



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



JANUARY 2016 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 our first newsletter of 2016. I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the festive period and are having a good start to the new year. The children have returned after their holiday refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

This newsletter provides an opportunity to get an insight into the life of the school and hear about upcoming events. I hope you find it useful.

Kindest regards

Siobhan McColgan
Head Teacher

Dates for the Diary

Tartan Day Assembly
(Children to wear something tartan)
Find out More Day

Standardised Tests Begin
In-service Day
(Pupils do not attend school)
Mid-Term Holiday

School re-opens
P6 Whole School Assembly
(Chinese New Year)
Jotters Sent Home
Book Week Begins
P7 Residential Trip
Parent Appointments School
Easter Service
Easter Weekend

Spring Break

Friday 22nd January at 1.30pm

Tuesday 26th January at 9.00am –
10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm
Monday 1st February
Friday 12th February

Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th
February
Wednesday 17th February
Friday 5th February at 1.30pm

Friday 5th February
Monday 7th March
Monday 14th - Friday 19th March
Tuesday 22nd March
Thursday 24th March at 11am
Friday 25th March – Monday 28th
March (school closed)
School Closes at 2.30pm Friday 1st
April and re-opens Monday 18th April

Staffing

You will be aware Mr Flanagan left last week to take up a PT post in another authority. Safoora Shabbir will be in P6 until the end of the session. Jean Macrae is now doing Acting PT on a full time basis. I would like to welcome Caroline Parfery who joined us at the start of term as a clerical assistant. Denise Livingstone was successful at interview and is now a permanent member of the Thornliebank Nursery Team. Rebekah Lockett will fill the temporary vacancy this has created from the February Weekend onwards. Welcome back to Sarah McBay, who is with us on a Thursday and a Friday doing non class contact and support.

Burns' Day Celebrations

On Friday 22nd January we will be holding our annual Tartan Day celebrations. We invite children to wear something Tartan and bring in a small donation which is donated to Kilts for Kids. We will have a special Tartan Day Assembly at 1.30pm on Friday which you are invited to. The children have been learning about Scottish Traditions within our teaching and learning e.g. Scottish poetry, Scots language and traditional dance and will showcase their learning during the assembly.



World Harry Potter Night and Book Week



World Harry Potter Night is on 4th February. We will be celebrating this on Friday 5th February. In the run up to this pupils in P1-3 will be given a 'Perfect Patronus' design competition and pupils in P4 – 7 will design Potions. The winners will be announced in the school library at 3pm. In addition to this there will be a number of fun activities going on in the library after school that day. Make sure you come along and join in the fun!

Our library is open after school every Friday and children are welcome to come along and borrow a book. The librarian helpers are also taking groups of children during Golden Time on a Friday to choose books to take home.

Book week is the week beginning Monday 7th March. This year we are looking for some parents to volunteer to visit classes, read to the children and share their favorite book when they were a child. If you would be willing to participate in this event, please contact the school office.



Our annual book fayre arrives on Monday 7th March and is an excellent opportunity for the school to raise funds to supplement the school library.

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March and pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

East Renfrewshire Standardised Tests

Our Education Department's Standardised Testing in Reading and Mathematics for children in Primaries 3, 5 and 7 will take place in all ERC primary schools between Monday 1 February and Friday 19 February 2016. Results of these tests will be provided in your child's annual report in June.

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

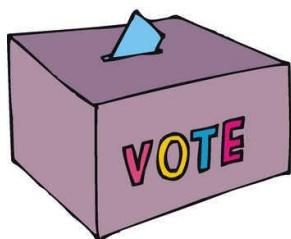
The local authority's website page, along with twitter/Facebook accounts will be updated on a regular basis, ensuring that you are well informed of any closure decisions. The local press and radio will also have information. The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents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

Jotters to Parents

On Friday 5 February we will be sending home your child's jotters to give you the opportunity to view their learning and progress. Along with the jotters, there is a sheet included to encourage discussion with your child and to give them, along with you, the opportunity to comment on their learning and progress. We ask that any jotters sent home are returned promptly on the following Monday morning to ensure continuity in learning. Your comments are much appreciated.



Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016



Our school will be used as a polling station for the above elections scheduled for Thursday 5th May 2016. The school will be closed to pupils on that day.

Sports Volunteers

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Limited are looking to recruit an enthusiastic group of sports volunteers, aged 16 or over, to assist in the delivery of their sport and physical activity programmes including multi-sport coaching (daytime, after school, evenings or weekends) and school holiday activities. Our next recruitment evening will be held as follows:



Wednesday 3rd February 2016
St Ninian's High School, Giffnock
6.00 – 7.00pm

If you think you have what it takes and can make a difference to the local sports community, we'd love to hear from you! For more information or to book a place, please contact Barry Cook, Active Schools Team Leader on 0141 570 7330 or email activeschools@ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk

If you would like to get involved with this, you would be able to request to volunteer in Thornliebank Primary School. The cost of the PVG application would be covered by Active Schools.

School Improvements

The Pupil Council have been campaigning for improvements to the infant playground. They have been looking at the possibility of an adventure playground to make playtimes more fun and to increase their physical activity. We have been in contact with a number of playground equipment companies and are hoping to install an adventure playground in the coming months.

I am delighted to say that work has started in developing one of the classrooms vacated by Sports Services into an ICT room. This room will be large enough to fit a whole class into and will have an interactive white board to support teaching and learning. The small room we use currently as an ICT room will be converted into a meeting room.

