



***Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.***



## **THORNIEBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER**

***Nurturing Growth in our School Community***

Excellent Education  
Happy and Healthy  
Respectful and Responsible  
Caring and Considerate Community  
Everyone is Equal  
Inclusive and Integrated  
Motivated  
Supportive and Safe



## Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the new school session of 2015/16. I hope you all had a fantastic summer and had a well-earned rest. I know that weather was a disappointment but hopefully we will see less rain in the coming months. The pupils have enjoyed getting out into the playground during the sunny days we have had lately, long may it continue.

I would like to give a special welcome to the families who are new to Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class. We look forward to working with you and hope that you and your children will enjoy your time here and have a positive experience.

Our new Primary One have settled in very well, the children not only look smart but are also growing more confident daily. Their behaviour was perfect as they sat through our whole school assembly last Friday.

We have had several new pupils join us throughout the school and I would like to welcome Javaria Imran Butt, Ciaran Hayes, Abbie Graham and Leo Devine. It was wonderful to see you arrive in your school uniforms looking so smart. I hope you enjoy your time at Thornliebank Primary School and I look forward to getting to know you all better.

We also have a number of new members of staff that I would like to welcome including Miss Itcovitz who will be teaching in P2, Mrs Colquhoun who will be teaching in P4 and Mrs Shabbir and Miss Bishop who will be doing support and non class contact time throughout the school. We also welcome Gemma McLaughlin who has returned from maternity leave and is currently the acting senior child development officer in the nursery.

You may be aware we are always looking for new parents to join our Parent Council. This is an excellent opportunity for you to become involved in the life of the school. The Parent Council meet once a month and if this is something you might be interested in, please come along to the first meeting on 2 September 2015, at 7pm in Woodfarm High School. If you would like to hear a bit more about the Parent Council, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.



Last session, our Parent Council requested a year planner go out at the start of the session indicating all the events throughout the year. I have produced as up to date a planner as possible for your information, however throughout the year other events will be added. As and when these occur, you will be notified as appropriate.

This is our first monthly newsletter of this session. I hope our newsletters will keep you informed of the many and varied events that happen throughout the school and nursery and give you some detail about forthcoming dates for your diary.

Yours sincerely

Siobhan McColgan  
Head Teacher

## Parent Concerns and Queries

You may be aware that Mrs Black, our former Depute Head left in June to become Head Teacher at Springhill and Auchenback. As a result of this we do not yet have a replacement Depute Head Teacher. In the interim, Mrs Macrae and Mr Flanagan will be acting Principal Teachers (PT). Our PTs have each been allocated a department to take pastoral responsibility for. If you have any queries or concerns that cannot be addressed by the class teacher, you should contact the relevant PT as outlined below:

P1, 2 and 3 – Mrs McGarvey

P4 and 5 – Mrs Macrae

P6 and 7 – Mr Flanagan

## Office Procedures

After consulting with the Parent Council, we have made a few adaptations to office procedures in order to make the systems more efficient and effective. Please note the changes below.

### Absence Procedures

Please phone the school office if your child is going to be absent by 9.30AM. **If we have not received a phone call a text will be sent advising you that your child has not arrived at school or nursery.**

If your child has an appointment during school hours please send a note to your child's teacher with details of when your child will be leaving class. This note will then be forwarded to the office by the teacher. All children have to be signed out/in during school hours at the school office. I would remind you that the NHS guidelines for diarrhea and vomiting is that a child should be absent from school until they are 48 hours symptom free.



### Money for Clubs and Trips

For some clubs and trips we ask for a financial contribution. Please can the correct payment be sent with your child to school to be given to the class teacher on a Friday. If your child can not take the payment themselves to school please can the money be given to the school office on a Friday morning by 9.30AM. The office will be unable to accept payments in the afternoon.

Due to new procedures the school office are unable to give change for lunch money, trips etc.

### Newsletters and Information

Annual data and consent forms are coming home this week. Please return them to school with your child by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. If at any time during the school year you change your address or phone number please let the school office know. A text will be sent out each time the school newsletter is issued. The text will include a link to the newsletter which will have been posted on the school website. If you still require a paper copy of the newsletter please let the school office know. There was a poor response to the letter that went home during the last school year about the emailing of information and texting this way is a new authority suggestion. We will be adding regular information to the school website throughout the school year.

### Medication

We are unable to give medication to your child during school hours unless the relevant consent form has been completed. If it is essential that your child will require

to be given medicine at school this form is available from the school office. Medication will be administered by Pupil Support Assistants.

### Paperwork

We have reviewed the paperwork given out at the start of the year and felt it was a bit excessive. As a result of this we are going to keep using the photograph consent forms, homework contracts and health questionnaires completed last year. If any of the information on these forms have changed, please contact the school office.

### **Dressing for Excellence**

I would like to thank you all very much for the evident commitment to our *Dressing for Excellence* policy since we returned to school for the new session. The children all look extremely smart.

### **Physical Education (PE)**

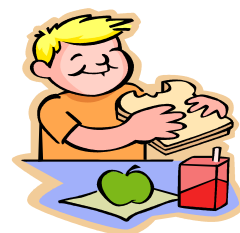
PE is a compulsory and important aspect of our curriculum. Your child should come to school with a full PE kit. This kit should consist of the following – shorts, t-shirt, waterproof jacket and trousers for outdoor sessions and plimsolls or trainers.



