Dear Parents

The year has started off very well with all children settling back into school routines with ease. I welcome Jess into our school and hope he enjoys his time with us at Seaford Park Primary School. I have met some 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, please make a mutually convenient time preferably after school.

Uniform

Children are required to wear school uniform at all times. If, for some reason, your child is out of uniform please send a written note explaining the reason. We are a Sun Smart school, this means that all children must wear a school broad-brim hat at all times when outside, including Phys Ed lessons. Please ensure your child’s name is CLEARLY written on ALL uniform items, especially hats and jumpers.

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.

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.

Home Reading

We do not have an organised Take Home Reading program for students in grades 5 and 6 however, it is expected that students take part in daily reading. We will be attending the Library each week where students will have the opportunity to borrow a book and I strongly recommend that students attend the local library to further encourage a love for reading.

Class weekly timetable:

- Monday - Assembly
- Tuesday - Art
- Wednesday – Physical Education Computers Library
- Thursday – Choir, Science, Indonesian, Music
- Friday – Fitness, 3-6 Sport

Upcoming events for term 1:

- Athletics – Track and Field
Homework
Every Monday all children will be given homework to be completed and returned to school by Friday. Your co-operation in the completion of homework tasks will be greatly appreciated. Other work such as projects or work not completed at school will be sent home as required.

You Can Do It
The You Can Do It Program is a major focus in class and the playground. Weekly lessons are conducted as part of this program. The keys to success and happiness at school include the You Can Do It foundation keys of resilience, organisation, getting along, confidence and persistence.

Integrated Studies
Our first Integrated Studies unit this term is ‘Needs wants & Money’ which is well under way. As a part of this topic students have been investigating the difference between a need and a want and how we can best cater for these. They have also been looking at different currencies from around the world and their value. Throughout the second half of the term we will be studying the topic of ‘Natural Disasters’. Students will be looking at how a sudden change in geological changes or weather patterns can change the earth’s surface.

Numeracy
This term we will be focusing on two-dimensional shapes, place-value, length, different forms of data, fractions and number patterns. We will also be playing many different number games which will aim at improving our automatic response of number facts and problem solving skills. I would hope that the students are able to play some of these games with their own family members to further enhance these skills at home. Students are also encouraged to regularly practise their accuracy and speed of the table’s facts at home throughout the year.

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. 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. You will find more information about this program in the attached letter and it will involve students needing to participate in some ‘Talk Homework’ which is just that, talking with families about the text your child is going to write the following day.

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.

Physical Education
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.

Visual Arts
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 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.
Science
In Science this term, students will be using a range of resources to investigate integrated topics Natural Disasters. 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 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. 5/6 students will be working together on a project to show what we do at Seaford Park P.S. for Sustainability and what we need to improve to make our school a Resource Smart School!

Indonesian (SOSE)
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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout this year. If there is ever a time you need to speak to me please do not hesitate to drop in after school or call the school to arrange a suitable time.

Regards
Mrs Jessica Townsend