Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the 2016 school year at Seaford Primary School. This information is intended to give you a brief overview of what is happening in the Early Learning Centre (E.L.C) this year. As each teacher brings to the classroom individual strengths, interests and talents, there will be differences in the day to day activities in each room. However, the overall program will provide common experiences, and will ensure that the children are working towards the same learning outcomes as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum documents. We use an integrated approach in our classrooms so that the learning from different curriculum areas is linked and made meaningful for the children with the use of a focus topic.

These are the Early Learning Centre (ELC) focus topics for this year:

‘Healthy Lifestyles’
Earth and Space Science – Sky, moon, stars, effects on weather and seasons – ‘To Infinity & Beyond’ & ‘Our Earth’
All about Me, My Family & Community
Past, Present & Future
Physical Sciences- ‘Sounds Sensational’ & ‘May the Force Be With You’
Chemical Sciences – ‘All Mixed Up’ & ‘What’s It Made Of?’
The Olympics / International Week
Biological Science - Living Things – ‘Creature Features’ – Mini Beasts
Social Competencies – ‘Values’ Program
Investigations Program
Topic Time Program

ENGLISH (Early Years Literacy Program)

Reading, writing, speaking & listening skill development play a major role in the Junior School program. Literacy activities are based on the Early Years Literacy Program strategies and on the children’s needs and developmental stage of learning. Links across the curriculum encourage relevant and meaningful learning.

Parent Helpers
We welcome parents into the classroom each morning to assist with reading ‘take–home’ books between 9.00 and 9.30 a.m. Prep parents are invited to assist with the Literacy program which runs daily until 11.00 a.m. Parent helpers support the children with independent literacy activities while the teacher works with small, focused teaching groups. The children benefit substantially from parent involvement and thoroughly enjoy working with strong support from adult helpers.

Home Reading

All children will be encouraged to participate in the home reading program on a daily basis. The children should find these books easy to read. The purpose of the home reading program is for the children to develop confidence, fluency and expression through interaction with texts with which they are likely to experience success. If your child brings home a book that is too difficult, please read to or with your child to assist them.

Fruit Break / Water Bottles

The children in the Junior School enjoy a fruit break each morning at 10:00 a.m. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child has a small piece(s) of fruit in their bags each day. We also encourage the children to bring a bottle of water which they place on their tables. This enables the children to be well hydrated, particularly during hot weather.
MATHEMATICS (Early Years Numeracy Program)

Our Mathematics program is based on real life experiences and activities relevant to the children as much as possible. The program is built around an activity-based program using materials which the children can manipulate, thus providing valuable problem solving experiences.

The Mathematics Australian Curriculum document provides a strong foundation for program planning. A balanced curriculum is developed in the areas of Number, Space, Measurement and Chance & Data.

The Early Years Numeracy Program encourages the use of a variety of learning environments, with the children participating in whole class, small group and individual activities. Both ability and mixed ability groupings are used, depending upon the anticipated outcomes and focus of the activity. Open - ended learning tasks allow children the opportunity to work at their own level and to experience success. Teachers work with small, focused teaching groups while the rest of the children work on independent learning tasks.

Parents are also welcome to participate in the Early Years Numeracy sessions. These are generally held between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. daily.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Visual Arts – Kerri Giles
Performing Arts – Kerri Giles & Sue Weigall
Physical Education – Peter Lucus
Library – Class Teacher
Indonesian – Bu Wayan
Swimming Program – local swimming pool

WELFARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY
Seaford Primary School has a Code of Conduct which operates in all classrooms and in the school playground. The children have clearly defined set of guidelines to follow and are aware of the consequences resulting from a failure to follow these guidelines. The school uses the Restorative Practice procedures in behaviour management and modification. Integral to the implementation of this Code of Conduct is the affirmation of positive behaviour and the recognition of effort and achievement. A school priority of promoting Social Competencies is supported by the implementation of the ‘The Leader in Me’ and Values programs throughout the school.

EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS
Excursions and Incursion activities are seen as an important part of the school’s curriculum. They provide an opportunity for the children to be involved in direct experiences related to the topics being covered in classrooms.

COMMUNICATION
Effective communication between home and school is vital. If you wish to discuss any matter regarding your child we would be happy to meet with you at a mutually agreeable time.

We look forward to a strong partnership with you throughout the year to provide the best possible educational opportunities for your child.

Regards,
Charlotte Wilders, Ruth Arvidson, Deanne Round & Sue Weigall