Dear Parents,

Greetings to all and a warm thankyou to everyone for their flexibility and support, during recent staff absences; our lack of relief teachers is a real problem and I am working on inducting more relief teachers into the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Last week we concluded our Main Lesson block on Local History and have launched into our new unit on Time, aptly titled “A Time for every Purpose”. Here, we begin as always with the children’s own immediate experience. Time is measured by the journey of our planet through space. The Earth’s yearly trip around the sun, the monthly orbit of the moon and the daily rotation of the earth on its axis give us a standard for the length of the year, month and day. Earth has been described as our Master Timepiece!

As well as the great cosmic movements of the sun and moon, night and day and the changing seasons mark the passage of time through each year, and are our most intimate experience of time passing. As always, our study will begin with the historical journey of how human beings have developed both their awareness of the passing of time and our instruments for recording this, from early sundials up to our present modern time pieces.

This week brings us a time to say goodbye and to farewell Dante, whose last day at Tallowood is this Friday. We wish Dante and his family all the very best for the future.

BIRTHDAY VERSES:

Birthdays are a chance for us to celebrate each child being in our class and to acknowledge their special contribution to the class. (They are also a chance to show that cake has its place in our diets in very small doses
and parents will usually send in a cake with their birthday child.) Each year on your child’s birthday, I will write them a verse or use a poem which I feel has a strengthening image or images, which relate specifically to their development. I write this on a handmade card for your child to take home. This is a time honoured practise among many Steiner teachers and when my own children were young saying their verse was part of their bedtime ritual. The children will take their card home and once a week they will recite their verse to the whole class as part of our Morning Circle time.

HOME READERS:

Please return your child’s home readers each Monday along with their signed record sheet so that they can change their reader and take home their new one. With your child reading for as little as 5 to 10 minutes each day to you at home, we will see a marked improvement in their reading skills in a short time.

Would anyone like to offer to sew a simple calico bag for each child, to use as their home reader bag? I will supply the material and we can dye them at school. The plastic sheets I am currently using are very inadequate!

BOARD NEWS:

Board have announced that Karen Edmondson, who was recently appointed to the position as a Board member is no longer serving on the Board. If you are interested in having a position on the Board please contact a current member for information.

FOOD AND DRESS POLICY:

Thanks to everyone for your continuing consistency in ensuring that the guidelines and policies of our healthy eating and student clothing policy, are respected and followed.

VOLUNTEERS DECLARATION:

Compliance legislation requires that each parent who helps at school, in the classroom and on excursions needs to fill out a volunteers declaration form. They are now available from the office so please drop in and fill one out next time you are at school.
COMMUNICATION:

➢ For day to day matters relating to your child’s class, please speak to their class teacher. For all other education matters, day to day Management and operational issues please speak to Sue. For fee payment plans see Sue or Kim.

➢ Board is responsible for the strategic business plan of the school, not the day to day running or Management of the School. Any enquiries to Board need to be presented in writing to be tabled at their next Board meeting. Board operates as a collaborative Governing body and not as independent individuals.

Advance notice that we are working towards a date for a whole school meeting of Parents, Staff and Board, before the end of term. It is important that we have one representative from each family here so childcare will be available for those who would not be able to come due to lack of child care support. More details about this in next week’s newsletter.

IMPORTANT CAR PARK PROTOCOL:

It is really wonderful to see so many cars in the car park and this has brought potential dangers with it. Our car park does not as yet have marked parking spaces, zebra crossings or any of the usual safety features which are designed to eliminate or reduce the danger to our children. We need to ensure that every child is absolutely safe and to this end the following protocol will tide us over until we can redevelop our car park.

1) An adult will accompany the bus children to the bus at around 3.05 each day.
2) When the bus arrives, and until it has left, please keep your car completely stationary.
3) Please keep your car stationary if there is any unaccompanied child in the playground.

DOGS:

Please observe, within the bounds of common sense and courtesy, our schools dog free policy. Unfortunately, as a dog lover I am in the
I had to scrape up two fresh dog poos and would prefer not to have this task added to my onerous job description! It is really important as a school community that we work on developing our community consciousness to the point where we can see that each action needs to be evaluated in terms of the larger whole, not in terms of our own individual needs and desires. If you need to bring your dog to school at pick up or drop off time and it is too hot to leave him in the car, then please tie him up in the car park and check for deposits. The children are always welcome to bring their pets to school for a visit, by arrangement. Just ring their teacher if this is important to them and we will organise it. Your cooperation in all procedural matters is so appreciated and saves staff the task of needing to be hyper-vigilant!

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK:

I spend a good portion of my Sunday each week on this Newsletter and would warmly welcome your feedback about it. This means of communication is vital to the smooth running of the school and any comments or suggestions you wish to offer about its effectiveness as a communication tool would be terrific. If you prefer a hard copy please let me know and I will make sure your child receives on each week.

With Warmest Wishes to you all,

Sue