Dear Parents,

What a wonderful beginning we have had to the school year. All children have settled in to the start of their school life remarkably well. There has been much laughter and enjoyment in our classrooms, and we are thrilled with the way your children have made the transition from Pre-School to School.

There is always something exciting happening in Prep, so we will keep you updated throughout the year via special Prep Newsletters.

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

The children have started to participate in Art, Physical Education, Science, Music, Library and Computer lessons. These classes are held weekly as follows:

- **Tuesday** — Art, Phys Ed
- **Thursday** — Music, Science, Library and Computers

All children are required to have an Art smock, a Library bag and suitable shoes for Phys Ed. Art smocks will stay in the classroom and be returned for washing in the Term 1 holidays.

Library bags will come home with a library book in them on or soon after your child’s library session. Books need to be returned before a new book can be borrowed. Library books cannot be borrowed without a library bag.

**Reading With Your Child**

So far this year we have been focussing on socialisation and becoming familiar with classroom routines. We are also getting ready for reading. “Well,” you might ask, “how are you doing this when you aren’t sending readers home with them yet?”

In the classroom we have been providing lots of activities which develop awareness of sounds. We have been using rhymes and other such activities as tools. The children are engaged in learning the letters of the alphabet. Once children are proficient in identifying the sounds and learning the letters, they will be moving on to activities that develop...
Phonological Awareness when they will learn which letters and letter combinations are associated with the sounds they hear in words.

Our aim is to develop a strong, solid base for your child’s literacy learning. Consequently we shall not be moving on to ‘readers’ until we believe the children are ready for them. We anticipate that this will not be until next term.

How can you help your children’s literacy learning? The best way is to read to them every day and to let them see you reading. Let them see that reading is an enjoyable activity. Let them see you writing – get them to help you write your shopping list – talk to them about what you need, talk to them about what you are writing, let them see that the written word is associated with the spoken word. Help them to develop a wide speaking vocabulary so that they can transfer this to their reading and writing vocabulary once this is needed. When you are reading to them, talk to them about the words and letters on the page so that they can become proficient in using these words. Ask them to find any letters they may recognise, but do not force the issue if they do not want to do so – it is to be expected that there will be times when they are tired and just want the enjoyment of being read to. They work very hard in school – even ‘playing’ is hard work!

As well as developing their literacy skills we have been doing lots of counting activities and have started introducing numbers. You can help your children at home by involving them in mathematical 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. We will be using a blue Homework Folder this year. Please return it to school each Friday so we can send home new maths activities that relate to what we have been learning in the classroom.

Before parents can listen to reading or help in their child’s grade it is necessary to attend a compulsory privacy briefing. The briefing will be held with Ms Braakhuis early in Term 2. All welcome to attend!

Rhymes we will be learning in the classroom that you can sing with your child at home.

**Humpty Dumpty**
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king’s horses and all the king’s men
Couldn’t put Humpty together again!

**One, Two, Buckle My Shoe**
1, 2, buckle my shoe.
3, 4, shut the door.
5, 6, pick up sticks.
7, 8, lay them straight
9, 10, a big fat hen!

**Star Light**
Star light, star bright.
First star I see tonight.
I wish I may
I wish I might
Have the wish
I wish tonight!

**I’m a Little Teapot**
I’m a little teapot short and stout.
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up hear me shout!
Tip me over and pour me out!

**Roses Are Red**
Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
Sugar is sweet
And so are you!
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.

Music
During Term 1 students will explore the use of sound and the way that they can make various sounds with their bodies, other materials and formal instruments. They will focus on creating and maintaining a steady beat using marimbas and rhythm sticks. They will be encouraged to engage with singing, music and dance activities with a focus on having fun.

ICT
This term in Information and Communications Technology students will begin to familiarise themselves with the basic features of the computer and common computer icons. They will develop some basic formatting skills and improve their hand-eye coordination when using the mouse. They will also have the opportunity to explore a number of apps on the iPads.

The Apple Tree
Way up high in the apple tree,
2 red apples smiled down at me.
I shook that tree as hard as I could.
Mmmm... Were they good!

Hickory Dickory Dock
Hickory Dickory Dock.
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one.
The mouse ran down.
Hickory Dickory Dock!

Engine Number Nine
Engine, engine number nine
Coming down Chicago line.
If the train falls off the track,
Do you want your money back?

Fishing
1 2 3 4 5
Once I caught a fish alive.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let him go again!
Why did you let him go?
Because he bit my finger so!
Which finger did he bite?
This little finger on my right.

Rain
Rain on the green grass.
Rain on the tree.
Rain on the rooftop
But not on me!
Physical Education
In PE sessions the focus will be on developing the children's fundamental motor skills of throwing, catching, running, jumping and leaping. They will participate in a variety of minor games and PMP activities promoting the children's enjoyment of physical activity and developing fitness, co-ordination and co-operation. Students will be introduced to a variety of team sports throughout the year.

PMP
The Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) will begin in Term 2 and continue throughout Term 3. This is a program to develop gross motor skills and co-ordination and relies on parent helpers.

Art
Welcome to the art room all our beautiful Preps. The students will learn the art room is a happy place where they have the freedom to express their creativity whilst exploring ways of developing their artistic talents. The children will have the opportunity to experiment with paint, crayons, paper and pastels to help develop their fine motor skills. Specifically this term we will concentrate on primary colours.

Science
In Science this term students will be learning what a scientist is and conducting simple fun experiments to engage their interest in this area. They will be learning the importance of asking questions, experimenting, observing and the different ways to record their findings to form an analysis. The students will study the topic 'The World We Live In' by looking at our local environment.

Library
In Library the students will learn how to care for books, the importance of print and foster an enjoyment of books. They will be encouraged to browse in the library, select and borrow a book to share at home and return it on time.

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

Kathy Lloyd and Jane Bennett