

Education

Thornliebank Primary School & ELCC
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Head Teacher: Alasdair McDonald

Date: October 2 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

October Week Holiday

Term 1 has raced by and the children have made an outstanding start to the session. School will close for the children on Thursday October 12 at 3 pm and will re-open on Monday October 23 at 8.55 am.

Parents' Consultation Evening November 2 2017- Online Appointment Booking

I would like to invite you to meet with your child's teacher at our Parents' Consultation Evening on Thursday November 2 2017. Appointments will last for ten minutes each and run from 3.20pm until 8.20pm with a break for the teachers in the middle from 5.30pm until 6.10pm.

Appointments should be made using the online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

The system goes online on October 9 from 5pm and will close on October 27 at 5pm. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

Please visit <https://Thornliebank.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointments (a short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.) Login with the following information:

Student's First Name
Student's Surname
Student's Date of Birth

Attainment

We were delighted with the attainment of our pupils throughout Session 2016-2017 and we have even higher aspirations for the current session. The following table indicates the percentage of children at P1, 4 and 7 meeting the expected levels of attainment within Curriculum for Excellence as identified by the Scottish Government:

Curricular Area	Target (%) (as set by ERC) 2016-19	Attainment (%) 2015-16	Attainment (%) 2016-17
Reading	77	85	89
Writing	80	83	83
Mathematics	80	80	89

These results are above the average for Scotland and indicate that we are well on the way to exceeding the 3-year target set by East Renfrewshire Council. This is testament to a great deal of hard work from our children and staff and to an amazing amount of support from our families and community. Thank you.

Attendance

Unfortunately we fell considerably short of the target set for us in relation to pupil attendance and attendance at Thornliebank sat below the East Renfrewshire average for last session. We have therefore identified pupil attendance as a priority within this session's School Improvement Plan and would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. There is no doubt that our attainment levels would be even better if we were able to work together to target this issue.

Obviously, all children can become sick and attending school at times is not possible. I would be extremely grateful if you could make a short phone call to the school office by 9.30 am on each day of your child's absence. This keeps us informed on their progress and allows us to plan for their anticipated return to school. As with all primary schools in East Renfrewshire, if we do not hear from you by 9.30 am we are obliged to contact you. If we cannot reach you on the number provided, we are then obliged to contact all numbers provided as emergency contacts. If we are still unable to reach you, we are sometimes obliged to contact our partner agencies (including Social Services, Police Scotland etc.) until we are able to satisfactorily locate your child. This is obviously a long-drawn out process which can be easily avoided.

Again, as with all schools in East Renfrewshire, holidays during term time will always be added to records as unauthorised absences and unfortunately teaching staff will be unable to make any accommodation in terms of missed learning as a result of an unauthorised absence.

I fully appreciate the pressures that can be placed on families (sometimes from children themselves) in relation to maintaining appropriate levels of school attendance and don't doubt for a minute that all families at Thornliebank want the absolute best for our children. If I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Parking/ Dropping Off on Bangorshill Street

I am often contacted by local residents on two main issues; litter and parking/ dropping off/ driving on Bangorshill Street. I feel reasonably confident that the majority of litter on Bangorshill Street is not connected to the school but will continue to promote the anti-litter message to our children in keeping with our status as an Eco School. I would also be grateful for your cooperation in ensuring that driving and parking are safe and considerate at all times as I am keen to maintain positive relationships with the local community.

Dates for Term 1- Term 2

October 6	P2 Harvest and Sukkot assembly	11.00am (all P2 parents/ carers welcome)
October 6	Jotters/ Learning evidence home (Numeracy and Mathematics)	
October 27	P4 assembly	11.00am (all P4 parents/ carers welcome)
November 2	Parent Consultation Evening	3.20-8.30pm
November 3	Hallowe'en Disco (Parent Council)	P1-3 6.30-7.45pm P4-7 8- 9.15 pm
November 6	World of Work Week	
November 13	Right on Time Week	
December 1	NHS Flu immunisation	
December 15	ELCC Nativity	9.45 and 2.00
December 18	P1-3 Nativity	9.30 and 1.45
December 20	School closes for Christmas holiday	2.30

Yours sincerely

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher