Dear Taylors Hill Community,

Welcome to the new school year. It is my pleasure to write our first newsletter for 2017. This newsletter will be published fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon, parents can access it through our school website www.taylorshillps.vic.edu.au, Facebook or if you require a hard copy please collect one from the office. The newsletter is an important form of communication between the school and home, so please ensure you read it with your children so that you know what is happening at our wonderful school.

**Great Start to 2017!**

I am pleased to report to you that we have had a very smooth start to the year with all students settling well into their new classes. We have started the year with 835 students, which is a significant increase in the schools population and I would like to warmly welcome our new families to the Taylors Hill community.

With the increase in students we have also had an increase in our staff. Prior to the students beginning this year our staff worked hard to plan and establish their classrooms into supportive and inviting learning environments for our students to learn in. Your child’s classroom teacher is the first point of contact if you have any queries. Teachers will be in their classrooms from 8.50am, therefore if you need to ask any questions that is a good time to ask them. As you are probably already aware the start and the end of the school day are very busy, so you may need to make an alternate time to meet your child’s teacher if you need to discuss issues in more detail. If you have any other queries beyond the classroom teacher you can contact either Jill Benham (P-2 Assistant Principal) or Trudy Smith (3-6 Assistant Principal).

**Every Day Counts**

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. **Our data showed that on average students at THPS miss 16.5 days of school last year. If this trend continues it will mean that our students will miss half a year of school by the time they graduate from Grade 6, which is totally unacceptable.**

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students are absent from school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.
Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

- Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

- “Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

- If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
  - Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
  - Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with the school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day. For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

Parking
You have probably already noticed that it is very busy around the school in the morning and afternoons. Parking during peak times around any school is difficult, and Taylors Hill is no different. We want to ensure that all students have safe access to the school, so I would like to remind parents to make sure that you park your car correctly so that it doesn’t block safe access for our students or restrict our neighbours from getting in and out of their driveways? I thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.

Please be aware that the parking spaces in Loddon Drive are restricted to “No Parking “during School Times, which essentially makes this a 2 minute drop off and pick up zone between 8am-9:30am and 2:30-4pm school days.

Establishing High Expectations
The first few weeks of school are very important and our aim is to make all of our students feel comfortable and successful in their new year level and classroom. Your child’s teacher will be working closely with the class to establish classroom expectations and routines. They will discuss behaviour and work expectations and set the tone for the year. Teachers are also currently working on developing a picture of the capabilities of each student. Lots of assessment happens at the beginning of the year so that we gain an understanding of what your child already knows and what skills they need to develop or refine. Teachers can then use this information to develop programs that provide support and challenges for every student. Our curriculum is designed around building upon what a child already knows and using this to learn and discover more.

My goal for all of the students at Taylors Hill Primary School is to enable them to achieve their personal best both socially and academically, that they are happy, engaged and productive each day. I have high expectations of our students and staff and as the educational leader of our school I look forward to supporting all of them throughout 2017 to achieve their goals.
**Dropping off and collecting your children from their classroom**

When you are dropping off your children in the morning, and picking them up in the afternoon please enter the classroom via the external doors. This enables our learning community spaces inside the building to be free for students to work in, and free from congestion in the case of an emergency. I appreciate your support with this matter.

While the weather is fine we encourage our families to walk or ride to school each day. Bike riding can be fun for the whole family to get some physical exercise but it needs to be enjoyed safely. Bicycle safety involves developing riding skills, wearing the right protective gear, and looking after your bike. Riding to school can be a fun activity; however at Taylors Hill Primary School our main concern is to ensure that all students get to and from school safely. Students who ride their bikes need to be fully alert to the road rules pertaining to bike riders and to keeping themselves and others safe.

As parents, we encourage you to consider your child’s ability to keep themselves safe on the roads as well as continually discussing correct behaviour when riding. To help your child become a safe cyclist, let them have lots of practice on safe paths while offering tips on bike handling. Basically, they should be able to ride in a straight line, brake properly and corner safely. They should also ride in designated areas such as bike paths when possible.

When students arrive at school they need to get off their bike at the gate and walk their bike to the bike shed. This shed will be locked after 9.00am and re-opened just before the bell at the end of the day.

**School Council Elections**

**What is a school council and what does it do?**

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school council?**

There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.
Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Notice of election and call for nominations
An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Taylors Hill Primary School.
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged at the office by 4pm on 23/2/2017.

The ballot will close at 4 pm on 2/3/2017
Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danielle Stella
The efforts of classroom helpers are highly valued at THPS, as opportunities for student learning are increased by the participation of understanding adults.

The Classroom Helpers Course is run over 3 mornings, with each session being 1 hour. Participation in the program enables helpers to understand the process of learning, and so be able to most effectively support students in classroom activities.

Friday, 24 February
Friday, 3 March
Friday, 10 March
9:15am – 10:15am
In Staff Room #2
Participants must sign in at the Office
Morning Tea Provided

Trudy Smith

Classroom Helpers Course
24 February, 3 + 10 March @ 9:15am

☐ I would like to attend the Classroom Helpers Course for the 3 sessions.

Name: ________________________________

Child/ren: ____________________________ Grade: _______

_____________________________  __________________________
_____________________________  __________________________
2017 Parent /Toddler Group

This event is open to all families of the Taylors Hill Primary School community and perspective families. Bring along your friends, make new friends and meet other parents. Help to make your child’s transition into Primary school a positive and happy one.

Parent and Toddler Group

Come and join Taylors Hill Primary School staff and parents at YMCA for an hour and a half of chat and play

You and your pre-school aged children are invited to join us at the YMCA every Tuesday Morning for an hour and a half of fun and friendship

Where: YMCA 12 Park Lane Taylors Hill
When: Tuesday 9:00-10:30 (commencing Tuesday 7/2/17)

There is NO COST attached to this Playgroup, everybody welcome.

Refreshments are available
THPS Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

FIRST MEETING FOR 2017

Tuesday 21st February at 12:30pm

Being a member of the PFA is a great way to get to know other parents and support our school community

Sign in at the office – Meeting in Staff Room #2

ALL WELCOME

SAVE THE DATE!

THPS Market and Movie Night

Friday 17th March

$10 per family – on the oval

Gates open at 6:00pm for the Market
Movie starts at dusk (around 8:45pm)
Welcome to the new school year! Once again I am looking forward to a wonderful year in the Learning Centre. We have re-arranged the shelving, dusted the books, added new books, put up the posters and are ready and waiting for the students to hit the shelves next week. Also a warm welcome to Mrs Ann Baron who will be working in both the Learning Centre and the Office.

Each student will need to bring their Blue Satchel to their Learning Centre session next week for borrowing.

Prep – Grade 2 borrow 1 book for 1 week
Grade 3 – 6 borrow up to 2 books for up to 2 weeks

As an idea for younger students add a key ring or small token to the handle so they easily recognise their satchel.

Parent helpers are welcome in the Learning Centre to help cover books and we have a regular hour for this set aside each week: Wednesday 9 – 10am. No experience needed you can come by once a term or every week it is up to you. It is also a great time to meet others in the school community and have a chat. If you are interested please call the Office.

World Book On-line is a fabulous resource available to the entire student population and their families. It is a full encyclopaedia resource as well as having games and story books to read on-line. It is levelled to suit all ages and skill levels. Translator is an option and texts can be read in your first language if needed. The best way to learn how to use the site is by exploration, trial and error. The following shows the internet link, login and password. I hope you and the family have a great time making the most of this site.

www.worldbookonline.com

Login: taylorshps
Password: library

Ann and I look forward to meeting all the new students next week and seeing all the others in the new grades.

Maria Sartori – Library Technician
We're very pleased to inform you that our school has implemented a phone app called **Updat-ed** that will make connecting with you so much more convenient.

To download the app just visit the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android's. Search for **Updat-ed** and from the menu select our school. We'll receive your registration request and will need to approve you before your app is up and running.

So what will the app do?

The app's great for sending out alerts and reminders with one of its best features being the ability to save events directly into your phone's calendar.

If you are experiencing difficulty with your app please take a look at our [Trouble Shooting Guide](#). This guide can be found on the sponsor-ed website: [www.sponsor-ed.com.au](http://www.sponsor-ed.com.au) under SUPPORT. Any further queries should be directed to: [helpdesk@sponsor-ed.com.au](mailto:helpdesk@sponsor-ed.com.au)

Please state the following in your email to helpdesk:

- Your school
- Name and email address
- Model phone/tablet
- Software version

We hope you enjoy being **Updat-ed**.
## Term 1, Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>Stefano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Mayla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Dihein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep D</td>
<td>Lida</td>
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<td>Prep E</td>
<td>Ryder</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>All of 1D</td>
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<tr>
<td>1E</td>
<td>Elijah</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Ethan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Emily</td>
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<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2E</td>
<td>Slayter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>Keysha</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tarmz</td>
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<td>Brendan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
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