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SCHOOL VALUES - RESPECT, HONESTY & INCLUSION

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 NO.25 21st August 2012

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SWIMMING PROGRAM

The cost for this is \$48. Payment will need to be made by 5th September. Great Value!!!!

Book Club orders are due back at school this Friday, 24th August

The Book Fair began today and will close on Friday.

Hi everyone,

Last Friday, the students bravely attended a Cluster Book Day at Katandra West. The day was absolutely freezing, but I would personally like to congratulate all of the children for their persistence, tolerance and general effort on the day. Unfortunately, we had to commit to this day because of our investment in the author (D.C. Green), but the day was generally a successful one. Some of the costumes that the kids wore were terrific – a big thank you to all of the parents for the time and effort that goes into this.

This week, there are a number of great activities taking place at Tallygaropna PS. Our Book Fair was set up on Friday and this will remain open until the end of the week. Children can wonder in, before and after school and write down items on their wish list and take these home to families. Books make wonderful presents, so feel free to come in and take a look. On Thursday (changed from today) we will be having a visit from past Melbourne Cup Winner – Subzero. There are a number of horse fanatics looking forward to this day and we are sure that the session will involve some good discussion during this time. The Parent Club are also organising a Father's Day Activity Day on Thursday as well, so the teachers and students of the school will look forward to being able to utilise our kitchen facilities again during this time.

Planning for our Swimming Program has been finalised and the cost for this year's program is \$48. **This program is only offered to our children and it is not compulsory**, but all children are encouraged to participate in swimming because of the value to families. The program is very extensive with small groups and the activities conducted are a really good reminder of the importance of Water Safety leading into the Summer. A reminder to the Grade 5/6 students that anyone interested in the Solar Boat Workshop should have applications in by tomorrow so that we can announce students who will participate on Thursday. Good luck to all the potential applications – queries should be made to Mrs Thomas.

Karen will be in the office until Thursday this week, if any matters need addressing. Mrs Haberfield will be away at a Small School Literacy / Numeracy Day tomorrow. Have a great week everyone.

David Brodie – Teaching Principal 1

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email contact our office.
An alternative is to go to our school website.
Enrolments for 2013 can now be made. Tours of the school can be requested as well.

Cupcakes for RSPCA Day

Special thanks to Mrs Brett for the very thoughtful idea of making some Cupcakes for RSPCA Day. The Grade 5/6 children enjoyed making them and all of the students in the school definitely enjoyed eating them.



Cluster Book Day – Katandra West PS



Book Fair



New Payments Box

Unfortunately, we have waved goodbye to our old Green Box which is constantly utilised by parents and families for permission forms and specific payments for excursions, programs...etc. Our new payment box is situated inside the office door on the right. Please continue to use this box as much as possible.

Goodbye old friend.



1. Book Fair

Our School Book Fair opened today and will finish on Friday, 24th August. Family involvement in reading activities can have a strong, positive impact on a child's educational achievement. Come to our Book Fair and help strengthen the most important skill children can develop: Reading! Have fun choosing together or have your child fill out a wish list after they have viewed the collection. Books are able to be viewed and purchased from 8.40am to 9am and 3.25pm to 4pm. Payment can be made either by cash, cheque (made payable to Tallygaroopna Primary School) or Credit Card. The school will benefit from receiving a percentage of all sales in valuable books for the library!

2. Motor Cycle Program

Our children will be participating in a Motor Cycle Program free of cost in the near future – more details will be available soon. The MotorSafe program was developed in 1998 with the aim of educating school children on the importance of safety and responsibility when using a motorcycle. The MotorSafe program promotes motorcycle safety, competitive and recreational riding and the sporting Motorcycle Club within your region.

A brief outline as to what is discussed throughout the program is below:

- ▣ Children, the law and motorcycles
- ▣ Motorcycling skills
- ▣ A brief mechanical overview
- ▣ Recreational riding for children
- ▣ Wearing correct safety gear whilst riding
- ▣ Club involvement-procedures and benefits

The program includes the entire MotorSafe Presentation, bike display, safety gear dress up's for the kids, one MotorSafe Show Bag for every student, MotorSafe certificates for the children, one mini licence per child, (pending parent approval) and one teacher's manual per program.

In conjunction with the school presentation, there are also 'MotorSafe Mini License Sessions' at the Cobram Motorcycle Club on the 2nd of December 2012, this is where children are given the opportunity to ride their bikes in a controlled environment with the supervision of qualified coaches and officials, watch others ride if they would like to, and be given the opportunity to meet and chat to those who are already riders within the club.

