

### AT WHAT AGE WILL MY CHILD START SCHOOL?

Seaford K-7 School follows Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) policy and admits children **at the beginning of the year a child turns 5 if their birthday is before May 1st**. Children born on or after this date will start school the following year.

Although the great majority of children begin school soon after their fifth birthday they are not required to do so until the age of 6.

If you believe your child may benefit from starting school closer to her/his sixth birthday, please discuss your concerns with staff at your pre-school.

### CAN MY CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL EARLY?

**No.** However, if your child has been recognised as a student with high intellectual potential by relevant authorities, she/he can be admitted prior to the Same First Day ruling.

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to the above arrangement so please be sure that your preschool entry matches our admissions dates.

### WHEN DO I ENROL MY CHILD?

As we have high demand for Reception places we need your enrolment as soon as your child begins pre-school.

Teachers are appointed to schools according to the number of students enrolled for a particular year.

### AM I WELCOME TO VISIT THE SCHOOL BEFORE I ENROL MY CHILD?

**Yes.** A Principal's Tour for prospective families is held twice per year. Please telephone the school to register your interest to visit on one of the following days.

Parents/ Carers of children enrolling in Reception are also invited to take part in our Starting School program in fourth term. This includes an information session and a tour with the school leadership team.

After your child begins school, there will be many opportunities to assist in your child's class. The teacher will let you know when assistance is required.

### DOES MY CHILD ATTEND FULL-TIME?

**Yes.** From Term 1 all children attend school full time. By arrangement with teachers new Reception students may go home earlier during their first few weeks at school if necessary.

### COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

The school provides families with a school newsletter via email every fortnight and uses the app *Skoolbag* to also send newsletters, messages and notes home to families. Hard copies of the newsletter are available on request.

Families are also encouraged to communicate with teachers by notes in student's communication book, Class Dojo or via the teacher's school email address.

Parents will be invited to an acquaintance information session with the classroom teacher early in Term 1. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Reception curriculum and to find out information about school programs.

Reporting to parents on new students' progress is cyclic, with written reports sent home after students have been at school for two terms and then at the end of the year. Three Way Conferences with students, parents and teachers will be held in conjunction with reports in the middle of the year.

The mid-year report provides information about how your child has settled into their first terms at school.

The **Approaches to Learning** section of the report gives information about the progress your child is making towards achieving *The 5 Keys to Success: Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along and Resilience*. Receptions' end of year written report will include curriculum areas. More information will be provided to parents at the time reports go home.



### WILL MY CHILD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE SCHOOL BEFORE S/HE ACTUALLY STARTS IN RECEPTION?

**Yes.** All children are encouraged to take part in the school's Starting School program.

Children have an orientation / transition visits, on selected mornings prior to commencing school.

The dates will be included in the Starting School letter sent to families during the term prior to their child commencing school.

## The Starting School program will be as follows:

When your child attends school for the transition visits in Term 4 they will spend three mornings with the Reception/Year 1 classes and have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of school activities.

### TERM 4

#### School Visit 1 Morning Transition to School Visit

8:50 – 10:30am Please bring a named hat and a piece of fruit

Parent/ Carer Meeting with Principal

#### School Visit 2 Morning Transition to School Visit

8:50 – 10:30am Please bring a named hat and a piece of fruit

#### School Visit 3 Half Day Transition to School Visit

8:50 – 12:00pm Please bring a named hat, a piece of fruit & a snack for recess



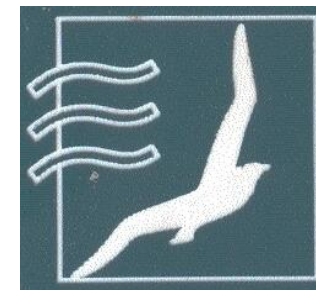
## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD START SCHOOL?

- \* Talk to your child about starting school, making new friends and learning new skills.
- \* Listen to your child (this helps children at every stage of their schooling).
- \* Help your child to learn to tie shoelaces, manage clothes, pack their school bags, open lunch box etc.
- \* Ensure your child can use the toilet and wash their hands independently. Discuss any concerns about this with teachers prior to beginning school.
- \* Put your child's full name on *all* things that are brought to school.
- \* Help your child to recognise her/his full name.
- \* Help your child to develop responsibility, initiative and independence by giving her/him little duties to perform which require one to two verbal instructions.
- \* Give your child the opportunity to play with other children, as well as use scissors, cut, paste, draw and paint.
- \* Allow your child time away from you so that s/he accepts that you will not always be present.
- \* Teach your child to be safe by knowing first and last names, address, phone number and family member's names.
- \* Discuss any concerns about school before the first day. Reassure your child. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident about entering the school environment.
- \* On the first day leave cheerfully. Don't linger unless your child's teacher suggests that you stay. Let your child know you will be back at the end of the day.
- \* Encourage your child to openly discuss her/his feelings about school and meet with the teachers if you have any concerns. Our teachers care about how families and children feel.

# STARTING SCHOOL

## RECEPTION CHILDREN

## SEAFORD K-7 SCHOOL



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