



Thornliebank Primary School

and Nursery Class



November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, I would like to thank you for your patience and continued support at this very challenging time. I understand how difficult it is to have children self-isolating at home, trying to complete school work online with everything else that is happening within a household, and would like to thank all of our families who have been affected by the self-isolations we have had to put in place. Your support is very much appreciated. We are also sending our best wishes to our pupils and their family members who have been unwell recently, and hope you feel better soon.

As a school and nursery, we continue to work closely with the Education Department, Environmental Health and the Health Protection Team to ensure we are doing everything possible to reduce the risk of transmission within school and nursery. We are regularly reviewing our risk assessments in line with updated guidance as it is issued, and adapting our protocols accordingly. All adults are wearing face masks in communal areas and when working with children for over 15 minutes where social distancing is not possible. We have enhanced cleaning routines throughout the day and regularly remind the children of the need to maintain a 2m distance from adults and to practise good hand hygiene.

In addition, we have learned from the positive cases we have had recently, and have clear plans and procedures in place in terms of carrying out contact tracing and notifying the relevant authorities. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic is something we are all having to get used to now, and it is important to be well prepared, particularly as we come into the Winter months.

In this November newsletter, we have tried to focus on lots of the positive things that have been happening in our school and nursery, as we continue to keep the wellbeing of the children at the heart of everything we do. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us in the usual way via the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Miller - Head Teacher



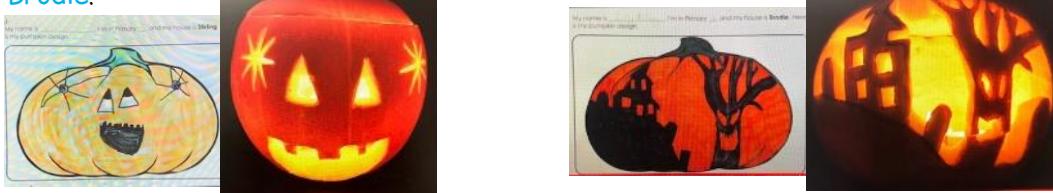
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House Hallowe'en Competition

Our House Captains and Vice Captains, along with Miss Cameron, organised a fantastic House Hallowe'en competition for the pupils last month. The pupils were all asked to design a pumpkin, being as imaginative as possible, and the Captains and Vice Captains chose two winners - one from P1-3 and one from P4-7. Congratulations to our winners: Willow in Primary 3 and Lilly in Primary 7! The girls' designs were carved into real pumpkins and displayed in school for everyone to see! The winners also received LOTS of bonus house points - good news for **Stirling** and **Brodie**!



Thank you to Miss Cameron and our House Captains **Corey**, **Anaya**, **Beth** and **Brooke** and Vice Captains **Lauren**, **Crystal**, **Sophie** and **Amy** for organising the competition, and for the amazing carving.

The next House event will have a Christmas theme - watch this space!

Hallowe'en Fun Afternoon

THANK YOU to our Parent Council who provided every class and the nursery with a Hallowe'en party in a box! The children loved coming into school and nursery dressed up and had a great time in their classes playing games, doing crafts and enjoying lots of delicious treats! We are very grateful to our Parent Council for all the work that went into organising the event, particularly as we could not have our Hallowe'en discos this year.



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Parents' Night Phone Calls

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who booked an appointment for a phone call from your child's teacher(s). We sincerely apologise that some of the classes have had to postpone the phone calls. The reason we postponed was that the teachers are making the phone calls from a school landline, in line with GDPR and confidentiality, and self-isolating teachers were unable to do this. As soon as your child's teacher is back in school, we will look to rearrange the phone calls. The staff who have managed to have their phone calls with parents and carers have really enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the children's progress and strengths, as well as the areas they are working on. Again, we would rather have had face-to-face conversations as we usually do, but restrictions do not allow that at this time. As always, if you have any concerns or questions specific to your child, please phone or email the school office. It is helpful if you mark the email FAO your child's teacher, or Mrs McGarvey or Mrs Wilson who have pastoral responsibility for P1 to 3 and P4 to 7 respectively. The relevant member of staff will get back to you as soon as they can.

Achievements and Friday Treat

We continue to celebrate a range of achievements in classes as we are still not able to have assemblies. On Fridays, certificates in golden envelopes are delivered to classes for children who have been nominated by their class teacher or other members of staff. We have been recognising children who have been displaying Kindness, Respect and Effort - three of our Core Values. Children have also been recognised for excellent work in Literacy and Numeracy, good sportsmanship, having a positive attitude to learning and helping adults. We are very proud of all of the children's achievements and these are shared with the whole school every week through Mrs Miller's Monday Message. Once a month, one or two pupils are chosen from each class for a Friday Treat. This reward is for children who are consistently well behaved and who consistently demonstrate our Core Values and remember our three visible consistencies (Meet & Greet, Talking Voices and Walking in School). Last month, we had a Thursday Treat so it did not clash with the Hallowe'en fun afternoon on the Friday. There will be another Friday Treat later in November.



Google Classrooms



Google Classroom

It is really important that the children are familiar with logging onto Google Classroom, in the event that they are required to self-isolate and learn at home. Primary 4 to 7 homework has been posted on Google Classroom since September, so the older children should be very used to this by now.

Primary 1 to 3 have their log-on details and are practising using Google Classroom in class so that they will be able to access this from home with minimal support should this be required.

As a staff, we are developing our approach to using Google Classroom for both homework and remote learning. We are working on ways of providing learning that will require minimal adult input to complete, as we understand that families and households are very busy and it is difficult to find the time to support your child's learning at home, particularly if they are home for an extended period of time. We are also continuing to work together as a staff to plan ways to share new learning with the children when they cannot be in school.

When children are learning at home, teachers have been asked to monitor the Google Classroom during school hours (e.g. between 9.00am and 3.00pm), in order to provide feedback on the work submitted and to answer any questions the children may have about their work. The children are able to post questions and comments on the Google Classroom and message their teacher, and I would encourage them to do this if they are learning at home.

If your child is having trouble accessing the Google Classroom, please email or phone the school office and we will do what we can to help.

Once again, we thank you for your support with your child's learning when they have been asked to self-isolate.

Diary Dates

Just a couple of things to note here, due to current restrictions...

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND - Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd November

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - School and nursery stops on Friday 18th November and re-opens on Tuesday 5th January 2021



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