3. Subzero Visit

On Thursday (changed from today) we will be having a visit from Subzero, the famous horse that won the Melbourne Cup in 1992. Upon retirement from racing, the big, near-white gelding with a lovely temperament was employed as the clerk of the course's horse by Racing Victoria's long-time Clerk, Graham Salisbury, and has made numerous appearances on television, at charity functions, and at schools. This program will involve the whole school and begin after lunch.



4. Buses for Active After School Program

Buses have been organised for the AASC sessions which will be held in Shepparton towards the end of the term. During all of these 3 days, the bus will depart school at 3.30pm and arrive at venues by approximately 3.50pm. We aim to begin our programs at 4pm with them concluding at 5pm. Buses will then return children to Tallygaroopna PS at approximately 5.20pm. Mr Brodie will be travelling with all of the children during all of these sessions along with our school supervisors. If parents would like to travel on the bus could they let the office know ASAP because there is limited room (34 seater). Parents are welcome to travel to these sessions if they wish as always.

Shepparton AASC Sessions

BMX (4th and 11th September) – Venue: Behind Wanganui Park SC

Taekwondo (10th September) – Venue: 415 Central Ave, Shepparton

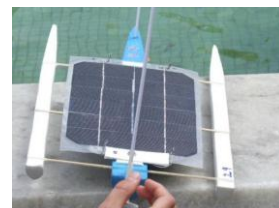
5. Swimming Program

Our Swimming Program is scheduled to be held from Monday 10th September until Friday 14th September. This program is not included in school fees and it is a voluntary program, if children wish to participate. Generally, this program is of great value considering what it would cost for 5 hours of swimming lessons normally – last year all children participated in the program which was great to see. This year, we will be swimming for 5 days straight and all students will participate in an hour program daily. All students will swim from noon until 1pm. Grade 4/5/6 students will swim from midday until 1pm. Each day we will leave school at 11.30am and return at approximately 1.30pm. **The cost for the program is \$48 per student, which covers bus costs, swimming instructors and entry to Aquamoves in Shepparton. This is only a small increase from last year's program. This money will need to be paid by Wednesday 5th September.**

6. Solar Boat Applications

Last Friday, all Grade 5/6 children received information in regard to a Solar Boat Workshop which is being conducted at Tallygaroopna PS in a couple of weeks. As part of our Shepparton Small Schools Cluster Science program, a small group of senior students from each school have a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Model Solar Boat Workshop on Thursday 30th August. A group of up to 6 six students from each school will be working as a team to design, build and race their boat all on the one day. The workshop will run from 11am until 3pm, and will be held at Tallygaroopna PS. We also need one adult from each school to assist and stay with the group of students from their school for the day. Any parents/grandparents who are interested or have any queries please ring Rosalie Thomas on 5762 1804 (evenings are best).

The boats will be registered to compete in the 'Model Solar boat Challenge' held at Science Works in Melbourne on Sunday 21 October. It will be up to the individual schools whether their teams attend this day, and we will travel down by bus as a cluster. **Interested students are encouraged to apply by completing the attached form and returning it to their class teacher by today (but will be accepted tomorrow).** The students who are selected to attend the workshop will be informed on Thursday. More information can be obtained by accessing the Victorian Model Solar Boat Challenge at <http://www.modelsolar.org.au/>



7. Student Technology Survey

Last Thursday, all of the Grade 5/6 students completed a Technology Survey to look at how computers and mobile devices are used out of school. This information will remain confidential and will assist us with continuing to review some of our Information Technology policies and processes that we have in place in line with the ESmart program: an easy-to-use, evidence-based and tested system, providing a framework approach to helping Australian schools manage cybersafety and deal with cyberbullying and bullying

8. Parents Club Meeting

The next Parents Club Meeting will be held in the Project Room on Wednesday 29th August at 3.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

9. School Production

Rehearsals for the School Production have picked up and we are now only counting down the days for our performance. This is scheduled to occur on Wednesday 19th September, all going well. All students in Grades 5/6 should be reading their lines each night now as we prepare for rehearsals without scripts. We are now beginning to look at costumes and props for this night and any assistance would be appreciated. Special thanks to Gill O'Brien for the help with back drops.

10. Parent Opinion Surveys

Thank you to all of the families who returned these promptly. We anticipate that the data in regard to this information will return to school before the end of the year and then results will be discussed at an adequate forum such as School Council. The overall objective of the Parent Opinion Survey is to collect data about parent opinions and for individual schools to then use this information to drive further improvements.

