Welcome back everyone! I would like to especially welcome to our school community, all our new families in Kindergarten, in the Year 5 Opportunity Class (OC) and throughout the school. I feel very excited and positive about 2013 and all the fantastic opportunities and possibilities for learning that this year will deliver. Our 3 year Strategic Plan revised in 2012 gives our school clear direction for students, staff and community, with opportunities to strengthen capacity and achieve better student outcomes.

Many programs and initiatives planned both through our Low SES partnership and Centre for Excellence programs will involve parents and community.

Our school has again continued to grow in numbers which is a positive reflection on how well this school is operating.

Sadly we say goodbye to some of our staff who have moved to new positions in 2013, some temporarily and some permanently. We wish them a great deal of success and thank them for their outstanding contributions to our school. Mrs McMinn retired at the completion of 2012 and is enjoying herself and all her new found time. Mr Horadam has been promoted to Assistant Principal at Dudley Public School and his permanent position has been filled by Mrs West. Mrs Dickson is relieving in the position of Assistant Principal until a permanent person is employed. Ms Holcroft is on maternity leave for four days and will facilitate the Kindy Club program on her one day at school (Mondays). Miss Robinson, Mrs Luke and Mr Gillett all return on temporary appointments for 2013. Ms Crain returns to Belair Public School and Mrs Lavercombe joins the staff as the Assistant Principal Centre for Excellence on a 12 month basis to deliver those related programs. Miss Holt is taking up a year-long Assistant Principal role at Heaton Public School. I am very pleased to welcome all our wonderful new teachers with their outstanding skills and attributes for our children and school community.

Congratulations to all the children for the wonderful way that they returned to school - they look great!! Kindergarten children have already settled into our school routines in only a few days, it is wonderful to see so many confident and excited little faces. Mums and Dads still look a little sad though!

I can already see by the very smooth start that we are going to have a terrific year!
Student Welfare: Our student Welfare Policy will again be fully implemented this year. After a thorough review in Term 4, assisted by feedback from staff and students there will be some changes to sections of the daily operations of this program but the fundamental values remain the same. We will continue to monitor and review the impact and adjust where needed. There will be regular newsletter information for parents. This policy supports and assists each child in making good choices and in taking responsibility for their behaviour, coupled with acknowledging and rewarding good behaviour and effort.

The policy, based on aiming for, achieving and rewarding “Personal Best” includes:

- A Rationale
- Code of Conduct and Good Discipline statements
- School Rules
- A weekly home communication program “Star Card” that enables each family to work closely with their child and the school so that each child can maximise social and academic outcomes. The Star Card will be sent home each Friday and your child’s “Behaviour and Work Attitude” will be ranked by a star, for achieving Personal Best, a signature, if your child needs to try harder and an RN if a recorded notification is sent home to indicate a serious incident. Parents will then be required to sign the card and return it the following Monday (please assist your child in returning their signed card as omission could mean loss of the 80% reward day). This system allows all the children who always work at Personal Best level to be rewarded weekly and children whose behaviour is at risk to be encouraged to make better choices.

Children who achieve 80% of their possible stars in any one term will be invited to participate in a special event at the end of each term.

When you receive your child’s star card this week it includes a contract that had to be signed by your child, their teacher and you as their parent. The contract helps to clarify each participant’s role and needs to be returned to school. I encourage you to read carefully all the information included on the star card and contract. If you need further clarification please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Included in our Student welfare policy is the Anti-Bullying Policy and children will be engaged in lessons during this term to identify and handle bullying situations and give the strong message of NO Go Tell.

Breakfast Club will begin officially next week. Breakfast club runs from Monday to Friday, children will need to bring a coin donation to assist with the ongoing costs of consumables each day. We are no longer a Red Cross breakfast club as we have been on the program way beyond our allocated years and items are no longer donated through Sanitarium, as a school we will be financially supporting this program. Sponsors are needed for long-term support. Parent volunteers are also required for this program. Relevant training will be provided for all volunteers. Please see Mrs Crump our Community Liaison Officer (CLO).

