



Thornliebank Primary School

and Nursery Class

January 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by wishing you and your families a very happy new year, although it has already been a bit of a bumpy start to 2021! We are all facing more restrictions and changes to our daily lives, including in school and nursery, and the Thornliebank staff are proving as adaptable as ever as we prepare for the rest of January. This week we have been organising and starting Hub provision for key worker and vulnerable children and planning for remote learning for all of our children from Nursery to Primary 7. We understand that the weeks ahead will be a very challenging time for everyone, and want to do everything we can to support all of our children and families. Please remember that although we are not all in school, we are still here for you and you can contact any member of staff through the school office. Our aim is to continue working closely with parents and carers to best support every child in their continued wellbeing, learning and development.

Kind regards

Mrs Miller - Head Teacher

SCHOOL HUB - SCHOOL AND NURSERY



Our Hub re-opened on Wednesday 6th January for the children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable. The requirement for a key worker space is that BOTH parents are key workers, or one if a single parent family. We have processed the applications made over the holiday period and are now following up with employers to confirm key worker status. Please note that the Hub is there to provide essential childcare in order to allow key workers to attend work. Children should only attend the Hub if both parents meet the criteria and there is no other childcare available (such as grandparents). The link for applications has now closed and you should contact the school or nursery directly if you require to use this service and you meet the eligibility criteria.

Our Hub currently has three 'bubbles' - Nursery, P1-3 and P4-7. Each bubble has a designated indoor and outdoor area for play and learning and a separate rota of staff who will look after and support the children while they are in school or nursery. At the moment, there is a Hub open in each school so the children are attending their own setting on the days they require.

When children are in the Hub, they will be completing the work set for them by their teacher on Google Classroom, the same as all the children who are learning at home.





REMOTE LEARNING

Remote Learning will commence for all children on Monday 11th January. For Primary 1-7, this will be through Google Classroom. Every child has their own username and password to access their Google Classroom - please contact the school office if your child does not have this. We have a very limited number of devices available for families to borrow if you are struggling for a device for your child's remote learning. Mrs McGarvey is dealing with device requests and Google Classroom queries - please contact her via the school office. PCs, laptops, X-Box and PlayStation are all suitable devices for accessing Google Classroom.

You should already have received an email with our new Remote Learning Policy and a helpful one-page summary of what to expect from remote learning this time round. We have taken on board feedback from parents/carers, pupils and staff regarding remote learning, and have made significant changes and improvements to the learning experiences that will be provided for the children. This will include live chats with their teacher and classmates, and an increased focus on independent learning. I hope that this will help parents/carers who are supporting the children at home. The policy and summary are both available to view on the school website.

Class teachers will usually be online in their own Google Classroom between 9am and 3pm. However, when a teacher is in school working in the hub, another teacher will be identified to monitor the Google Classroom on that day. Initial plans for this are as follows:

P1 Google Classroom	Miss Thomson, Mrs McGarvey, Mrs Mackie
P2 Google Classroom	Mrs Johnston
P3 Google Classroom	Mr Eadie, Mrs Mackie
P4 Google Classroom	Miss Orr, Mrs Culley, Mrs Pollock
P5 Google Classroom	Mrs Conway, Mr Egan
P6 Google Classroom	Miss Cameron, Mrs Pollock
P7 Google Classroom	Miss Gill, Mrs Pollock



If your child requires basic resources for remote learning such as paper, jotters, pencils or whiteboard pens, these will be available for you to come and collect from school. From Friday 8th January, there will be a well-stocked unit outside the office door - please come along and collect the resources you need. Please remember to observe social distancing if you are collecting resources.

For our nursery children, parents/carers will receive an email every Monday with a grid of suggested activities as well as a short video for the children from a member of staff. We would encourage nursery parents/carers to email us pictures of the children doing their activities at home - we will print these and add them to the children's Learning Journals.

Please remember that we are not expecting children to be sitting completing remote learning all day at home. We understand that parents/carers may be working or have other caring commitments at home and do not want any family to feel pressured around remote learning. If your child is not engaging online, we will make contact with you - however, this will only be to see if we can provide any support while the children are learning at home.





ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Mrs Wilson is working closely with teaching and support staff to ensure that children who have been receiving additional support for learning in school continue to be well supported while they are at home. If your child has a Wellbeing Plan that suggests specific resources for learning (e.g. coloured paper/overlays) and you do not have these at home, please contact Mrs Wilson via the school office. Paper-based learning packs can also be provided for pupils with additional support needs who cannot access Google Classroom - again, Mrs Wilson will deal with this.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

LOOK AFTER
YOURSELF

As we enter another period of strict lockdown, it is vitally important that we all take care of our own mental health and wellbeing. For the children, aspects of this are addressed through the Health and Wellbeing curriculum but our teachers and support staff also strive to support the children's mental health and wellbeing in every interaction. This is not just the case for the children who are attending the hub. Through the planned remote learning, live check-ins will give the children an opportunity to see and speak to their teacher and classmates in real-time - to share what they have been doing, how they are feeling, what further support they may need etc. It would be really helpful if you could support your child to access these Google Meet sessions in their Google Classroom at the times that will be organised by their teacher.

For our parents, carers and staff, the leadership team is always here if you need someone to talk to, and we will be sharing details of various agencies and useful websites to support mental health and wellbeing at this difficult time. East Renfrewshire's Educational Psychology team have devised a set of resources called Healthier Minds - you can access the website [here](#).

Other useful websites:

[Parent Club](#)

[SAMH - The Scottish Association for Mental Health](#)

[Young Minds UK](#)

[One Parent Families Scotland](#)

[Women's Aid Scotland](#)

[Scottish Autism](#)

[Citizens Advice Scotland](#)



FAMILY FIRST

Family First is a free, confidential advice and information resource in East Renfrewshire.

They have an informal friendly approach and can support you with issues around:

- School
- Health
- Home
- Money
- Parenting
- Confidence
- ASN

Our link worker at Family First is Julie Douglas. Julie is already working with several families in the Thornliebank community, and is keen to provide support for any parent, carer or family that needs it. Please contact Julie directly if you think she may be able to support you at this time.

Julie Douglas

Mobile - 07393752547

Julie.Douglas@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

KEEP IN TOUCH

Finally, we would like to encourage all of our nursery and school families to keep in touch with us during this period of partial closure. The school office will be manned between 8.30am and 3.30pm if you are looking to contact a member of staff. Don't forget you can Tweet us @ThornliebankPS or @ThornliebankNC - we would love to see what the children are up to while they are not in school. There is also a Parent Council Facebook page. We will be updating the school website with all the relevant and important information as well as emailing you with any updates and changes to the current situation as we receive them. We will also continue to celebrate the children's achievements every week - if you or they are proud of something they have done at home, please let us know so we can all celebrate with them!

KEEP
IN TOUCH
AND
SEE YOU
SOON!