11. BBQ at Bunnings

Our school will be holding a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings on Sunday 9th September. All money raised on this day will go to the school. If any families are available to help on any of the times below could you leave names at the office please. It would be beneficial if we could have at least 2 to 3 families for each 2 hour block. Children will not be able to use the BBQ facilities but they may assist with collecting money on the day. **If any families can assist with eskies for this day it would be greatly appreciated.**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Family Helpers</u>
8am – 10am	Brodie, O'Brien, Steigenberger
10am – Noon	McNab, Hall
Noon – 2pm	Newbound, Jones
2pm – 4pm	Woodley,
4pm – Close	Brodie,

12. Somers Camp

Thank you to all of the families who have returned forms and payment for the 2012 Somers Camp. We obviously have a waiting list at present and we will continue to monitor this if any extra spots come up before the scheduled camp date. This is from Tuesday 6th November to Wednesday 14th November. Behaviour leading up to the camp will be closely monitored.

13. Prep Enrolments for 2013

A couple of months ago, we put our enrolment banner out on the school fence again to promote our school and encourage enrolments for 2013. Currently our school is thriving with an enrolment of 50 students and we look forward to aiming to continually build on this over the next few years. Parents can enrol their children for 2013 now and request a tour of the school if needed. I look forward to discussing the many advantages of our small school.

14. Active After School Program – Term 3

Our Active After School Program will continue this week with Taekwondo being on a Monday and BMX being on Tuesday's. Both of these activities began very well and the children were really enthusiastic and active during both of these programs. Each session begins at 3.35pm and concludes at 4.35pm. Our two supervisors for this term will be Andrea Walker on Monday's and Gill O'Brien on Tuesday's. Their assistance with this program is really appreciated. Fruit will continue to be provided to all participants and a participation award will be presented to one lucky student each week at assembly. Last week's winner was Olivia.

Reminder for BMX - **all children will need to have a long sleeve top, long pants and enclosed shoes**

15. Apples for Sale

There are still a number of bags of apples available for families if they wish. **Each 2kg bag can be purchased for only \$1 now.** These funds will be utilised at school to support our students.

16. Term Dates

Over the next few weeks, I will continue to update this section. Dates for TERM 3/4 are:

August 23 rd – Father's Day Activity Day	August 29 th – Parents Club Meeting - 3.30pm
August 30 th – Solar Boat Workshop	September 2 nd – Father's Day
September 5 th – Finance & School Council 6	September 7 th – School Disco
September 9 th – Community BBQ (Bunnings)	September 10 th > 14 th – Swimming Program
September 19 th – School Production	September 21 st – Last Day of Term 3
October 12 th – Life Education Van	October 15 th – Division Athletics Carnival
October 19 th – Region Athletics Carnival	October 21 st – Solar Boat Challenge
October 28 th – AASC Begins – Term 4	October 24 th – Science Excursion – G. 5/6
October 24 th – Finance & School Council 7 – TBC	October 31 st – Kanga 8's Clinic
November 1 st – Bravehearts Safety (P-3)	November 5 th – Pupil Free Day (Reporting)
November 6 th – Melbourne Cup Holiday	November 6 th – Somers Camp Begins
November 13 th – Grade 5/6 Camp	November 17 th – Rotating Dinner
November 28 th – Finance & School Council 8	December 6 th – End of Year Excursion
December 11 th – Orientation Day	December 17 th – Reports Home
December 18 th – Christmas Concert	December 21 st – Last Day of Term 4

17. Student of the Week / Values Vault

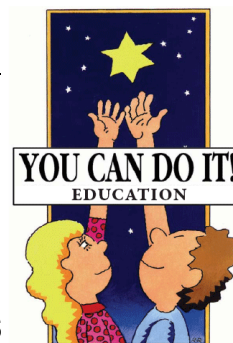
Congratulations to the following students who received Student of the Week last week.

Term 3 – Week 5

P/1 – The Rock N Roll Kids – Dan Klein for the improved confidence he is showing with his writing and spelling words.

2/3/4 – Mrs H's Brainy Bunch – Taylah McKenzie for the fantastic effort she has been putting into her schoolwork.

5/6 – The Grade 5/6 Rebels – Kaleb Oxley for his effort at the Cluster Book Day at Katandra West PS and the way he participated in all activities.



All students receive a certificate and an Icy Pole Voucher.

Values Vault Winners for Week 4 were – Harvey, Preston and Brock

Values Vault Winners for Week 5 were – Corbie



Bring in any vouchers that you may have.