Swimming Carnival: Our annual school Swimming Carnival for Years 3-6 was held today at Mayfield Pool. It was a great day had by all students. Thank you to all our parents who came along to show their support. A big thank you also to Mr Gillett for his organisation to ensure the day ran smoothly.

Morning Arrival Request: In the morning when students and parents arrive at school I’m requesting that you do not enter the main school building unless you need to attend the office or to see your child’s teacher. Students will need to keep their school bags with them and take them to lines. This will help keep the hallway from becoming congested and the noise to a minimum. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

“Meet and Greet” Parent Teacher Meetings: Information in regards to the details, venue and format of these sessions will be coming home during the next couple of weeks. We are planning on holding an after school “Meet your child’s teacher” and “Welcome to new parents” on Wednesday 20th February 2013. This will be a great opportunity for all parents to attend sessions in their child’s classroom to talk about routines, expectations and classroom requirements for 2013.
I have listed below the teachers and classes they will be with this year, for your information.

Kindergarten
KD – Mrs Dickson (Assistant Principal Relieving)

Kindergarten
KR – Miss Ragan

Kindy & Year 1
K/1R – Miss Robinson

Year 1
1L – Mrs Luke

Year 1 & 2
1/2E – Miss Elley

Year 2
2G – Mr Gillett

Year 3 & 4
3/4W – Mrs West

Year 4 & 5
4/5J – Mr Junon (Assistant Principal)

Year 5 & 6
4/5I – Mrs Ireland

Year 5 & 6
5/6A – Ms Armstrong (Opportunity Class)

C4E Assistant Principal
Mrs Lavercombe

Low SES Deputy Principal
To be employed Term 1

Reading Recovery
Mrs Lavercombe

Library and Science
Miss Beker

LAST
Mrs Behsman / Miss Staniland

ESL
Miss Staniland

Music
Mr Britt

Kindy Club
Ms Holcroft

School Counsellor
Mr Steve Britt (Wednesday)

School Support Staff

School Administrative Manager
Mrs Carlier

School Administrative Officer
Mrs Cotterill

School Administrative Officer
Mrs Selby (Fridays)

Community Liaison Officer
Mrs Crump

Teachers’ Aides
Mrs Crump, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Sheehan, Mr McMinn

Para-Professional Organisational
Mrs Pope

Para-Professional Technology
Mr McMinn

General Assistant
Mr Burgess

Classroom Equipment: During the next two weeks your child’s teacher will be sending home a note to explain the pens, pencils and rulers that your child may need for their particular grade. Our school will supply all the exercise books, paint, paper and other equipment that the children work with during their day at school.

Costs for 2013:

- School Fees: (unchanged for past 6 years) $30 per child
- Kindergarten Pack: (includes 4X scrapbooks, glue sticks, dictionary, whiteboard markers, pencils and home reading diary) **Cost $40**
- Year 1 & 2 Pack: (includes 4X scrapbooks, home reading diary, glue sticks, whiteboard markers, pencils, and display wallet) **Cost $40**
- Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Pack: (Includes Sound Waves and Maths Text Book) **Cost $40**
- Y5/6 - OC (including Maths text, Sound Waves) **Cost $45**
- Australasian Testing Program for Years 3-6 cost varies between $7 and $13 per test (optional)

Textbooks: The children will begin working with their textbooks in the next 2 weeks and it is important for each child to have their own book ASAP to enable learning to be consistent. I understand that some people may be experiencing financial difficulties at this time of the year and if you are unable to purchase text books outright, please see me so that we can work out a payment plan.

School Fees: School fees for 2013 are still only $30 per child and can be paid at any time or in installments throughout the year. School fees contribute towards the purchase of paper that is used for class work each day.
Sun Safe Hats and Sunscreen: Thank you to all the parents who are assisting us with our aim to have all children wear sun safe hats each day. Sun safe hats have either a broad brim or a neck flap so that your child’s face, ears and neck are protected (our school hats are ideal and can be purchased through the office for $13.50). Please also make sure that your child applies sun screen each day. We are asking children who do not wear a hat to sit and play on the silver seats where they will be in a shady spot.

