



Thornliebank Primary School



August 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all for this new school session, particularly to our new families who are joining us this year. I wanted to ensure that you have all the important information about school starting in advance of the new term, so hopefully this newsletter contains all the details you would hope to have. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something you need to know that is not included here.

All staff will return on Monday 16th August for two in-service days in preparation for the year ahead. The children will return for their new school year on Wednesday 18th August. The information below should clarify arrangements for this, and hopefully alleviate any anxiety about the new term.

We are all here to support every child and their family, and very much look forward to working in close partnership with you throughout the coming session. Although some restrictions remain in place, we are very hopeful that we will be able to welcome you back into school soon, to see your child's classroom and find out more about their learning and their time in school.

In the meantime, we will be updating you via email and video links, so please check your emails regularly.

I hope you enjoy the time that is left of these summer holidays and we cannot wait to see you and your children next Wednesday!

Kind regards

Jenni Miller (Head Teacher)

Day 1 - Wednesday 18th August 2021

We cannot wait to welcome all the children back on Wednesday 18th August! The children all met their new teacher and visited their new classroom before the end of term in June, but here are some helpful reminders about lining up, drop-off and pick-up.

Primary 1, 2 and 3 will all come in via the infant playground and enter/leave the building through the infant door. Primary 1 will start school at 8.55am and finish at 2.55pm. Primary 2 and 3 will start at 9.00am and finish at 3.00pm. This will allow our Primary 1 children time to identify the adult that is there to collect them and exit the playground safely.

ON DAY 1 ONLY, PRIMARY 1 PUPILS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE UNTIL 9.15am, AND SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT 2.45pm.

Primary 4 to 7 will all start school at 9.00am and finish at 3.00pm.

Primary 4 will line up, enter and leave the building via their designated door in the bottom (Primary 7) playground. The best way to access this area is via the small gates on Main Street.

Primary 5 will line up, enter and leave the building via their designated door in the corner of the top playground, adjacent to the car park gates. The best way to access this area is via the large gates on Bangorhill Street.

Primary 6 will line up, enter and leave the building via their designated door at the main entrance to the Primary 4-7 building (opposite the bike shed). The best way to access this area is via the large gates on Bangorhill Street.

Primary 7 will line up, enter and leave the building via their designated door in the bottom (Primary 7) playground. The best way to access this area is via the small gates on Main Street.

Unfortunately, there are still restrictions in place around access to school grounds and buildings, so we ask that parents and carers wait outside the school grounds at the start and end of the day. There will be members of the Leadership in the playground when the children are arriving and leaving each day, and we will direct the children until they get used to the new routines.

Please note that there is no adult supervision in the playgrounds before 8.45am, so children should not arrive before this time.

School Uniform and PE Kit

The Thornliebank school uniform is black and yellow. Your child should wear black trousers/leggings/joggers/shorts/skirt, with either a yellow polo shirt or a white shirt and Thornliebank school tie, and a black cardigan or sweatshirt. Thornliebank ties, polo shirts and sweatshirts are available to buy online from Schoolwear Made Easy.

Alternatively, you can buy yellow polo shirts in most supermarkets. Once your child starts school, their teacher will let you know which days they will be having PE and Outdoor Learning, and we ask that they come dressed for physical activity on those days - shorts/joggers, a t-shirt and suitable shoes for running around outdoors.

Mrs McGarvey can support parents and carers to apply for school uniform grants and make referrals for items of uniform that you may need for your child. We also have an extensive recycled uniform rail in school, with laundered, individually packaged items of nearly-new uniform. Please email Mrs McGarvey via the school office if she can be of any assistance with this.

Breakfast, Tuck and Lunches

We are delighted to share that Thornliebank will be offering the 'Breakfast Cart' initiative that was trialled in some other East Renfrewshire schools last session. Our catering staff will be providing breakfast items such as cereal, cereal bars and fruit every day at no cost. The Breakfast Cart will be open in the lunch hall from 8.45am daily, and the children can enter via the doors at the back of the gym hall.

Our catering staff also offer 'Tuck' at playtimes. Snacks such as popcorn, fruit and milk are available for pupils to purchase during playtime, through ParentPay. The kitchen cannot accept any cash so please ensure your child has money in their account if they wish to purchase any tuck items.

