



## Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class



### Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

### August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new school and nursery year here at Thornliebank, particularly to those of you who are new to our school, nursery and Gaelic provision. We have had a great start to the new term and it has been lovely to see everyone settling in and making plans for the year ahead. We have already had our first assembly and look forward to having these every week to bring the whole school together and celebrate everyone's successes and achievements.

There is a lot of information contained in this first newsletter and I would ask that you take the time to read through it all to make sure you are up-to-date with our news as well as our expectations for this coming year. I am very much looking forward to working with you all again this session and hope to see you at our first event for parents and carers on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August (Meet the Teacher at 5pm).

As always, you can contact me via the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Jenni Miller (Head Teacher)

#### **Leadership Team**

If you would like to speak to a member of the Leadership Team about anything, here are the details of who looks after each department:

Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Jennifer Wilson - P5 to P7

Principal Teacher: Mrs Janine McGarvey - P2 to P4

Principal Teacher: Mrs Amanda MacAskill - Nursery and P1

Principal Teacher: Mr Adam McColgan-Smith - Gaelic Medium Class

#### **Classes 2023-2024**

A little reminder of our classes and teachers for this session:

Nursery	Mrs MacAskill and Mrs Doherty
Clas 1	Mrs Campbell and Mr McColgan-Smith
Primary 1	Miss Vannet
Primary 2	Mrs Johnston
Primary 3	Miss Davidson
Primary 4	Mr McQuillan and Mrs McGarvey
Primary 5	Miss Khan and Miss Cameron
Primary 6	Mrs Grant
Primary 7	Miss Lawson

NURTURE

KINDNESS

RESPECT

EFFORT

## **Staff News**

We have welcomed three new staff to the team this session. Mrs Campbell joins us as part-time class teacher in Clas 1, Mr McQuillan and Miss Khan join us as newly qualified teachers and are working in Primary 4 and Primary 5 respectively. We have also been delighted to welcome Mrs Burnett back to the nursery team.

## **Meet the Teacher**

As mentioned above, our Meet the Teacher event is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 5.00pm. We hope you can make it! A letter with all the details of the event have been issued separately by email - please contact the school office if you have not received this.

## **P7 Lockerbie Manor Information Evening**

There will be an information session for P7 parents/carers and children on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 6:30pm at **Giffnock Primary**. We take part in the Lockerbie residential trip each year with the other cluster schools, to support the upcoming transition to High School. In the past, we have always found these information sessions to be very useful for both the P7 child and the parent/carer, in order to begin the preparations for the trip. General information about the content and nature of the week will be shared so that you can make the final decision as to whether or not you would like your child to attend. In previous years, almost all of our children have attended and we do hope that this will be the case again this year - it really is a fantastic experience and an important part of P7 transition.

## **P1 Lunch with Parents**

P1 parents have been sent a separate letter with the arrangements for the P1 taster lunch on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. We hope you can make it along to see what lunchtime is like in the 'Thornliebank Restaurant'!

## **School Improvement Priorities**

Our School Improvement Plan for this school session will be available on the school website shortly. The main priorities this session are continuing to raise attainment, ensuring equity for all, and involving children and families more in the learning journey. In addition, we will be establishing the identity of our new Gaelic provision.

## **Nut-free School**



Please note that we are a nut-free school, due to a number of children with severe allergies. Children should not bring snacks or lunch items containing nuts, including Nutella. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## School Uniform

The children have all arrived to start the term looking very smart, so thank you for your support in encouraging them to wear uniform. Children in Primary 1 to 5 can **choose** either to wear a white shirt and Thornliebank tie, or a yellow or black polo shirt. Children in Primary 6 and 7 should wear a white shirt and Thornliebank tie. Plain black bottoms should be worn (not grey) and a plain black sweatshirt/cardigan (again, not grey). On a PE day, all children should come to school wearing their PE clothes.

For anyone still needing uniform items our recycled rail in the Family Room has lots of new and nearly new items - we are also currently accepting shoe, polo shirt and shirt donations. We have some vouchers for AC Schoolwear in Barrhead which entitles a pupil to a free uniform bundle and we also can do referrals to East Renfrewshire Uniform bank - please see Mrs McGarvey for any support with this.

