ATTENDANCE – WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
DECD has set a target for attendance of 95% by 2016. Some families will assume this is normal attendance while others may be surprised by the target.

Let’s look at some figures:
The teaching year is 40 weeks.
This is 200 school days (including 9 public holidays and student free days).
2.5 days off per term for students will meet the target.

Looking at it another way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAYS PER TERM NOT AT SCHOOL</th>
<th>DAYS PER YEAR NOT AT SCHOOL</th>
<th>WEEKS MISSED PER YEAR</th>
<th>% OF CURRICULUM MISSED</th>
<th>TERMS MISSED OVER 5 YEARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The green line is the 2016 target of 95%. Our overall percentage of attendance for 2015 so far is 95.5% which is an excellent start to the year.

Reynella Primary School is committed to working with families to improve attendance. Regular attendance is directly related to the amount of successful learning that a child does during their schooling and research on test results show that they are effected by a lack of attendance at school.
We want to raise awareness of attendance and encourage parents to strongly support students to attend.

**What can families do to help?**

- Be positive about school and support the culture. If you are negative, your child will be negative. Select something positive to look forward to when talking about school for the following day.
- Support the school culture around punctuality and uniform. Children need to realise that there are some things they just need to do. Students who don’t wear uniform or are constantly late will start the day with negatives – questions etc. Students who meet the expectations of the school tend to be more focussed on their learning.
- If your child is not well enough to go to school, they are not well enough to play X-Box, play sport or go out socially. Illness is certainly an appropriate reason for not attending school and we don’t expect children to come to school ill.
- Ensure you are communicating any legitimate absences with the school through the diary to the teacher and to the school via the SMS system or by leaving a message on our answering service.
- Ask about school – what are they doing, what is going well and what is one good thing about the day they just had?
- If there are issues related to non-attendance, contact the school sooner than later. It is better to get an issue sorted out quickly; students need to learn to face up to and to work through issues rather than avoid them. This is one of the strategies in learning resilience in life.
- If you have difficulty getting your child to school, have reward systems in place – set a target with a clear goal – e.g. to go to the friend’s birthday party you need x% attendance. If you want to get your new bike you need to show responsibility e.g. x% attendance. Students need to understand privileges are earned not simply given.

If you have any concerns about your child’s attendance, firstly speak with your child’s class teacher. If difficulties persist, speak with one of the leadership team.

Regards,
Steve Freeman

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**NEW ADDITION TO OUR GARDEN COMPOUND**

Last year we were successful in obtaining a grant for $1000 through the OPAL Onkaparinga grants programme to purchase and install a rainwater tank within our garden compound. Thanks to some help from one of our contractors, Leon has recently been able to move into place and connect the 3,500 litre tank supplied by local company Team Poly at Lonsdale.

Our edible garden has developed gradually over the past 6 years and now flourishes under the management of teacher Karina Romanovskis who works with classes, small groups, individual students and OSHC/VACCARE to maintain a steady crop of fruit and vegetables. The garden regularly supplies fresh produce for class cooking activities and the canteen.

The addition of the rainwater tank will help to provide a more sustainable water supply and save the school money. We are looking forward to the winter rains to fill the tank!

*Karen Thorburn*
PETANQUE SUCCESS
Last Thursday night seven Year 6 students and their families travelled to Unley to compete in the annual Schools Pétanque Competition. Our 2 teams consisting of Chloe, Sarah, Nathan W, Jacob (“Reynella 1” all from Mrs Gardner’s class), Nathan N, Lachlan and Hayden (“Reynella 2” all from Ms Button’s class) were great representatives for our school. They were friendly, played well as a team and showed good sportsmanship. Each team played 4 games in a round robin competition against teams from Paringa Park Primary, Edwardstown Primary, Scotch College, St Peter’s College, Walford and Trinity College. At the end of the round robin, Reynella 1 advanced to the semi-final against Edwardstown 4. Reynella 2 had gained more points than Reynella 1 but they were narrowly beaten by Paringa Park 3 in their division. The semi was a draw at the final siren, so we had to play an extra “end” and won. In the grand final we played Scotch 3 and beat them 6 – 2 to bring the trophy back to our school for the 4th time since 1994. After only two practice sessions, our students won a competition against 19 other teams. They are already planning to return next year! Merci beaucoup to the families who came along to support our teams. Karen Thorburn

CONGRATULATIONS!
Michaela D has been successful in gaining a position in the Primary Schools’ Music Festival South Orchestra for the 2015 concert series. She will be in the string section, playing the violin.
Leilani B has been nominated to receive a City of Onkaparinga, 2015 Youth Recognition Award for contributions to the community. She has shown outstanding commitment to the Youth Reference group at Onkaparinga Youth Service Reynella, playing a very active part in planning, implementing and supporting youth events and activities such as planning after-school activities, school holiday programs and exhibition evenings.
Congratulations to you both!

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Please check our community noticeboard on the library wall for more information about the following

PORT NOARLUNGA SEA SCOUTS
We have camps under the stars, outdoor cooking, sailing, rowing, build your own water draft and row down the river. Make new friends, learn new skills that will last you a life time. Come and try for three sessions.
Phone Pia McMillian on 0449 210 627

GIRL GUIDES
Have lots of fun make new friends, try adventurous activities. Open to girls from 5 years of age.
There are currently vacancies at Girl Guide group near you.
Contact Girl Guides SA on 8418 0900 or www.girlguidessa.org.au

ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS ACADEMY
Applications are now open for the 2016 Aberfoyle Park High School Tennis Academy. The program provides student athletes access to a high quality, personalised tennis and education program from years 8-12.
Application Packages for 2016 are available NOW from the front office or by contacting the Tennis Academy Manager Mr Terry Ellis.
Email: Terry.Ellis@aphs.sa.edu.au
Phone: 8270 4455
Address: Taylors Rd East Aberfoyle Park 5159
Note: Applications are due no later than May 8th 2015
We recently celebrated two major events together - the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and Harmony Day. Our school turned into a sea of orange the special colour for both events. All students received a wristband saying: **BULLYING NO WAY! TAKE A STAND TOGETHER** and that's what we have to do – take a stand together and don’t let it happen in our school. Students are allowed to wear these bands at school to remind them what they have to do.

Everyone in the school (students, teachers, SSOs, canteen staff and OSHC staff) received a special **BULLYING NO WAY!** Card. On the back, it tells us what to do if someone tries to bully us or if we have been bullied. It also tells us what we should do to prevent bullying from happening in the first place.

At 10:30am all classes took time out of their busy day to stand together and join in some of our games from **Play is the Way.** Some played as a class, while others played with their buddies. It was great to see everyone working and playing together in harmony. The theme continued with our term 1 discos at night and some fantastic posters provided by the students in Mrs Stiffle’s Year 2/3 class and Mrs Romanovskis’ Year 1 class.

*Karen Thorburn*