School Attendance: Thank you to all parents who consistently strive to get their children to school on time. Getting to school before the bell rings is important for each child as it enables them to socialise and develop positive friendships. Morning Assembly is a time when important messages are relayed and the first 30 minutes in class is vital for each child to enable them to understand their daily tasks, share experiences and feel a sense of belonging to their class. Children who arrive late may find developing friendships difficult and can become anxious when they miss the main instructions and organisation part of their day. This year our morning sessions are dedicated to uninterrupted Literacy and Numeracy lessons, in each class, for at least four mornings each week.

Children who arrive at school after the bell need to go to the front office to get a “Late Note” for their teacher. Please make sure that if your child misses school for any length of time, their return must be accompanied by a note of explanation.

P&C Meeting: The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Monday the 11th of February beginning at 6.00pm. Our P&C is a vital group in our school community who work hard at raising much needed additional finance and have an active role in assisting the school with the decision making process. At this meeting we will be discussing the Strategic Targets that the school has set for 2012-14. Please come along to the Community Room and share the load. We would love to see as many new families involved as possible.

Canteen: Our canteen provides a consistent healthy service to our children and families each day and to ensure we maintain this service we need many volunteers to assist. Please feel welcome to become a canteen helper even if it’s only once a month. Your assistance is valuable and welcomed.

Playgroups: The two days that playgroups operate in our school are Wednesdays and Thursdays. Both sessions begin at 9.30am and end close to 12.00pm. They are held in our Community Room and I encourage all parents with pre-schoolers to come along as it provides a social opportunity for both adults and children and in addition gives your child wonderful skills for school.

The Thursday Playgroup is organised and coordinated through the P&C, while Wednesday’s playgroup is coordinated by a fully qualified KU teacher Ms Simone Allen and is a Families First Initiative. Come along! For the first four weeks both playgroups will be combining on the Wednesday.

Scripture: Scripture lessons begin Week 4 (19th Feb), and as per last year all children will be expected to attend scripture unless otherwise requested by a parent. Please address a note to me if you do not wish your child to be included in our Scripture program.

We also provide a Primary Ethics program as an alternative to scripture for Year 5 & 6.

Assemblies:
Years 3-6 assembly time has moved to Mondays at 12.30pm to fit in with our crowded timetable. Our first assembly for Years 3 – 6 will be held next Monday (11/2/13)

Kinder-Year 2 assemblies have also moved and will be on Mondays at 2.15pm and begin in Week 6.

K-6 assemblies ( Principals Personal Best) will be held on Week 5 and Week 10 on Mondays each term at 2.15pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to all our children and staff, a fantastic start to the year.

Tony Selwood
Principal
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
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<td>SDD</td>
<td>Students Years 1-6 Return</td>
<td>Kindergarten Best Start Testing begins</td>
<td>Kindergarten Students Start- staggered times Stewart House applications due.</td>
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<td>Focus on Reading PL</td>
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<td>Easter Hat Parade Stewart House returns</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meet 6pm</td>
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<td>End of Term</td>
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Dear Parents/ Caregivers

We will be continuing to offer the “Kindy Club” program that was a huge success for our students in past years. It will begin on Monday 18th February 2013 and will run for approximately 30 weeks. The program will consist of 2 sessions, i.e. Morning Session (9.30am-11.45am) and Afternoon Session (12.30pm-2.45pm).

Our purpose is to involve and include all local children and their families, who are planning to enrol in Kindergarten, at THPS in 2014. The program will focus on school readiness, school environment and staff familiarisation and include activities which target concepts and language development. Ms Holcroft will be our coordinator for 2013 and will run the program each week. In addition Mrs Crump our Community Liaison Officer will be assisting, as well as gaining the expertise of our Speech in Schools, Speech pathologists who will assist in any activities that support language development.

We plan to make the program “fun and play” based and involve parent helpers to assist in small group learning. Therefore depending on the number of children enrolled we will require all parents and carers to be rostered on every few weeks to make learning for the children achievable.

