



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



FEBRUARY 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 February Newsletter. I would like to say a massive thank you to all the pupils who took part in our annual Tartan Day Celebrations. I believe they put on a great show celebrating all things Scottish! Thank you also to all the parents and family members who came along to celebrate with us.



Mrs Landman and Mrs Allan did a fantastic job of helping the school to celebrate World Harry Potter Night last Friday. I have never seen our library quite so busy, it was brilliant to see. The pupils were able to take part in a number of fun activities and the quality of entries to the competition were of a very high standard. Well done to everyone who took part.

The pupils in P3, P5 and P7 are in the process of completing assessments in Reading and Maths as part of the authority's Standardised Testing programme. We will provide you with your child's results in the pupils' progress reports in June.

The school will be closed to pupils on Friday 12 February as it is an In-service Day, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February are holidays so pupils will return to school on Wednesday 17 February.

I hope you all have an enjoyable February weekend.

Siobhan McColgan
Head Teacher

Car Parking

We regularly have local residents calling the school to complain about the parking in and around the school. There have been several occasions when residents have been blocked in their driveways due to visitors to the school double parking. Can I please ask that you are respectful to our local residents and be mindful of where you park?

World Book Day

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, 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. To date we are still waiting for some parents to come forward to volunteer so if you are interested please contact the school.



World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March and pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Every year, a day is set aside to celebrate reading, books, authors and illustrators. Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day Token which can be exchanged for one of 8 exclusive £1 World Book Day Books – or, if they prefer, £1 off any book costing over £2.99 at our annual book fayre.



Jotters to Parents

Last Friday we sent home your child's jotters to give you the opportunity to view their learning and progress. I hope you found this a useful way to observe how your child is progressing with their learning. I would ask that any outstanding jotters are returned to school ASAP.

Fairtrade

Thornliebank Primary School works hard throughout the year to promote Fairtrade. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. This year we are taking part in the 90kg Rice Challenge. We have sourced 90 1kg bags of Fairtrade rice. Selling this amount of rice will enable a Malawian farmer to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child. During the Fairtrade fortnight, the Fairtrade Committee will be selling the rice in their classes, the rice costs £3 per bag. The bags will be numbered from 1-90 and one lucky bag will be drawn as the winner to receive a delicious Fairtrade hamper. Through taking part in the rice challenge we are helping children learn about how they can help others to enjoy their right to an education and standard of living. More information about this exciting and worthwhile initiative will follow shortly.



Parental Concerns

If you wish to discuss something regarding your child's behaviour or progress with the class teacher, I would like to remind you that this should be done through making an appointment at the office or putting a note in the homework diary.

Our aim is that all pupils come to Thornliebank and feel safe, happy and have the best possible educational experience. If you have any concerns, please contact the school and we will do all we can to address your concerns.

Dental Health

Children in P1 and P7 take part in dental check-ups and the results over the last couple of years have been poor with a very large percentage of children in Thornliebank showing signs of decay and plaque build-up.

As a result of this we are going to be working with the Health Improvement Team to try and improve the dental health of children in Thornliebank. One way of doing this is raise parental awareness of Fluoride Varnish.

Fluoride is a mineral that helps to prevent tooth decay. Fluoride varnish is a golden gel which is applied to children's teeth using a soft brush. The varnish sets quickly.

Fluoride varnish is effective in the prevention of decay and is recommended to be applied to the teeth of all children at least twice yearly.

Plaque and saliva in the mouth is able to alter the balance between softening and hardening of the tooth surface. Fluoride favours the hardening process. Fluoride minerals build up within the mouth, plaque bacteria becomes saturated with fluoride. The presence of the fluoride helps builds up a stronger resistance to a sugar attack from foods and drinks.

It slows down the development of decay by stopping the softening of the tooth surface. It makes the enamel more resistant to acid attack (from plaque bacteria), and speeds up the hardening process of the tooth surface.

Fluoride can be administered by a dentist, dental therapist, hygienist or Childsmile trained Extended Duty Dental Nurse (EDDN) and is currently registered with the General Dental Council.

