



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



SEPTEMBER 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 Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for Session 2016/ 2017. 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 their new class routines. I have recently undertaken learning visits to all classes and I have enjoyed getting involved in the wide variety of learning experiences that our dedicated teachers plan for our children. It has been great to hear the children talking so eloquently and enthusiastically about their learning.

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team have key areas of responsibility within the school and nursery and should be your first point of contact if you have any queries, concerns or information you would like to pass on:

Mr A McDonald (Acting Head Teacher)	Pastoral responsibility for the nursery, Child Protection Coordinator, pastoral overview for whole school, Language and Literacy
Mrs J McGarvey (Principal Teacher)	Pastoral responsibility for P1-3, Health and Wellbeing, Numeracy and Mathematics
Mrs G McDonald (Principal Teacher)	Pastoral responsibility for P4-7, Additional Support Needs, ICT

Although Mrs McGarvey and Mrs McDonald have teaching commitments throughout the week, we will always endeavor to respond to you within 2 working days or sooner. Appointments with the relevant person can be made via the school office.

School Uniform

It is great to see so many children so beautifully turned out each morning. It really sets the tone for the day ahead and creates a very favourable impression of Thornliebank Primary within the community. We strongly endorse and recommend that our Primary 6 and 7 pupils wear a white shirt and a Thornliebank tie every day. Black trousers/ skirt, black jumper or cardigan and appropriate black shoes should also be worn. From Primary 1 to Primary 5 there is a choice between wearing a white shirt and Thornliebank tie or a yellow polo shirt and black Thornliebank sweatshirt. We discourage the wearing of all jewellery with the exception of small, easily-removable stud earrings. Our uniform policy followed extensive parent consultation and is in line with East Renfrewshire's 'Dressing for Excellence' policy which is advocated in all of the authority's schools.

School Improvement Priorities

Each year we write a School Improvement Plan which sets out the targets we hope to achieve by the end of the session. Our plan focuses on key improvements for the course of the session and allows us to bring together national, local and school priorities while continuing to emphasise Thornliebank's unique vision and values. This year our priorities are organised within 4 strategic aims: Self- evaluation, Curriculum Design, Raising Attainment and Recognising Achievement and Equalities. In addition, Getting it Right for Every Child and Developing the Young Workforce strategies as well as a commitment to optimising parental engagement permeate each of our aims. For a full copy of our 2016/2017 School Improvement Plan, please see our website.



Meet the Teacher/ Find Out More Day

We hosted our Meet the Teacher Event on Wednesday 24 August from 3.30-4.30. Many parents were able to attend and had the opportunity to see their child's classroom and meet their new teacher. Evidence shows that the event was better attended than last year and feedback comments from parents were overwhelmingly positive. Almost all parents indicated that they wished to see the event continue in future sessions. A few parents mentioned that they would prefer to see the

event revert back to a later time slot. This feedback will be added to the results of the wide-reaching family engagement stakeholder information that we hope to gather and analyse throughout the course of the session.

Our Find Out More Day for Primary 2-7 took place on Tuesday 20 September. This is an opportunity for family members to visit the school and see a lesson in action. Children were taking part in learning across a wide range of curricular areas, from Literacy and Numeracy to PE and Drama, giving families a flavor of the diversity of experiences in any one day at Thornliebank Primary. Feedback comments from family members included:

"Very interesting day. Great idea!"

"Good to see what the children can achieve"

"Good to see the range of work covered"

"Great to see variety of work in P3 and to see the encouragement the children get"

Class News

Primary 1 have been learning all of their single sounds and have started blending their first letters. They have been focusing on number recognition, number formation and counting and some children have already started to add.

Primary 2 have been developing group discussion skills while thinking about 'needs' and 'wants' and linking this to their class charters, Rights Respecting Schools initiatives and their Sukkot and Harvest studies.

Primary 3 have been developing note-taking skills as they explore 'The Vikings' learning context and consider the factors that made the Vikings unique in history

Tuesday 6 September saw all Primary 4 pupils being invited to the grand opening of the new David Lloyd Club on Stewarton Road. The children received an hour of tennis coaching from Judy Murray, a back-pack full of goodies and a significant amount of media attention. Many thanks to all at David Lloyd and to Mrs McDonald for organising.

Primary 4 and Primary 5 pupils are half way through their 6-week block of swimming lessons which we are paying for with school funds. Not only are the children developing an essential life skill, they also seem to be having a great deal of fun. As with all trips, we are extremely grateful to our parent helpers, without whom the swimming lessons would not be able to go ahead. We are also extremely appreciative to all who contribute to school fundraising activities which allow our

children to have these experiences. An additional session has been organized for October 27 to replace the cancelled session on September 28.

