



Thornliebank Primary School

and Nursery Class

June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoyed the good weather over the long weekend and that you and your children are raring to go for this last push to the end of term. As you will see from this newsletter, there is still lots happening in and around Thornliebank, and plenty for the children to look forward to before the summer holidays are upon us.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and, as always, if there is anything you wish to discuss please contact me via the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Miller - Head Teacher

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 9 th June	P1-3 House Sports Day
Thursday 10 th June	P4-7 House Sports Day
14 th -18 th June (dates t.b.c.)	Primary 2 Parents' Evening Phone Calls
Friday 18 th June (9.15-10.45am)	Primary 1 Transition Visit for August 2021 new starts
Friday 18 th June (pm)	Primary 7 Transition Visit to Woodfarm High School
Friday 18 th June	Reports out for Primary 1 and Primary 3-7
Wednesday 23 rd June (1.30pm)	Primary 7 Vision Screening
Wednesday 23 rd June (6-8pm)	Primary 7 Leavers' Night and Awards
Friday 25 th June	School closes at 1.00pm Nursery closes at 6.00pm

STAFFING NEWS

I am delighted to share that we have made two recent appointments following interviews held in school during May. Mrs Gillian Mackie has been appointed as our new permanent class teacher and Mrs Mandy MacAskill has been appointed as Acting Principal Teacher. Mrs Mackie is already in post, currently providing learning support in Primary 2 and Primary 3. Mrs MacAskill will take up post in August 2021, with responsibility for Early Level (Nursery and Primary 1). I am sure you will join the staff team in wishing both teachers every success in their new posts.

Interviews will be held in early June to appoint a permanent Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) to the Thornliebank staff team. You may already be aware that all of our PSAs have been with us on a temporary basis over the past few years and we are very much looking forward to having permanent support staff in place. I will keep you informed with the outcome of the interviews.

END OF SESSION REPORTS - PRIMARY 1 AND 3 TO 7

Class teachers have been working on this session's school reports over the past couple of months and these will be emailed out to parents and carers of every child (except Primary 2) on Friday 18th June 2021. The report will be emailed to the main parental contact. If you wish a copy of the report to be emailed to the secondary parental contact, please contact the school office to make arrangements.

PARENTS' EVENING PHONE CALLS - PRIMARY 2

Primary 2 parents and carers will be offered a telephone appointment with Mrs Stephen during the week beginning Monday 14th June. You will receive a separate email later this week with the dates and times as well as instructions for booking an appointment.

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Primary 1 pupils into Thornliebank Primary for a visit on Friday 18th June. Parents and carers of pupils due to start Primary 1 with us in August should have received their child's invitation as well as some useful information, either by post or from the nursery staff. If you have not yet received this information for your child please contact the school office. Although we are still unable to invite parents and carers into the school buildings, members of our Leadership Team will be available to speak to in the playground while the children are in school visiting their Primary 1 classroom.

Our Primary 7 pupils now all know which secondary school they will be attending, and plans are well underway to ensure a smooth transition. Primary 7 parents and carers will receive a separate email with the details of transition activities that are still to take place.

We are still finalising our staffing arrangements for session 2021/2022. As soon as this is done, we will let the children know who their new teacher will be. We are also planning for the classes to have at least two sessions in their new classroom with their new teacher before the end of term. This will involve our current Primary 1 to 6 classes. As in previous years, enhanced support for transition will be provided for children with additional support needs.

CONTINUED COVID SAFETY

We continue to review and adapt our protocols in the nursery and school to ensure the environment remains safe for our pupils and staff. To support us in this, we ask that parents and carers remain mindful of the following:

- Children must not attend nursery or school if anyone in their household is symptomatic or has tested positive for Coronavirus.
- All parents and carers must wear face coverings (unless exempt) and maintain a 2m distance from other households when dropping off and collecting children.
- **School parents and carers are not permitted to enter school grounds – please wait on the pavement and leave the gates clear for pupils to enter/exit safely.**
- Nursery parents and carers must wait in the designated area outside the nursery gates when dropping off and collecting children.
- Please inform us immediately if your child displays any symptoms of Coronavirus at home. You can phone the school office, leave a voicemail or email the school mail account. **The school mail account is checked regularly during evenings and weekends.**

ROAD SAFETY CONCERNs

You should have received an email last week with important safety reminders about parking around our school. Parents and carers have raised concerns about unsafe driving and parking, particularly on Bangorhill Street where our youngest children and their parents and carers are waiting before and after school. The safety of our children and families is of the utmost importance to us, and we have passed the concerns on to our Campus Police Officer as well as the Community Wardens, who will be patrolling around our school over the coming weeks to enforce safety restrictions and help ensure the safety of all children and families.

