



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.



THORNLIEBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL



NOVEMBER 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

November has brought us a change in weather conditions and it feels like winter is well and truly here. Please make sure your child comes to school with a jacket or coat and suitable footwear.

It is hard to believe that we have started our preparations for Christmas already. The children are beginning to learn their lines and songs for the Nativity performance. I have included a calendar of events in the newsletter for your reference. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the various events.

A large number of donations are coming in for our Christmas Fayre. We have a system where we collect different donations each week, however we are delighted to take donations at any time! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity once again. This was also the case during our Harvest Collection, where we gathered so much food that we were able to not only donate to Trust Sheltered Housing but to Thornliebank Food Bank also.



Staffing

Miss Sinclair, one of our Clerical Assistants, decided to leave Thornliebank as she had secured a different post in another job. Miss Sinclair worked here for the 2 last years and we would like to thank her for her hard work throughout. We currently have a few Clerical Assistants, Mrs Oldham, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Dickie who will be here on a temporary basis until the position is filled. I will keep you posted as to when this happens.

Parent Council

A big thank you to our Parent Council and all the volunteers who assisted during the Halloween disco. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Parent Council are now busy helping to organise the Christmas Fayre. This session we have welcomed a number of new members to the Parent Council. I would like to thank everyone who works together to make our Parent Council a success.



Our next Parent Council meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 13 January in Woodfarm High School.

Beauty and the Beast

Once again M and M Theatre Productions came to the school to perform for our pupils. This year it was Beauty and the Beast. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and as the feedback has been so positive, we have booked them again for next year. Due to your generosity during the sponsored circuit challenge, we were able to pay for this through school fund.

Parental Appointments

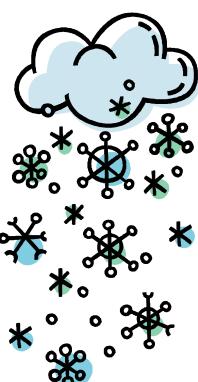
Our Parents Evening took place on Thursday 12th November. Teachers have been meeting with parents who were unable to attend on the evening. If you were unable to make your appointment and have not yet spoken with your child's class teacher, please contact the office.

Representatives from our Rights Respecting School Steering Group had organised an interactive display and activities to develop parent understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This included creating a PowerPoint display, posters and playing the Wants and Needs game with parents.

I would like to say a massive thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the Rights Respecting School Questionnaire, these are now being analysed to measure if parents feel impact has been made through focusing on rights respecting behavior.

Support

Scottish Autism runs an online parent support programme called Right Click for parents and carers of individuals on the autism spectrum. The programme builds over 5 weeks and provides information which can be accessed at a time and pace that suits the reader. Parents are also assigned their own advisor who can be contacted to give more specific advice. Further information is available from www.scottishautism.org



Closure due to Winter Emergency

During the winter months there may be occasions when emergencies make it necessary for pupils to be sent home prematurely. It is very rare for a school to close, however, if a decision was made for this to happen, the school would use the following communication to inform parents:

- SMS (Text Messaging)

- School website update
- Twitter

The local authority's website page, along with twitter/Facebook accounts will be updated on a regular basis, ensuring that you are well informed of any closure decisions. The local press and radio will also have information. The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents will be notified through the communication means listed above.

Educational Visits

Primary 3 recently visited Vikingar as part of their Social Studies topic. The pupils had a great time and enjoyed learning all about the Vikings.



Some Pupils in Primary 5 attended a Badminton Tournament. The pupils participated well and the Sports Development Team commented on how well they behaved. Well done Primary 5.

2 members of the Pupil Council attended a meeting with the Director of Education to discuss the use of Glow and Fairtrade in primary schools.

Pupils also represented the school at a Dyslexia Event in Mearns Primary School and a Remembrance Service at the Thornliebank War Memorial.

In the coming weeks, Primary 6 will attend a trip to Scotland Street School, Primary 1 will visit Thornliebank Library for a book bug gifting event and P7 will attend Eastwood Chambers for the annual debate.

World of Work Week

We are currently in the midst of our World of Work Week. I would like to thank all the parents and members of the local community who have got involved in supporting this. Children are learning about the skills needed for learning, life and work throughout the year in all that they do. This focused week is an opportunity to hear from experts about how these skills are put into action in specific jobs. Thank you to Mrs McGarvey for organising this week.