We will be handing in Coles Vouchers by 24th August and Woolworth Vouchers by 31st August.

Sorry for any confusion.

Northerners Football

Our last game was a hard fought battle under real winter conditions. The score board does not reflect how the game was played. All boys need to be commended for their behaviour, efforts and participation making it a fantastic, fun season. Well done boys.

Northerners 0 2 2 were defeated by St Brendan's 5 5 35

Best: Daniel Bagley, Brenton O'Brien, Harri Ring, Sam Slavich, James Woods, Jordan Gee,

Northerners Soccer

Northerners Under 7's: Last Week

With very cold and windy conditions the Northerners Under 7's were able to pull off another win!

Numurkah were very strong in attack and the boys played a very defensive game to keep Numurkah to 3 Goals.

Good attacking play, ensured the team scored 5 goals. Well done to all!! Great Win!!

Northerners Under 9's (18th August):

Northerners defeated Orrvale 3-1. What an awesome game to watch. Great passing up and down the field. You all played really well as a team. Fantastic pressure up forward resulting in 3 good goals from multiple attempts. Defence was strong helping the keepers to stop opposition from scoring. Great thinking Kyle – a very inventive way of “trapping” the ball.

Northerners Netball

In very blustery conditions the girls played in the Qualifying final against St Georges Road. A fantastic start saw us in the lead 6-4 and then again at half-time 10-7. They caught up to us in the third quarter 11-12 and unfortunately St Georges Rd snuck home 15-17. A fantastic game by all girls who played so well against an unbeaten side. We play Numurkah this week who we have to beat to get into the Grand Final and play St Georges Road again. Keep at it girls, I know you can do it. Final score 15-17.

Parent's Club News

Parent's Club would like to advise our school community of a project we hope to get underway in the next couple of months.

Considering our Tally township and surround has endured a couple of pretty memorable and intense events in 2012, we thought it'd be a great idea to create a 2013 CALENDAR to sell toward the end of this year, with assorted pictures of flooding of the area, and maybe even a few pics of our precious old pub.

The Shep News have kindly offered to let us use some of their images free of charge, which is a fantastic help. But we'd also like to ask our school students, parents and friends if you have any good quality photos from during the floods, or any photos of the Tally Pub, that you think would be suitable to go in a calendar, please forward a couple of your favourites (funny, freaky, sad, whatever you like) on to: jmcf@iinet.net.au or drop a USB stick containing a selection of your pics (with your name on it) into the school office.

The calendars should hopefully turn out to be a great pictorial memoir of some of our town's crazy recent times, to have on your wall next year.

Fathers' Day

This Thursday is our Father's Day cooking activity from 9.00 until 12.30, ***if anyone is able to assist on the day could you please text Deb on 0448582984. Parents are reminded to please pay the \$4 by Thursday.*** Thank you.

Community Friday Night Teas

Wednesday 7pm Football Rooms

To discuss the ongoing of these meals

The Bagley family will not be at Tally P.S. next year, so Deb is seeking someone to be a coordinator for the Community Meals next year. If anyone is interested please contact Deb 0448582984 and maybe go to the Wednesday meeting with her.

Prep for Parents: Helping Your Child Go To And From School Safely

Talking to your child about the things they need to know about staying safe is a crucial part of growing up. Your child will be travelling to and from school regularly so it is vital that they know how to get there and back safely.

They've had quite a bit of practice so far this year, but here are some tips and helpful reminders.

The journey to and from school

In the car

The Victorian road rules require a child aged 4 to 7 years to travel in either a forward facing approved child restraint with an in-built harness, or an approved booster seat.

The restraint must be the correct size for your child, properly adjusted and fastened, and correctly fitted to the vehicle. For more information, see VicRoad's: [Choose and use the right child restraint](#)

Your child will be watching what you do and learning by your example, even in the car. Make sure that you follow the road rules, keeping to the speed limits, be a courteous driver and not use your mobile phone while driving your car.

Take the opportunity to talk to your child by asking them about what will be happening at school that day, and talking about road safety.

Walking to and from school

Walking to school with your child is a great way to start the day. If you are able, you can take this opportunity to talk to your child about what is happening at school that day as well as a chance to discuss or reinforce road safety awareness in your child.

