



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER— PREP



What a wonderful beginning we have had to the school year. All children have settled in to the start of the school year remarkably well. There has been much laughter and enjoyment in our classroom, and I am thrilled with the way your children have made the transition into their new grade.

COMMUNICATION FOLDER AND HOMEWORK

Please check your child's bag every night for any notices sent home. The children put all notices into their blue 'Communication Folder' and need to return the folder on the following day.

Each Friday the children will bring home 'Prep/ 1 News'. This includes information about what we have been learning at school and provides an opportunity for you to reinforce these concepts at home. You will also find important resources in the Communication Folder that will enable you to complete the maths activities. **Please** take care of the laminated resource cards and **return them at the end of the year**. These cards will be re-used next year.

Prep/ 1 News will also include a list of reading words for your child to practise. This year we will be working through the 100 Most Used Words. If your child is confident when reading the words, you may like to challenge them to spell the words, say them as part of a sentence or even write them in a sentence! Please make an effort to practise these words throughout the week as this knowledge will be applied when reading their Take Home Books.

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. If the diary is not signed the book will not be changed. We recommend that your child reads a variety of other literature at home as well. Going to the library together is a great way to engage with your child and expose them to a variety of texts.

LITERACY

This term we will be reviewing the letters and sounds that were covered last year. It is important for the children to be confident with the letters and sounds as they are vital in helping children to read and write independently. We will also be covering the 100 Most Used Words in the classroom. Children will have specific reading goals inserted into their take home reading diary. Please talk to your child about their special reading goal and work together to achieve it. The goals will be changed over time as I assess each child. Children will also have goals to improve their writing. This term we will continue to work on writing recounts.

NUMERACY

This term we will be focussing building the children's understanding of numbers to 10. This will involve reading and writing the numbers, identifying numbers on a number line, comparing groups and modelling numbers. We will also explore 2D shapes and ordinal number. Our Prep/ 1 News has mathematics tasks that are directly linked to what children have been learning in the classroom. You can help your children at home by completing these activities and talking to them about mathematics and its everyday uses. Be positive! Praise your child's success. Encourage your child to have a go at measuring, calculating, counting, estimating and solving problems. Invite your child to investigate and make discoveries for themselves. Encourage them to find their own answers. Don't be too quick to tell them the answers.

TIMETABLE

Our current specialist timetable is as follows:

WEDNESDAY: Music, Indonesian, Art

THURSDAY: P.E. (please ensure your child is wearing appropriate footwear on this day).

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.

FOOD

As our lunchtime is from 1.30 to 2.15 it is important your child has a substantial snack for recess, and please ensure they have a good breakfast. Healthy eating will be an ongoing topic throughout the year. We will be having fruit break at around 10am so please send a **small piece of fresh fruit or vegetable** for your child to eat at this time. Large fruits such as whole apples take too long to eat and are best cut into smaller pieces for convenience. Every Friday we are fortunate to have 'Fresh Fruit Friday'. Each child is provided with fresh fruit and vegetables to enjoy at fruit break time so it is not necessary to send along fruit.

ANAPHALAXIS

Seaford Park School has an 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.

PARENT HELPERS

During the year there are opportunities to volunteer to help throughout the school. In order for you to assist we do require a current Working With Children check. This is available online or at the post office free of charge. The area in which we require the most support is listening to reading each day and changing the children's take home books. Before any parents can start this they must have attended a short privacy briefing with Ms Braakhuis and signed the appropriate documents.

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.

ART

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.

MUSIC

During Term 1 students will be introduced to our new ACMF Music tutor, Mr Craig Bourke. Mr Bourke will work alongside Mrs Witte. Students will explore the use of sound, making a variety of sounds with their bodies and formal instruments. Emphasis will be placed on creating and maintaining steady beats when using drums and rhythm sticks, participating in call and response songs and moving safely around the room. Students will be encouraged to engage in activities and most importantly have fun!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term Physical Education will focus on developing the children's fundamental motor skills of throwing, catching, running, jumping and leaping. Students will participate in a variety of minor games promoting enjoyment of physical activity and co-operation. A major focus will be listening to and following instructions and staying within the boundaries of games and activities. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their fitness by participating in Kilometre Club at lunchtime on Mondays.

INDONESIAN

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.

I am looking forward to teaching your children and working with you to help them enjoy a happy and rewarding school year.

Jane Perotti