Primary 6 been looking in-depth at the Paralympic Games and have been developing their research skills as they investigate the range of sports that take place as well as the history and impact of the Paralympic movement.

Primary 7 used the Olympics as the stimulus for their participation in this year's Lord Provost's debate. They have also been developing their report writing skills through their investigations in to natural disasters.

Main Street Crossing Patrol

Facilities Management have indicated that they have a vacancy for a Schools Crossing Patrol Officer for the crossing at Main Street. This post, which is subject to a PVG (Children) check, is for 10 hours per week. If you or anyone you know within the local community would be interested in taking up this important role, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me so that I can pass on the relevant contact details to Facilities Management.

I would also ask that all parents and carers parking or dropping-off on Bangorshill Street exercise extreme caution. The street can become extremely congested from 8.45 am and again at the end of the day. We all have a collective duty to ensure the safety of all children in our school and nursery and I would urge you to contact Giffnock Police Station immediately if you witness any incidences of dangerous driving or parking.

Parent Council

Thornliebank's Parent Council met for their Annual General Meeting and their first meeting of the new session on Wednesday September 14. Outgoing Chair, Mrs Phemia McCarthy, provided an update on the contribution made by last session's council to the school before relinquishing her post. Many thanks to Mrs McCarthy and all of last year's council members for their dedicated support. Our new office bearers were duly nominated and seconded:

Chair- Mrs Jenny Hamill

Vice Chair- Mrs Janey Lennon

Treasurer- Mrs Paula McIsaac

Secretary- Mrs Vera Koehn

We wish new and returning members every success for this session. If you are interested in either joining or contributing to the fundraising work of the Pupil Council, please contact any of the office bearers, directly or via the school office.

Parent Helpers

At Thornliebank Primary School we value your support and encourage parents to get involved in our children's learning whenever possible. We are always looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with focus groups, practical learning tasks and, of course, school excursions. Many school excursions, in particular, would not go ahead if not for the commitment of our parent volunteers. If you can help in any way and would like to be added to our parent helper list, please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting Mrs Arkinson in our school office. The nature of the role you are willing to undertake will determine whether a PVG check is necessary. The school will support with any costs and with the PVG application itself.



Pupil Group Elections

On Tuesday 30 August we held our pupil group elections. It was fantastic to see so many pupils keen to have their say and become involved in taking the school forward. Congratulations to all the pupils who were elected to the various groups. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to develop a range of skills that will be invaluable as they progress through education and then on to the world of work.

Olympics Day

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in our all-action Olympic Day on 27 September. Following an assembly which took inspiration from the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, children took part in taster sessions for a range of sports including judo, squash, football and boccia. Children were invited to come dressed in sporting outfits and bright colours in keeping with the 'Road to Rio' theme. Many thanks to all families who contributed a £1 donation (which will be used to help fund future sporting experiences) and to Mrs McGarvey and Mrs Baxter for their expert organisation.



Harvest Assembly

Primary 2 are currently working hard preparing for the annual Harvest Assembly which will be held at 9.45am on Friday 7 October. Every year we support Trust Sheltered Housing and Thornliebank Food Bank through your very generous donations of food and we are looking to do this again this year. From the week beginning 3 October we are accepting donations of an item of non-perishable food (tins, pasta, jars etc.) for our harvest collection. This ties in with the work children have been doing on Rights Respecting Schools which highlights that all children have the right to a standard of living with nutritious food (Article 27). Primary 7 pupils will arrange a daily collection from each class. I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity in this matter.



Important dates

October 7	P2 Harvest Assembly- P2 parents and carers welcome	9.45
October 14	INSET Day	
October 17- October 21	Holiday	
October 28	School Disco (Parent Council)	tbc
October 28	P4 Diwali Assembly – P4 parents and carers welcome	9.45
November 3	Parent Consultation Evening	3.30-8.30
November 7	World of Work Week	
November 14	Right on Time Week	
December 3	Christmas Fayre	10.00-12.00
December 16	Nursery Nativity	9.45 and 2.00
December 19	P1-3 Nativity	9.30 and 1.45

Finally

On a personal note, thank you for the fantastic welcome I have received from the entire school community over the course of the term. It has been great to feel part of such a friendly and nurturing school. If you have any suggestions for future initiatives that will help us to develop the school even further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair McDonald