- Always hold your child's hand, whether you are crossing the road or walking to school.
- Take special care where there's a lot of traffic, narrow or non-existent footpaths, or things like parked cars and trucks, trees, hill crests or crowded footpaths that block your view of the road. This is especially important when you are taking your child to school, as this is a time when there are many children and parents coming and going and your child may be tempted to run off to join their friends.
- Your child will learn by your example. Always cross roads at pedestrian crossings or corners, wait for the traffic or pedestrian lights, and cross the road when it is safe (see Crossing roads below). Explain what you are doing so that your child can understand and learn how to safely cross a road.

Some schools have walking school buses where children and adults walk together at a designated time and pick up place so that everyone gets to school and home again safely. In fact, the month of October is usually designated 'Walktober' month where school children are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to and from school.

If your child's school doesn't have their own walking school bus, you can always start your own – especially if you live reasonably close to the school.

Crossing roads

You may have learned to look right, look left, look right again when crossing the road and have passed this onto your child. In line with current road safety advice, VicRoads recommends Stop, Look, Listen, Think.

- STOP one step back from the kerb or shoulder of the road if there is no footpath.
- LOOK in all directions for approaching traffic.
- LISTEN in all directions for approaching traffic.
- THINK about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped.
- When crossing, walk straight across the road. Keep looking and listening for traffic while crossing.
-

Other things you can do include:

- Talk to your child about the road rules in simple terms, like asking them why they need to keep an eye on what the cars are doing (so they'll know when it is safe to cross the road).

- To raise your child's awareness of traffic conditions near your house or your child's school, walk with them through these areas and talk about what you are seeing, hearing and experiencing; asking your child for ideas on what they should or can do.
- If using the children's crossing at the school, and a crossing attendant is on duty (the 'lollypop' ladies or men), cross the road only when they say it is safe to do so.

Taking public transport

Some children are more ready to travel on their own to and from school than others. Before your child will be ready they'll need skills in:

- seeing and understanding what's around them and who is around them and what's safe. Children don't see the world the way adults do, mainly because they lack the experience we've developed. Also, young children may not be able to anticipate what might happen or what cars or people are likely to do
- looking after their things, like their school bag and clothes
- courteous behaviour, like being polite, taking turns and waiting patiently for their turn. This is especially important if your child is catching public transport to school.

You know your own child and will be able to determine if they are ready to take this step. It is always a good idea to go with your child the first few times. You may also consider having an older sibling or older child you trust to accompany your child to and from school.

Some things you'll need to teach your child include:

- Always wait for the bus, tram or train to stop before they get on or get off.
- Always wait for the bus, tram or train to leave before crossing the road or train tracks.
- Where the bus, train or tram goes from and where they need to get off. Counting the train stations between where they get on and where they get off is one way of helping your child.
- What to do if they miss the bus, tram or train – who they can call (a card with all your phone numbers on it tucked inside their school bag or lunch box is a good idea so your child always has this with them in emergencies) and where it's safe to wait.

If you drive your child to the bus stop make sure you park your car on the side of the road where the bus leaves and where they will get off. This means that your child will not have to cross the road in order to get on or off the bus.

Arriving and picking your child up from school

Dropping off and picking your child up is a busy time at schools. You'll need extra caution at these times as children are often excited and may forget all the road rules. Schools have road safety and traffic safety policies – rules around what should happen in and around the school grounds – so that their students can be as safe as possible at this busy time.

You should:

- allow plenty of time to drop off and pick up your child so that you are calm and relaxed, not in a rush
- respect the speed limits around the school grounds
- respect the parking signs – never double park near the school as this just causes more congestion and makes this unsafe for your child
- look out for other children and be aware that they may run across the road in front of you without warning. They may not be aware of you; you need to be aware of them
- always keep the children's crossing near the school clear, as blocking the crossing makes it difficult for other children to see the road and cross safely
- let your child know that if you're running a few minutes late picking them up from school, they should stay in the school playground, with a teacher, until you arrive.

Beyond Primary: Making and Keeping Friends

Many children start secondary school expecting to make new friends. At the same time, they are concerned that they may lose contact with their current friends, particularly if they're changing schools. At your child's age, children have a strong focus on their peers. For some children, the desire to stay with their group of friends influences where they would prefer to go to secondary school – and if they move to a different school they wonder how they will keep in touch and sustain their friendships.

Friends help make the transition from primary to secondary school easier. Friends are people that your child can talk to, share things with, confide in and sometimes argue with. Remember, conflict is a normal part of growing up. Conflict is not necessarily bullying, even though it may be upsetting and need resolution. We'll be talking about bullying more in coming issues.

Parents and friends play different roles in the life of children aged between 11 and 12 years.