If you have not been offered fluoride varnish by your dentist, please ask them about it the next time you are there with your child.

We are working with the Health Improvement Team to look at the possibility of funding to enable the Childsmile Dental Team to come into Thornliebank Primary School to administer Fluoride varnish. If this were to happen, more information including parental consent letters will be shared nearer the time.

Infant Playground

Please could I ask that you stand well back towards the back wall when you are waiting for your child at home time in the P1-3 playground? A number of parents have raised concerns that they find it difficult to see their child when leaving the school. Your help with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

News from Around the School

Nursery

This month the nursery class are learning that being active is a healthy way to be. The children have all completed fitness testing and are currently undertaking a block of weekly fitness sessions. They will then complete the fitness test again and hopefully improve their individual scores. The children are all participating with enjoyment and enthusiasm.

Primary 1

Primary 1 designed umbrellas for Winnie the Pooh. We looked at various materials and predicted what would happen if they were used in the rain (a watering can!). After conducting a fair test we recorded our results. It was great fun but poor Winnie the Pooh got very wet! Fortunately he now has a waterproof umbrella!



Primary 2

This Term Primary 2 have been learning about different types of houses. This is part of our current social studies topic called "Our Local Area – Thornliebank". The children have had the opportunity to find out about the characteristics of detached, semi-detached, and terraced houses, as well as bungalows and flats. They've played matching games, made a certain type of house using card, and constructed fact files about the various kinds of houses.

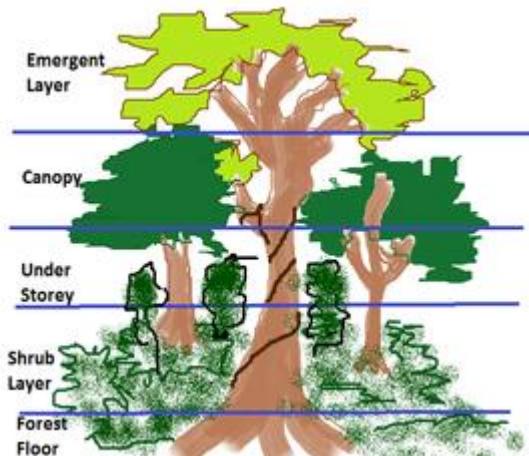


Primary 3

Primary 3 so enjoyed learning The Dashing White Sergeant for their Tartan Day performance that we have gone onto learn 3 more dances and are about to work in groups using a modern piece of music to inspire our own Scottish Dances. We were all surprised at how much stamina and fitness we need to take part in Scottish Country Dancing.

Primary 4

In primary 4 we are really enjoying their rainforest topic which is linking closely to Living Things in science. We are learning about the different species that live in the layers of the rainforest and how each animal plays an important part to our environment. In the next few weeks we will be begin our preparations for our solo talks about our favourite animal.



Primary 5

Primary Five have been looking at properties and uses of substances in their Science. We have carried out many exciting experiments and have predicted what we think may happen. After the experiments we have then recorded our findings and have been able to compare. We were looking at mould and the factors which make different things mould. We did a bread experiment where we touched a loaf of bread with unwashed hands, with hands washed and one which was a control and was untouched. From this, we realised that the mouldiest bread was the loaf which we touched with our unwashed hands. We also predicted what would happen when we mixed water and oil. The children thought that the water would turn yellow however to their surprise the water was separated from the oil. We also looked at an irreversible chemical reaction which was outside in the playground. We placed mentos in with diet coke to see that Carbon Dioxide bubbles had been created and began to push the diet coke out of the bottle looking like a mini volcano. The children could identify that this was an irreversible change as a new substance had been formed. The children loved this!



Primary 6

P6 have been learning about Chinese New Year. We researched the 15 days of celebration and wrote Cinquain poems. We also made Chinese lanterns and performed the story of the Chinese zodiac at a whole school assembly.

Primary 7

Primary 7 classes have been researching World War 2 and focusing on the life of evacuees. The children have been recreating evacuee suitcases, filling them with objects that children would have packed for their journey including clothes, toiletries and personal items. We will be sharing our learning with younger children after the February holiday.