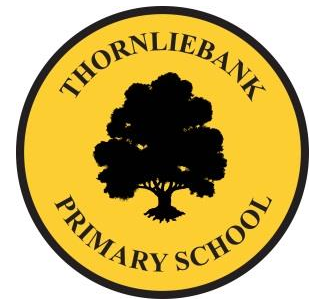




***Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.***



# **THORNIEBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **SEPTEMBER 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 to the September edition of our newsletter. I hope this newsletter will keep you up to date and informed of all the various activities and events happening within Thornliebank Primary School.

I am pleased to say that the children have all settled well into school life. Learning visits to all classes have been undertaken and I have been very impressed with the high standards of behaviour in every class and the fantastic work ethic of the pupils.

### Parent Council

You will be aware that the Parent Council AGM and meeting had to be cancelled in September. These meetings will now take place on Wednesday 7 October. Each year as our P7 class moves on to high school we have to say goodbye to a number of our Parent Council members. As a result we are always looking for new members. Last session we had several new parents join us which was fantastic. We are again this year looking for more parents from Nursery through to P7 to join the Parent Council. I would urge you to please consider coming along to the October meeting to see if you think this is something you might be interested in.



### 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.

This session, we are aiming to increase the number of parents we have who are PVG checked and available to help out on trips throughout the session. We are also going to update any parent who was previously Disclosure Scotland checked to the PVG scheme. If you are currently Disclosure Scotland checked and would like to continue to be on our parent helper list, or if you would like to be added to our parent helper list, could you please contact the school office who will support you with accessing the PVG application. The school will pay for the cost of the PVG check.

### Playground

I have had a number of parents approach me about concerns regarding the safety of the infant playground. I would like to reassure you all that I have been in close contact with both East Renfrewshire Council's Property and Technical Services and Health and Safety regarding your concerns. They have both come out to do inspections and have both said that the surface of the infant playground and the MUGA are not a health and safety risk.

The school office have also completed an analysis of the number of children coming to the office having fallen this year and compared it with previous years and there has not been an increase.

I will continue to monitor this matter and share your concerns through the appropriate channels.

Every morning from 8.45 am there is a PSA, Bernie our Janitor and a member of the management team on duty in the playground. We are always available if you wish to speak with us or raise any concerns. I would like to remind you that if you have a concern about pupil behavior, you should notify a member of staff immediately. Parents should not approach other children in the playground.

### **Harvest Assembly**

Primary 2 are currently working hard preparing for our annual Harvest Assembly, which will be held at 1.20pm on Friday 2 October. Every year we support Trust Sheltered Housing and Thornliebank Food Bank through your very generous donations of food. We are looking to do this again this year. From the week beginning 21 September 2015 we would ask you, if you are able, to donate an item of non-perishable food (eg. Tins, pasta, jars etc) to our harvest collection. This links with the work children have been doing on Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) where children are aware that children have a right to a standard of living with nutritious food (Article 27). I would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity with this.



### **Rights Respecting School Comment**

All pupils have participated in a RRS topic at the beginning of term, whilst creating their Class Charters. Every class now has a class charter based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The pupils will be continuing to learn all about rights respecting actions and how they can support others enjoy their rights.

### **Pupil Group Elections**



On Tuesday 1 September we held our pupil group elections. It was fantastic to see so many pupils become involved and having seen some of their speeches and campaigns, I have a feeling we have some future politicians in our midst. Congratulations to all the pupils who were elected onto the various groups. This is an excellent opportunity of the children to develop skills for work including team work, leadership skills and communication skills.

### **Sponsored Event**

You will all by now have received information about our sponsored sports event which is being held on 21<sup>st</sup> September. In the past Thornliebank has been lucky enough to be in receipt of a number of grants which enabled us to provide swimming lessons for certain year groups and a number of after school clubs for free.

