



# TERM 1 NEWSLETTER— GRADE 1



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 from Prep to Grade 1.

## 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 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 used most frequently in children's writing from Prep to Grade 2. There will be 3 separate lists for different abilities within the grade. 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 quick test on the words each Friday.

## 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 100 most words that were covered last year. It is important for the children to be confident with these words as they are vital in helping children to read and write independently and attempt unknown or more difficult words. 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. We will revise the sounds that were covered last year, and build on this knowledge using the SoundWaves activity books.

## NUMERACY

This term we will be focussing building the children's understanding of numbers to 20. This will involve reading and writing the numbers, identifying numbers on a number line, modelling numbers and skip counting by 2s and 5s. We will also explore 2D shapes. 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. 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.

## 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 practise 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.

## 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