Dear Parents,

The year has started off very well with everyone settling into classroom routines and beginning of the year organisational activities. I have met quite a few parents informally, and as the year progresses I hope to meet everybody to discuss your child’s progress and grade activities. If you need to see me to discuss any matter relating to your child, I would prefer an appointment is made for after school or at a mutually convenient time.

The children have commenced working on individual and grade activities at their level. I will be commencing assessment activities this month in order to create ability level groups in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Reading at home is very important and should be done for at least 15 minutes most nights if possible. Time will also be allocated each day in the classroom for silent reading. Please encourage your child to borrow books from the school and local library.

Other work such as project work, speeches or work not completed at school will be sent home as required. Set homework in will be given out on Monday and returned by Friday. A lot of learning comes from the correction of homework at school on Friday.

Public Speaking is a strongly established program at Seaford Park. During the year the students will present one-minute, two-minute and three-minute speeches with the main speech being completed in term 3.

This year a major emphasis will be on the children to keep their books and belongings tidy and free of unnecessary marks and scribble. We have discussed this with the children in class and all children have signed an agreement to look after their belongings. Books that are scribbled upon may be sent home to be re-covered. We have worked with the children in each grade to establish class expectations of behaviour and work standards.

**Water bottles**

Children are encouraged to have a water bottle in the classroom. **Bottles can only be filled with water.** They also need to be of the pop-top variety as this reduces the risk of accidents that end with spoilt work and upset children.

**Food**

As our lunchtime is now from 1:30 to 2:15 it is important your child has a good snack for recess, and please encourage them to have a good breakfast. We will be continuing our breakfast program on Tuesday mornings which all students are welcome to attend. Healthy eating will be an ongoing topic throughout the year. Students will have the opportunity to eat a piece of fruit during the morning session of the day, so I would encourage students to bring a fresh piece of fruit or vegetables. Every Friday we are fortunate to have ‘Fresh Fruit Friday’. Therefore, students will not need a morning fruit snack on this day.
NUMERACY
In Numeracy this term we will be studying the following units of work. Measurement and Geometry looking at 2D Space, Length, Place Value, Statistics and Probability, Fractions, Number Patterns and Structure.
Revision of all counting patterns and number groups will be a primary focus, which will assist in developing an understanding of factors and tables. Please go over with your child their tables and please follow up Maths Mate homework activities.

LITERACY
As a part of our literacy program students will participate in reading activities which are related to our integrated unit topics. They will continue to focus on their reading fluency and comprehension using both fiction and non-fiction texts. For Writing in Term 1, we will be focusing on Narrative and Exposition which will prepare our students for the NAPLAN tests for the Years 3 and 5.
Students will also be participating in the Big Write VCOP program. This is a fantastic program which engages students in writing tasks in an engaging and challenging way

INTEGRATED STUDIES
For Integrated studies this term we will be investigating the key question of How Do we celebrate being Australian and connect to regional and global communities. The children will build on their understanding of Australian society and investigate some of the different cultural groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that make up the Australian community. This includes contributions to the arts, industry, medicine and science, as well as to other aspects of their life including food, festivals and sporting events. They explore the ways that Australians are connected to other regional and global communities.

Our second unit this term will be looking at the key question of why Europeans journeyed to Australia and the impact on the indigenous people. We will be looking at life and crime in England and the social factors that caused the sending of convicts to a Penal colony in Australia. We will study the voyage, life on the ships and the difficulties faced when landing in Botany Bay and Sydney Cove and the relationship with the indigenous people living in that area. We will investigate the importance of the First Fleet and the relevance it has to our society today.

YOU CAN DO IT
We will commence the week with an activity relating to one of the You Can Do It Keys, which will be a focus for discussion and activities throughout the year.

OVERVIEW OF YEAR EVENTS
To help in planning and paying for school events we have listed below a summary of known activities at this stage:
Term One – Athletic Sports – Field and Track
Term Two – To be advised
Term Three - Lightning Premiership
Term Four - Camp Coolamatong / Graduation Grade 6

SCIENCE
In Science this term, students will be using a range of resources to investigate integrated topics Celebrating Australia & First Contacts. The opportunity will be given to use Experiments, Minecraft and Discovery Learning projects to present their explanations and findings. We will again be getting our hands grubby in our school vegetable patch growing fruit and vegetables and while looking after our worm farm. Sustainability at Seaford Park will be a main focus across the whole school and students will participate in activities for Earth Hour, Clean Up Australia Day and Ride to School Day.
**ART**
In Art sessions the focus will be on increasing and developing the children’s knowledge of the colour wheel with a focus on both complementary and analogous colours. They will participate in a variety of lessons exploring effects of colour and practice mixing different paint combinations and naming new colours. Connections will be made to literacy through visual print, advertising and text.

**INDONESIAN**
During LOTE in Term One students will focus on saying “hello”, “goodbye”, greetings and the time of day. They will learn to count in Indonesian from 0-1000. The students will learn how to describe themselves and their friends in Indonesian and also focus on saying the words by playing games and interacting with each other during the Indonesian lesson.

**MUSIC**
During Term 1 students will continue to develop their singing skills and will be introduced a new repertoire of songs. Percussion instruments, in particular drums, will be used in conjunction with singing. Students will be encouraged to engage with singing, music and dance activities with a focus on having fun. Students will work towards creating and performing a percussion accompaniment to a known song. They will develop the skill of reading and writing traditional notation and will use crotchets, rests and quavers to compose their accompaniment.

**P.E**
This term Physical Education will focus on Athletics Skills and fitness. This includes Field Events – high jump, long jump, triple jump, shot put and discus and Track Events – sprints, distance running, relays and hurdles. Fundamental Motor Skills will continue to be developed, (especially throwing and catching) as children participate in fitness activities and team games. Students will create personal goals and challenges for themselves that they will track throughout the year. Students will also participate in a hockey clinic and have the opportunity to participate in Kilometre Club at lunchtime on Wednesdays.

**TIMETABLE**
Specialist Timetable for Term One:

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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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**ANAPHYLAXIS**
Seaford Park School Council has approved an 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. We are asking that children, parents and staff reduce the risk of children who suffer from Anaphylaxis by not bringing Nuts or Nut products to school. Posters have been placed around the school to promote this.

GEOFF TRIPLOW