Unfortunately, a number of these grants have now ceased. We are aware of the current economic climate and always try our best to be aware of not asking parents for too much. In order to continue to provide the range of experiences we have on offer for pupils, we are looking to try and build up our School Fund through fund raising initiative such as the sponsored sports event and the Christmas Fayre. This money will then allow us to contribute towards the cost of trips, clubs and events which will hopefully keep the cost to a minimum. The various fundraising initiatives we do are on a voluntary basis and no child will miss out on aspects of the curriculum due to lack of funding.



## **P1 Play Afternoon**

Primary 1 parents have been invited along to a Play Afternoon. During this time they will meet with Marie Baxter our active schools co-ordinator and then participate in an active session with P1 pupils. I look forward to seeing you on the day.

## **Meet the Teacher and Find out More Day**



We are always looking for ways to share information with parents. This session we held our first Meet the Teacher evening. This was not attended as well as we had hoped in certain year groups. As this was the first time we have held an evening such as this, we would appreciate any feedback you have. This can be done through contacting myself via the school office or else through placing a comment in the Comments and Suggestions box at the school office.

Our first Find Out More Day will be held on Tuesday 22 September at 9.15am and 2.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to come along, see your child's class, look at the work they are doing and get a feel for how they have settled into class. I hope to see many of you on the day.

## **Late Coming and Absences**

When your child is absent from school a learning opportunity is lost. Research highlights attainment is directly linked to attendance so we need our pupils to be at school to ensure they achieve their full potential. Likewise, if your child is late for school, they are missing valuable learning and teaching opportunities.

At Thornliebank we work in partnership with parents to ensure that all pupils regularly attend school with high attendance and punctuality. Where there are issues with attendance or punctuality parents will be informed promptly. In order to encourage attendance and punctuality we have 2 initiatives, Reach for the Stars and Right on Time.

I am pleased to say the results for our first audit of attendance is very good and I would like to thank you for your continued support with this.

## **Reach for the Stars - Attendance**

P1 -99.1%  
P2 -97.7%  
P3 -97.3%  
P4 -97.5%  
P5 -97.3%  
P6 -94.1%  
P7A -98.8%  
P7B -97.3%  
Whole School -97.4%



## **Clean Air Around School**

Please see the following message from Greg Brown, Technical Officer Roads, Planning and Transportation Department:

'As part of our commitment to improving local air quality, East Renfrewshire Council now has powers to issue fixed penalty notices to drivers who don't switch off their engines when stationary. Council officers will be carrying out patrols around local schools and speaking to drivers who let their vehicles idle unnecessarily.

Air quality within East Renfrewshire is generally good and meets national standards, however we are always keen to make further improvements. Within East Renfrewshire, road traffic is the main source of air pollutants. Parents and others taking children to and from school can help to reduce children's exposure to exhaust fumes by leaving the car at home, by parking further away from the school and by turning off their engines when stationary. '

## **Local Improvement Plan 2015 - 2018**

Please find below a link to the electronic version of the Local Improvement Plan 2015-2018.

[East Renfrewshire Education Department Local Improvement Plan 2015-2018](#)

## **Well Done**

In Thornliebank Primary School we have a number of ways of celebrating achievement. We have changed the display at the entrance to the main building and it now contains photographs of pupils who have won the monthly Ace Award. In addition to this, we also have a Wonderful Work Wall which will be updated monthly to showcase the fantastic work being completed by children throughout the school. Please feel welcome to come in and have a look.

The focus of our September whole school assembly was to be Responsible Citizens through the children demonstrating Rights Respecting behaviour. Well done to the following pupils who received the ACE award for September:

### **September**

Primary 1 – Saoirse Clark  
Primary 2 – Beth Lennon  
Primary 3 – Amara Saqib  
Primary 4 – Abbie Graham  
Primary 5 – Aimee McCann  
Primary 6 – Jack Price  
Primary 7A – Jamie Forbes  
Primary 7B – Reiss Maclachlan



## **Finally**

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch. At Thornliebank Primary School, we want your child's time here to be happy, safe and successful.

Kind regards

Siobhan McColgan