Curriculum**
Our program is based on the Victorian Curriculum in the domains of English, Mathematics, Science, and History. In Level 1 & 2 the emphasis is on Literacy and Numeracy skills. Also covered are Health and Physical Education, Humanities, the Arts and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

**Literacy**
The children will be reading a variety of text types throughout the term and focusing on the CAFÉ Reading Program. They will develop their comprehension (C), accuracy (A), fluency (F), and extending their vocabulary (E).

In writing they will explore a range of text types including Recount, Narrative, Description and Procedure. They will participate in Big Write sessions where they will be required to complete some Talk Homework to develop ideas related to the given topic. We will continue to revise sounds using the SoundWaves program, and practise correct handwriting techniques and speaking and listening skills.

**Numeracy**
Our focus in Mathematics will be on number, place value, counting patterns, addition and subtraction. These foundation skills will assist your child in developing number sense which is essential for understanding more complex areas of mathematics such as multiplication, division and fractions.

**Integrated Studies**
Integrated studies brings together various curriculum areas using a theme, topic or big question. This term we will be using the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum as our key focus. It is based around three messages: Recognise, React and Report. It encourages children to be aware of their surroundings and ‘recognise’ warning clues. They will explore their choices so that they can ‘react’ in a way that may keep them safe or help make them safe. Finally, the students are encouraged ‘report’ unsafe incidents to an adult. The aim of the program is to teach children about personal safety and awareness.

**Physical Education**
This term Physical Education will focus on Fundamental Motor Skills and fitness. Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities designed to develop their athletics skills. Minor games will give students the opportunity to practice kicking, throwing, bouncing and catching a ball. Enjoyment of physical activity and developing co-operation will be promoted through these games and activities. Students are also encouraged participate in Kilometre Club at lunchtime on Mondays.

**Music**
During Term 1 students will be introduced to our new ACMF Music tutor, Mr Craig Bourke. Mr Bourke will work alongside Mrs Witte. They will be given the opportunity to sing, keep a steady beat and combine their singing with physical movements and actions. Students will use their voices to create different sound effects and participate in two part harmonies. Percussion instruments will give the students the opportunity to improvise and create their own music. We will continue to focus on having fun and encouraging each other.
Visual Arts

In Visual Arts students will continue to explore and revise the elements of colour, line and shape. They will focus on primary and secondary mixing colours using paint and water colours. Art sessions will explore a range of concepts through a connection to literature and media. Students will have the opportunity to see art in their community with a visit to McClelland Gallery.

Indonesian (Language Other Than English – LOTE)

During LOTE in Term One students will focus on learning how to count from 1-20 in Indonesian. They will learn to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Indonesian. The students will be introduced to daily greetings such as Selamat pagi, Selamat siang, Selamat sore and Selamat malam. The students should be able to complete the entire task with practice and working together with other students.

Uniform

We are a SunSmart school. This means that all children must wear a school broad brim hat at all times when outside. For safety reasons, please make sure that the cord is removed. Children are required to wear a school uniform at all times. If for any reason they are out of uniform, please send a written note.

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle each day to leave in the classroom so that they can remain hydrated throughout the day. Pop-top varieties are preferred as they reduce the risk of spills. Please only send water in their water bottle.

Healthy Food Choices

As our lunchtime is from 1.30-2.15 it is important your child has a decent sized snack for recess – and please have them eat a good breakfast. Healthy eating will be an ongoing topic throughout the year. We have a fruit break around 10.15am each day so please send a small piece of fresh fruit or vegetable to eat at this time.

On Fridays we are fortunate enough to have ‘Fresh Fruit Friday’ where each class is presented with a platter of freshly cut fruits and vegetables for the children to share. It is not necessary to send along a piece of fruit or vegetable on this day for snack.

Anaphylaxis Reminder

Seaford Park Primary School Council has approved and updated Anaphylaxis Policy. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction to a substance – most commonly nuts, egg, milk, wheat, soy, seafood, some insect stings, and medications. An anaphylactic reaction can be life threatening. We ask that children, parents and staff reduce the risk for children at our school who are at risk of an allergic reaction by not bringing nuts or nut products to school.

If you have any concerns about your child or questions about the curriculum please feel free to approach me at drop off and pick up times, alternatively contact me via the office or communications folder and we can arrange a mutually convenient time to have a more in depth discussion.

I’m looking forward to a productive and fun first term teaching your child!

Ms Anthea Argent