We have planned an information morning for all interested parents on Monday 11th February in the Community Room beginning at 10:00am.

If you have a child who will be enrolling at THPS in 2014 and wish to attend this meeting please complete the tear off slip and return it to school as soon as possible. Please pass this information on to neighbours and friends who may have missed this note and encourage them to attend the meeting.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us on 4969 3720 if you require additional information.

Tony Selwood                                      Ms Holcroft                           Mrs Crump
Principal                                         Kindy Club Teacher                   CLO (Community Liaison Officer)

Kindy Club Meeting Monday 11th February

☐ I will be attending the Kindy Club Meeting
☐ I am unable to attend the meeting but am interested in enrolling in the program

Parent/Caregiver__________________________________________DOB_____________________
Childs’ Name ____________________________DOB_____________________
Address__________________________________________________________
Phone Number__________________________________________________________
Mobile________________________________________________________

PLEASE NOTE: AT THIS STAGE OUR 2013 MORNING SESSION IS FULL
School Banking

Welcome back everyone to a new year of school banking. As it is a new year, there are some great new rewards to earn and more awards you can take home.

I know there were a few issues with ordering rewards last year as the bank kept running low, but I have been told that this year there won’t be any other issues. So collect up your tokens and get banking. You will love what is in store for this year.

Over the next week there will be a pack sent home with information about banking, new reward chart and how to go about signing up for banking if you are not already a member. We would love to help you save and earn some money for the school as well.

Please insure that deposit slips are filled out and tabs with correct cash and info. We had a lot of books last year with no information and sometimes money missing. We know this happens but we are only able to bank what is in there.

Banking is every Monday that school is operating. So please make sure the kids place their banking books in the grey bags for banking. A member of the school banking will come around at 9 to collect all grey bags and process all banking. The grey bags are then handed back to the classes before lunch for each student to collect their bank book and any other goodies to take home.

If you would like to be a part of the school banking team and help do the banking at any stage, please feel free to come to the back of classroom K/1R in the main building each Monday between 9-10.30am, where we process all banking and have a chat to Kristy, who is the banking coordinator. We can always do with extra help.

If you have any questions or would like more information about school banking, please feel free to come to K/1R classroom on a Monday morning and see Kristy.

Community News

Breakfast Club is in desperate need of volunteers. If you are available to help on Mondays or just on an occasion as a back-up helper please call the school on 4969 3720.

Guitar Tuition ~ we are requesting expression of interest for any students interested in guitar lessons through the school, if so please leave your name with Mrs Carlier in the office.

Lost Keys ~ a set of keys were lost in the Maryville area. The set contains a Toyota key, a silver bottle top opener and lots and lots of keys (house, car and some very important work keys). If anyone has found these keys could you please drop them into the school office.

Sport Registrations

South Newcastle Junior Rugby League ~ www.southnewcastlejuniors.leaguenet.com.au or call Graeme Fitzgerald – 0407 093 662

Newcastle City Blues Junior AFL Club ~ phone Simon McCauley 0408 474 847

Boomerangs Baseball Club ~ www.boomerangsbaseball.com.au or Contact Blair 0438 483 154 or Michael 0408 630 662

Waratah Junior Rugby Club ~ Enquires – Bruce 4960 1659 bakerbktd@optusnet.com.au
Moving into Stillness

Mindfulness - Based Yoga and Meditation

Classes for 2013
113 Albert St, Wickham
Universal T. K. D. Academy

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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<td>10am–11:30 am</td>
<td>10am–11:30 am</td>
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<td>6pm - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Drop in yoga &amp;</td>
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<td>Drop in yoga &amp;</td>
<td>meditation class</td>
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<td>meditation class</td>
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Term 1 – 6th Feb - 12th April  
Term 2 – 1st May – 28th June

There will be no classes in school holidays or on public holidays.