You influence your child's long-term decisions to do with values and morals. Your child's friends are more likely to influence short-term choices, such as the way they dress and their interests. Strong relationships with you and your child's friends help your child grow into a well-adjusted adult with strong social skills.

Right now, your child's friendships will tend to be based on similar interests, acceptance and sharing. Same-sex friendships are the norm during secondary school.

Helping your child keep their current friends

Friendships need time, attention and trust if they are to survive.

- Ensure your child has the time and opportunity to meet their friends. Friendships need to be nurtured so allowing your child to get together and do things with their friends, even if this isn't as often as now, will help them keep their connection going.
- Talk to your child about their friends – what things they like to do with them and the things they appreciate or like about their friends. Talk about ways your child could show their friends how much they mean to them, like making something especially for them or by writing a letter or sending a card, just 'because'.
- Talking with your child can also give you the chance to start a conversation about how they are going with their friends. And they are more likely to talk to you about any problems that come up. Listen to your child and use open-ended questions. As part of your talks, you could let your child know about your own friendship history. This might help them see other options and help them feel understood.
- Through your behaviour and the time and effort you put into your own friendships, your child will learn how to be a friend and have friends.
- Talk to your child about forgiveness. Sometimes friends do things that upset us. This doesn't mean the friendship has to end. Understanding that everyone makes mistakes is an important lesson to learn. Being able to overlook and forgive mistakes and upsets are sure ways to have good friends.

Helping your child make new friends

At school

Friendships are usually made between those who have common interests. But it takes time.

Some children make friends easily, others find this difficult for a variety of reasons. You know your child best and will know whether they will find approaching children they don't know and starting up a conversation simple, or an uncomfortable or difficult experience.

If your child has some difficulties, encourage them to:

- Learn to become approachable. This can include simple things like saying hello, smiling and not appearing too anxious.
- Look for someone else who may also seem shy and talk to them – your child may find them easier to approach.
- When approaching someone new, encourage your child to ask questions about the person, like what school did you go to last year, do you like music / maths / running (whatever your child is interested in), what's your favourite subject this year, why do you like it? These questions are non-threatening and can help your child start conversations more easily.

- Listen to what others are saying. Your child may find that they are talking about something they are interested in or know about. Suggest that they look for an opening before saying something, even if they are feeling self-conscious or awkward.

Outside school

- Support your child's interests and get them involved in clubs or groups that have similar interests.
- Encourage your child to have a wide range of friends from places such as sports or social clubs, music or dance classes. This means they can form friendships with others than those at their school and with whom they share an interest.
- The internet also lets young people make friends in new ways. Many say that they have friends they only 'see' online. Friendships built through social networking are different from real-life relationships. In the best cases, these friends offer your child a chance to talk about sensitive issues without fear of being judged, and a chance to experiment with identity in a more or less anonymous way. You'll still need to monitor your child's online friendships and social media activity to ensure that they are staying safe.

Your child's choice of friends

From time to time, as a parent you may face issues with your child's choice of friends. Your child can't say enough good things about their new best friend. You arrange for your child to invite this new best friend home only to find them to be difficult or not quite acceptable to you.

What do you do?

First and foremost, don't forbid your child to hang out with this friend. They will immediately cling to the friendship with a strength you may not have seen so far. The two may sneak around, maybe even lie to you, and do everything they can to continue the friendship. Fight your instincts. Do not put your foot down and forbid their friendship.

It's also important that you don't mention that you don't like your child's friend to them or within their hearing. That knowledge alone may make the friendship closer.

Instead, set limits and boundaries. For example, let the two of them see each other, but ensure this occurs at your house as often as possible. Don't make a big thing about it but ensure you have a handy reason why the friend needs to come to your place. You could also limit the number of times this friend visits in a week, a month, or whatever timeframe works best.

Don't make these rules only for the friend in question, just make it 'a rule'. Encourage your child to develop other friendships, but do so with care. Try meeting another family for an afternoon activity or even plan a weekend away together. Or plan activities with your extended family, especially if there are other children around your child's age. With a little careful planning, you can limit the amount of time your child spends solely with the friend you're not that keen on.

You should also know that your child's friendships can often be very fluid, especially now when friendships develop and dissolve rapidly. Some children will go through a number of friends before settling into a more stable group; other children will maintain their friendships from primary school with no outward sign of stress.

And it is the quality of friends that your child has that is important, not the number. Whether your child has one special friend or many friends isn't really the issue. As long as they are happy and content you can be assured that they'll do fine.