### **Cashless Catering**

This system is well established and has proved to be a much more efficient service for our pupils. Please contact the school office if your child has misplaced or forgotten their PIN as it is important that they know this information. Hot lunches are £1.95 and cold lunches are £1.80.

Paying **online** is the simplest method of payment and we would prefer you to make use of this facility. For those children bringing money into the school can I please remind you that the machine **does not** take 5p, 2p & 1p coins and they should only put their money into the machine before the school day or at break times.



If your child does not have enough money to pay for their lunch, you will receive a text message in the morning asking you to top up the account. If their account is in arrears after lunch, your child will be issued a virtual voucher and you will receive a text from the school asking you to pay for the voucher.

### **Packed Lunches/Allergies**

A number of children have allergies which can seriously affect their health. For this reason, we are a **NUT FREE** school. In addition to this, we have a pupil who is allergic to sesame seeds. Food including nuts or sesame seeds may take the form of chocolate spread, peanut butter spread and bread types amongst other things. Please be extra vigilant about this.



As many pupils have similar lunch boxes, we request that your child's lunchbox is clearly named (class details included). If they leave their lunchbox in the lunch hall, it can then be returned to them.

I would also like to encourage parents/carers to think carefully about the snacks they are giving their child each day. Children should not bring cans of fizzy drinks into school.

Fresh water is available from our filtered drinking fountains and pupils are encouraged to drink regularly throughout the day.

### Labelling of Clothes

Please ensure that items of clothing are labelled with your child's name and class. Everyday items are returned to the office, which if labelled, are returned to the pupil's class. Lost property is located next door to the janitors office.



### Parent Helpers

At Thornliebank Primary School we value your support and encourage parents to get involved wherever possible, this can range from participating in focus groups, volunteering to support trips, helping to run events such as Book Fairs and helping to run clubs. If you would be interested in getting involved please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are looking to build up a bank of parents who we can get PVG checked and would be available help out on trips throughout the year. The school will pay for the cost of the PVG check. If you are available to help on trips and are willing to be PVG checked, please contact the school office.

### Parking Around the School

I would like to remind everyone to please be careful when parking near the school. As usual our children's safety is of the utmost importance. We regularly have a few of the local residents come into the school to speak about their drives being blocked and the difficulties they experience due to double parking. Please be mindful of this when coming to and from the school.

### Breakfast Club

We have a breakfast club running in Thornliebank Primary School.

Time: Starts at 8am

Entrance: Via the Gymn Hall door

Cost: 95p for all pupils, 90p for siblings

After the children have had their breakfast, they can play games in the hall. This facility will be available until the end of March 2016. After this time, we will no longer have funding to run a

breakfast club. A questionnaire will be given out to parents in the coming weeks to survey whether there is sufficient demand to bring in a private breakfast club such as MACS.



### Twitter

Thornliebank Primary School has a Twitter Account and we regularly tweet updates about the school. If you haven't already, please follow us. You can find us by searching for the following user name on Twitter:

***ThornliebankPS***

### Internet Safety



A number of our pupils are members of social networking sites such as Facebook. Last session we had a number of friendship issues relating to posts being made at home. If your children are using social media please be extra vigilant and ensure you have access to this to monitor the use. Further advice can be found at the following link:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Parentsold/>

### **Meetings of Parent Consultation Groups – Session 2015-16**

The parent consultation group meetings are attended by members of the Education Directorate, Senior Officers in the Education Department and Elected Members of the Education Committee.

### **Parent Council Chair's Forum**

The Parent Council is the body that represents all parents in a school. Two members of the Parent Council can attend these meetings to represent all parents within the school.

### **Date/Venue/Time**

Tuesday 6th October 2015 – Williamwood High School

Wednesday 17th February 2016 – Woodfarm High School

Wednesday 8th June 2016 – St Luke's High School

All meetings are held at 7.00pm

### **Equalities Forum**

This meeting is for a nominated parent representative from each school and schools' equality co-ordinators .

### **Date/Venue/Time**

Thursday 17th September 2015 – Woodfarm High School 7-9pm

Thursday 14th January 2016 – Woodfarm High School 7-9pm

Thursday 12h May 2016 – Braidbar Primary School 7-9pm

Contact for this group is Maureen Sneddon, Quality Improvement Officer, telephone 0141 577 3942

or email [maureen.sneddon@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.sneddon@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

### **East Renfrewshire Parent Information Line**

Available: Mon to Fri 8am- 6pm

Freephone: 0845 84 100 10

East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line is a free telephone information service concerning all matters relating to children's education. The service is available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and is also available in Urdu/Punjabi. Parent Information Line is staffed by professionally trained personnel who are able to provide information on a wide range of educational issues, e.g.: ideas to help with homework, advice on choosing a childminder and guidelines for using the internet safely with children. Enquiries can be made in confidence (unless a child is at risk and there is a child protection issue).

For more information on East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line, contact the web site:

[www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/parents/](http://www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/parents/)



## **Your Views Are Important To Us!**

Please complete this sheet and hand in the school office.

1. Is there anything that you are pleased about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Is there anything that you are concerned about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Do you have any suggested improvements?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Would you be willing to be PVG checked and volunteer to help during trips?

Name ..... Child's Class.....