This gentle yoga class is based on mindfulness practices, incorporating the union of breath and movement to prepare the body for meditation and present moment awareness. Yoga improves circulation throughout the body, reducing stiffness and lowering stress. This class is suitable for beginners to experienced practitioners, pre & post natal and those recovering from illness or injury.

Prices: Wednesday & Friday - Casual $18 & $15 concession

Please bring along a yoga mat and wear loose comfortable clothing, which doesn’t restrict your breathing. Yoga mats for sale at the venue $25 each.

Call Lisa if you have any questions about suitability for the above classes or are interested in one on one private yoga sessions to develop your home practice $80/hour.

View [www.lisapollard.com](http://www.lisapollard.com) for detailed bio on Lisa’s Yoga & Meditation qualifications.

Ipollard2000@hotmail.com Ph - 0403 186 146 www.lisapollard.com

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

(8-week course, 2.5 hr/wk & Day of Mindfulness 7hrs)
Newcastle, 2013 Day & Evening Courses

A method for enhancing resilience for physical and emotional health and well being. Sustained practice of mindfulness can have a profoundly healing and transformative effect on one's life. Experience an increased sense of connectedness, peace and an ability to relax. Learn to cope with short/long term stress & consciously respond with clarity and focus.

Day Thursday 10am 12:30 pm, Feb 14th – April 4th, 2013
Evening Monday 6pm 8:30 pm, Feb 11th – April 8th, 2013
Full Day of Mindfulness 9am - 4pm Sunday — March 24th, 2013

[www.openground.com.au](http://www.openground.com.au) for venue details & more information about MBSR.

Participants will be invited to explore the following practices:

- Experiencing body & mind through yoga and meditation
- Informal & formal mindfulness practices
- Lying down body scans, mindful eating & walking meditation
- Mindful communication & inquiry related to home practice
- Exploration of patterns of thinking, feeling & action
- Full-day retreat (between Wk 6 & 7) please provide own lunch.

Price: $455 & $370 Concession, 4 Practice CD’s & Mindfulness Training Course Book included

Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring along a yoga mat.

Bookings essential, please phone Lisa, enrolment and payment by 8th of February 2013

View [www.lisapollard.com](http://www.lisapollard.com) for an extensive bio on Lisa’s qualifications & training.

Ipollard2000@hotmail.com www.lisapollard.com ph. 0403 186146
Thank You
Growers Best
Marketown Shopping Centre
Newcastle West
Growers Best very kindly supply our school with a box of fruit each week for ‘Fruit Break’.
Next time you visit, thank them on behalf of Tighes Hill Public School.

HELEN O’GRADY
DRAMA ACADEMY
2013
“Increase your child’s communication skills, self-confidence and creative talents.”
(Improvisation, Movement and Scriptwork)
CHARLESTOWN and NEWCASTLE
DRAMA CLASSES
WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
PRIMARY: 7 – 11 YEARS
YOUTH: 11 – 16 YEARS
Enrolments now being taken for 2013 - TERM 1
(CLASSES CONDUCTED IN THE HUNTER FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS)
Principal: Shane Skerly
Ph: 02 49 892338 for details
Email: dramacorp@bigpond.com

Neighbourhood Garage Sale
2nd March 2013
Kings Road (outside Community Garden)
If you are interested in having a stall please enquire at markandnic@exemail.com.au or phone 0402 801 121
## Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mon 11th Feb</th>
<th>Tues 12th Feb</th>
<th>Wed 13th Feb</th>
<th>Thurs 14th Feb</th>
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<td>Kylie Meiforth</td>
<td>Kylie Insley</td>
<td>Kate Ross</td>
<td>Lucy Ellis</td>
<td>Verda McNaughton</td>
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<td>Dee Crooks</td>
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<td>Nicole Daniel</td>
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## Food Life Foundation

**NEED HELP? ~ Low Cost Groceries**

Thursday 10.00am to 2.00pm
18 Albert St, Wickham
Fruit, Vegetables, Toiletries & more
Call 4961 3022

## Mayfield United JSFC

**Registration Dates:**
Sat 2/2, Sun 10/2 & Sat 2/3
Mayfield McDonald's
From 3pm-6pm

Register online at www.myfootballclub.com.au
WE’RE OFF!
Welcome back to all our returning families and friends and a special welcome to all the new Tighes Hill children and their families.
2013 is looking like being another great year in 2013 and we are already off to a fantastic start.