From now on, all pupils in Primary 1 to 4 will receive free school meals, along with pupils in Primary 5 to 7 who are registered for this. Primary 5 to 7 pupils not registered for free school meals can pay for their lunch via ParentPay. Again, the kitchen cannot accept cash for school lunches. The lunch menu is available [here](#). **Please note that the first day back after a holiday is always the Monday menu for that week.** For younger children, it would be helpful if you could look at the menu in advance and discuss choices, so the children are prepared in the morning. Lunches are ordered in class via the computer as soon as the children arrive, to allow the catering staff time to prepare everything by lunchtime at 12.30pm. If your child is late arriving at school, they should order their lunch via the office.

All children are, of course, welcome to bring a packed lunch to school if they prefer.

Please note that we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL and you should not send your child into school with any snacks or lunch items that contain nuts.

If your child has any allergies that we do not already know about, please contact the school office. Mrs McGarvey and the catering staff will work with you to ensure your child's needs are met.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

Class bubbles are no longer required as they were last session, which means we do not have to keep classes separate in the playground. However, timetables for different parts of the playground will continue, in order to allow fair access to play equipment and resources (such as the MUGA and loose parts). We will also continue to stagger lunch sittings to reduce the number of children in the hall at any one time.

Playtime is from 10.30am until 10.45am.

Lunchtime is from 12.30pm until 1.15pm.

Playground supervision is provided by the Leadership Team as well as Pupil Support Assistants.

School Bags and Equipment

There are no restrictions around pupils bringing school bags, lunch boxes and their own resources to school if they wish to. Pupils are welcome to bring stationery to school for their own use although resources for learning will be issued by the class teacher so this is not necessary. All pupils should bring a water bottle to school each day, which they can refill when necessary. We continue to ask that pupils do not bring unnecessary toys or other items from home.

If possible, please do not send your child to school with a mobile phone. If you feel your child has to bring their mobile phone to school, it should remain switched off in their school bag throughout the school day.

COVID-Safety Procedures

As you will be aware, there have been recent changes to restrictions in relation to COVID-safety. However, a number of restrictions remain in place as we start the new term.

Staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas of the school and playgrounds.

Physical distancing of 1m between adults will be in place.

Children and adults will continue to be encouraged to practise good hand hygiene and will be expected to sanitise or wash their hands on entering the building.

NHS Scotland has issued a letter with updated arrangements for contact tracing. You can access the letter [here](#).

You must not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of Coronavirus.

If your child develops symptoms in school, you will be contacted by the school office and asked to collect them as soon as possible.

Parents and carers are not permitted to access school grounds or buildings. Please contact us by telephone or email if there is something you wish to discuss.

These restrictions are likely to remain in place for the first six weeks of term, but are subject to change and we will continue to adapt our procedures in response to local and national guidance.

Road Safety Around Our School

The safety of our children and families is of the utmost importance to us, and we would ask that you ensure the safety of yourselves and others by adhering to the parking restrictions in place around our school. Cars must not stop on the zig-zags on Bangorhill Street and should not be bumping up onto the pavement in this area either. If you are driving your child to school, we ask that you park slightly further away and walk the last part of the journey. This will ease congestion around the school and ensure that the pavements remain a safe space for pedestrians. Where possible, we encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Bikes and scooters can be secured in the bike shed during the school day.

Communication

As parents and carers are not yet permitted to access school grounds and buildings due to continuing restrictions, we ask that you contact the school by telephone (0141 570 7440) or email schoolmail@thornliebank.e-renfrew.sch.uk. Depending on your query, our office staff may be able to help, or you can request to speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team.

We will also be sharing regular updates and information via email, so please ensure we have the correct email address on file. This is very important as we move towards being completely paperless and email will be our main method of communication. We will also send out reminders and short messages via text, so please ensure we have the correct mobile number for you.

Classes and Teachers

Here is a reminder of our classes and teachers for the new school session:

Primary 1 Mr Orr & Miss Vannet

Primary 2 Miss Meechan

Primary 3 Miss Johnston & Mrs McGarvey

Primary 4 Mrs Mackie

Primary 5 Miss Cameron

Primary 6 Mrs Grant

Primary 7 Mrs Pollock

Meet the Teacher Event

In line with current restrictions, we are unable to host this event in school. However, the teachers will be preparing informative videos and presentations to share all the important information about your child's class. This will be emailed out to you during the second week of term.