Assemblies

Well done to P2 and P7 for organising an excellent Harvest Assembly. Your kind donations of food were put to good use and helped children reflect on children's rights to nutritious food. *Article 24 UNCRC*



Primary 3 lead an excellent assembly on the theme of Sukkot, the Autumn Jewish Festival where Jewish people thank God for looking after them. Primary 3 effectively linked this assembly to the current refugee crisis and were reflective of children's right to a home. *Article 27 UNCRC*

Rights Respecting School

We would like to thank you for your overwhelming generosity in our recent collection sending items to help Syrian Refugees. Pupils have been learning all about rights respecting behaviour and how they can help other children who do not enjoy their lives.

Our P7 Peer Mediators have been working hard to support pupils throughout the school during playtime and lunch time. They are helping younger children enjoy their right to feel safe in school.

The steering group have been working hard to make playground and lunch time charters which will link their rights with the associated rights respecting behaviour. These charters are almost completed and will be shared with all children.

Sponsored Super Hero Obstacle Challenge

A massive well done to all our nursery children and staff who took part in a sponsored obstacle challenge on Friday. The pupils and staff all dressed as superheroes and navigated their way around an obstacle course. This was to raise funds for the nursery and Children in Need. Donations are still being collected and counted. I will let you know when we have a final figure but would like to thank you in advance for your generosity.

Wrap staff

We are looking to recruit some more wrap staff in our nursery. Wrap staff are employed to look after the children in nursery either before nursery starts, during lunch time or after the nursery finishes.

The exact hours are 8am -9am, 11.50am-12.50pm and 4.00pm-6.00pm. The current rate of pay for wrap is £8.26 per hour. In order to be eligible to do wrap you would need a PVG with East Renfrewshire Council and be registered with SSSC. If you are interested in this or would like any further information, please contact Gemma McLaughlin (Senior CDO in Thornliebank Nursery) via the school office.

Late Coming and Absences

Reach for the Stars - Attendance

P1 –97%

P2 –93%

P3 –97%

P4 –96%

P5 –94%

P6 –98%

P7A –89%

P7B –91%

Whole School –94%



We have had an increasing number of children not being collected at 3.00pm each day. On more than one occasion this week we have had at least 8 children waiting to be collected at the office. Whilst we appreciate that sometimes parents can be running late, especially at the moment with this awful weather, we would appreciate it if you could make every effort to try and collect your child on time. We will, of course continue to keep children at the office until they have been collected but we would appreciate your help with this.

Well Done

The focus of our October whole school assembly was to be Successful Learners. Well done to the following pupils who received the ACE award for October:

September

Primary 1 – Ryan Gibson

Primary 2 – Javaria Imran Butt

Primary 3 – Wahaj Munir

Primary 4 – Lewis Dickie

Primary 5 – Ryan Hillyer

Primary 6 – Nafisa Pagganwala

Primary 7A – Jamie Forbes, Callum Doherty and Sophie Cairns Arshad

Primary 7B – Bilal Niaz



Congratulations to Lawizah Shabaz in Primary 7 whose entry for the ERC Road Safety Calendar competition was Highly Commended and she has received a certificate.

Katie Hayes in Primary came in 3rd across the whole authority. Well done Katie! Katie and her family have been invited to attend a prize giving ceremony at East Renfrewshire Headquarters.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th November – P4 Diwali Assembly at 1.20pm

Saturday 5th December, 10am – 12pm, Christmas Fayre

Thursday 17th December, 9.30am and 2pm, School Nativity Play and Concert

Friday 18th December, 9.30am and 2pm, Nursery Nativity Play

Friday 18th December, P7, Cluster Ceilidh, Woodfarm High School

Tuesday 15th December, P5 & P6 Christmas Party *

Wednesday 16th December, P1 & P2 Christmas Party, Parents invited to attend at 1.30pm*

Monday 21st December AM, P3 & P4 Christmas Party *

Monday 21st December PM, P7 Christmas Party *

Tuesday 22nd December, Dress as you Please

Tuesday 22nd December, Early Closure at 2.30pm

*Children may come to school dressed in party clothes on day of their class party.



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