Uniform Pool
The P&C Uniform Pool opened for business on the first day of Term 1 to a fantastic response.
Thanks to the generous donations of lots of families at the end of last year, many of you have already picked up bargain and we have raised around $150!

We need more to sell. Please think about donating your old uniforms to benefit other families and the school. Simply drop your donations to the canteen at any time.
The Uniform Pool will open (from the canteen) on Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from 8.50 – 9.20am.

Canteen
The canteen will be open from Thursday 7 February. Big thanks to all our volunteers and special thanks to Kylie Meiforth for all her help since Term 4 last year.
The Canteen is managed by a Sub-Committee of the P&C and we are currently looking for a Roster Co-ordinator. See over for more information about getting involved.
The canteen is entirely volunteer run and we can never have too many offers of help. While we have a crew of regular volunteers – without whom we simply couldn’t open - we urge all families who use the Canteen to do what they can to help.

P&C MEETINGS
P&C Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (term time) at 6pm.
The first meeting for 2013 will be held on Monday 11 February in the staff room. All welcome.

STAY IN TOUCH
This year, there will be a number of different ways to stay in touch with the P&C and to keep ahead of all our activities during term.

Join our electronic mailing list
The P&C would like to reduce its reliance on paper notices.
To join our email list, please send an email with the subject “Mailing list” to us at tigheshillpc@hotmail.com

Get social
You can also find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/TighesHillPandC

P&C calendar
The P&C calendar can be found via a link on the P&C page of the school web site.

BIG THANKS to our friends at Allcott Hire for helping out with an aerator for the lawn during the holidays. It’s looking fantastic after a bit of love, good food and drink and a well-earned rest.
Remember to call Allcott Hire about their weekend hire rates for that next home/garden project.
IF YOU NEED US, WE NEED YOU!

The Tighes Hill School Canteen provides an important service to our children, staff and families.

For us all to enjoy the benefits of having a quality, healthy menu available for our kids, we need volunteers - two each day, to be precise.

Can you help once a fortnight or month? Or can you make arrangements to do a day or two each term? Perhaps a grandparent would like to help?

The work is not challenging, the days are not long and THE KIDS LOVE HAVING MUM OR DAD IN THE CANTEEN!

To keep the Canteen open each day, we urge families who use the Canteen from time-to-time to volunteer for two shifts a year. Families who order lunch from the canteen on a regular basis should aim for at least one shift per term.

The simple fact is that if we don’t have the numbers of volunteers, we can’t keep our canteen open every day.

Please complete the form below and return to the office.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A ROSTER CO-ORDINATOR – The Roster Co-ordinator is responsible for collecting the volunteer availability and filing shifts on a month-to-month basis. The Roster needs to be provided to the Office every fortnight for inclusion in the newsletter and a copy displayed in the canteen. The Roster Co-ordinator liaises with the office regarding communication with parents – eg. if the canteen will be closed or if more volunteers are needed.

CANTEEEN VOLUNTEER FORM

NAME_________________________ EMAIL_________________________

PH________________________________________

AVAILABILITY IN (please circle)  TERM  1   2   3   4

MON per week/fortnight/month  8.45am – 2.15pm  10.15am – 1.45pm
TUES per week/fortnight/month  8.45am – 2.15pm  10.15am – 1.45pm
WED per week/fortnight/month  8.45am – 2.15pm  10.15am – 1.45pm
THUR per week/fortnight/month  8.45am – 2.15pm  10.15am – 1.45pm
FRI per week/fortnight/month  8.45am – 2.15pm  10.15am – 1.45pm

Or specify dates


***IMPORTANT NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS – once you accept a shift, if you are not able to attend it is up to you to try to find a replacement. A list of volunteer contact numbers is available in the canteen.