Unfortunately we have been informed that Cathie, our school crossing patroller, is being relocated to a crossing elsewhere in the Thornliebank area. We have been reassured that the traffic lights at Main Street/ Orchard Park Avenue remain a safe crossing place for our children and we will be reinforcing safe crossing with every class over the next few days.

PRIMARY 7 ACTIVITY WEEK SUCCESS

As you will no doubt be aware, our Primary 7 pupils were unable to participate in the residential activity week this year, due to Covid-related safety restrictions. The children were really disappointed not to be able to go to Lockerbie Manor, but staff from across our cluster worked extremely hard to arrange an alternative week of activities for all of our Primary 7 pupils. Mrs Wilson, along with DHTs from Braidbar and Giffnock Primaries, planned an amazing week with the children visiting Loch Lomond Shores and James Hamilton Heritage Park for water sports and other adventures as well as golf, archery and local park visits. There was also an alternative to the traditional Lockerbie disco, with a Hawaiian themed party in the playground where the children enjoyed music, a bouncy disco dome and a visit from an ice cream van. We are extremely grateful to Lorraine Kirkwood, Gavin Crowe and Chris Crowe for providing the entertainment on the night - the children (and staff) had a ball!!! We would also like to thank Mrs Pollock, Miss Gill and Miss Cameron for accompanying the children on their adventures throughout the week, cheering them on and making sure everyone had a great time.

We are currently organising a Leavers'/Awards Night for our Primary 7 pupils, which will take place in the playground on Wednesday 23rd June. We are hoping to keep some of the plans a surprise from the children and again, parents and carers will unfortunately not be able to attend. However, we will be filming and sharing photos on Twitter to give you a flavour of the event. Details will be shared with parents and carers nearer the time.

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS DAYS

As we continue to work within Covid-safety restrictions, particularly keeping the children in class 'bubbles' and avoiding mixing between year groups, we are unable to hold our traditional Sports Day again this year. However, Miss Cameron and the House Captains are working hard to plan an exciting alternative that will take place in the playgrounds later in June. Unfortunately, we are still unable to welcome parents and carers into school grounds, so there will be no spectators this year. However, we will be sharing photos on Twitter so make sure you follow us @ThornliebankPS. There will be a separate Sports Day for Primary 1 to 3 and Primary 4 to 7 - see 'Diary Dates' for details.

ALTERNATIVE CLASS TRIPS

Again, this is part of our end of term planning that has been impacted by Covid-related safety restrictions. However, we are still planning for every class to enjoy a 'treat day' as this school year comes to a close. Parents and carers will be notified once dates and arrangements have been finalised. Classes will probably visit a local park for some fun and games, and have a movie afternoon or similar back in school. Full details will be emailed in advance.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have had a number of enquiries from parents and carers asking if we are accepting donations for our recycled uniform rail - and the answer is yes! We would gratefully accept all donations of school uniform items that are in good condition, if your child has outgrown them or possibly not even worn them yet. All items will be laundered and packaged individually, ready to be collected by anyone who needs them. Please remember that Mrs McGarvey can also support parents and carers with referrals for new items of uniform from the East Renfrewshire Uniform Bank - you can contact her via the school office.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that ALL ITEMS of school uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Our Lost Property is beginning to pile up again, particularly with jumpers and cardigans that are not named. We will always reunite lost items with their owners where we can, but this is very difficult if they are not named.

SCHOOL MEALS

The Scottish government currently funds free school meals for all pupils in P1 - P3. The cost of a meal for all other year groups is currently £2.10 per day. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please apply via the East Renfrewshire website

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/1221/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

This service is completely confidential and children continue to order their meals in school via the interactive board. Entitlement to free school meals may also entitle you to clothing grants and additional support with meals during school holidays and extra- ordinary closures such as the recent lockdowns.

EASY FUNDRAISING

We are very grateful to all parents/carers who have signed up to support the school via Easy Fundraising. To date this has raised over £75 for school funds. If you use online shopping, please consider supporting the school or nursery by accessing Easy Fundraising - it doesn't cost any extra and the retailer donates a percentage of your spend to the school. It really is an easy and painless way to raise funds for the school. To register, log into

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and search for Thornliebank Primary School or Thornliebank ELCC in the "Search for a Cause" box. Once registered, each time you shop online, just log in to Easy Fundraising and access the retailers website you require from this site, ensuring that the school or nursery receives the donation from the retailer.



FAMILY FIRST REMINDER

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

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For our pupils, parents, carers and staff, the leadership team is always here if you need someone to talk to, and we will continue to share details of agencies and useful websites to support mental health and wellbeing at this difficult time. East Renfrewshire's Educational Psychology team have also 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](#)

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NURTURE - KINDNESS - RESPECT - EFFORT

Nurturing a thriving community of lifelong learners