## Parent Council

We continue to be thankful for the ongoing work of the Parent Council here at Thornliebank. The first event the Parent Council are supporting this year will be Thornliebank Community Family Fun Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Further information has been emailed out separately. It is being held in the school grounds and we hope you are able to come along and join in the fun! The Parent Council are also preparing for their AGM on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

## School Absences and Latecoming

If your child arrives late to school and the children have already gone inside with their teacher, please bring your child to the school office and they will be taken to their class from there. Please remember, school starts at 9.00am. There is adult supervision in the playgrounds from 8.45am if you arrive early. If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school office as early as possible to let us know. If your child has an appointment during the school day, please let us know so we can get them ready to be collected at the office.

## Family Support

Nicola from the financial inclusion service is based in our school each Wednesday morning in the Family Room and can help with any claims for Free School Meals, Uniform Grants and other help with cost of living. She can also be contacted at [financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) or 07741937871 or you can find information about further support at [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)

## P1-3 Play Resources - Donations

We will happily take donations of old pots, pans and kitchen utensils for our outdoor mud kitchen, building resources such as wooden blocks, Lego especially base boards or materials such as KNEX or magnetix. Loose parts such as plastic bottle tops, corks, smooth pebbles, small card boxes, small pieces of material, ribbons, wool and buttons. Donations can be handed into the school office.

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August @ 5.00pm	Meet the Teacher (P1-7 and Clas 1 parents/carers invited)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August @ 6.30pm	P7 Lockerbie Manor information session at Giffnock Primary School
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September @ 2.00pm	Open Afternoon (P1-7 and Clas 1 parents/carers invited)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Holiday - school and nursery closed
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday - school and nursery closed
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening (P1-7 and Clas 1)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	October week holiday- school and nursery closed all week
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	In-service day- school and nursery closed for all children
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Immunisations in school
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Last day of term - school closes @ 2.30pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Back to school!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We also post regular updates on our 'X' (Twitter page) @ThornliebankPS and on our website:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Thornliebank/>

## Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

We have been delighted to welcome our first pupils to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank, which opened on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Our Clas 1 pupils are settling in well to their new environment and getting to know their way around.

### A note from Mr McColgan-Smith

Fàilte mhòr chridheil - tha sinn air leth toilichte a bhith fosgailte, is a' toiseachadh leis a chiad chlas Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann a Siorrachd Rinn Friù an Ear. | We are very happy to have started the term and opened the first Gaelic Medium Education class in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank. We are looking forward to the year ahead and building links with other Gaelic schools as well as the wider Thornliebank community.

### BBC ALBA Visit

There was an exciting visit to the class on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August when a journalist from BBC Alba came to film with staff, pupils and parents to recognise the beginning of Gaelic Medium Education in East Renfrewshire.

### Cleachdi

Visit the Cleachdi website for further information about events, groups and clubs in relation to all things Gaelic. This includes the 'Leugh is Seinn le Linda' - singing and story time session which is taking place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August in Glasgow.

Ceanglaichean Feumail | Useful Links:

- Gaelic4Parents: <https://www.gaelic4parents.com/>
- Go Gaelic!: <https://go-gaelic.scot/>
- Comann nam Pàrant: <https://www.parant.org.uk/>
- Cleachdi - <https://www.cleachdi.scot/>

## **NURSERY NEWS**

A warm welcome back to our nursery children and families and to all the new children and families who have recently started with us. The children have settled so well and are enjoying playing and building friendships. We are very much looking forward to working with you all this year.

### **Lunches/Snack**

Lunches and snack are a great success with all the children enjoying healthy choices. The children are developing their independence skills during play selecting their snack and pouring their milk or water by themselves. During lunch children are enjoying homemade soup and a variety of delicious healthy lunches. This is a very sociable time for staff and children as we eat together with lots of chat and again the children are independently setting the table and serving each other.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Thank you for providing suitable clothes for outdoors. The children use this area each day no matter what the weather is like. It is important that your child is warm and dry to enjoy these vital experiences. Please provide a pair of named wellies and if you wish an outdoor waterproof suit although we have outdoor suits which your child can use in nursery. Sometimes children get wet or muddy during play please also remember to provide spare clothes including underwear and socks for their nursery bag and replenish this if they have been changed. Please ensure all clothing is labelled clearly with your child's name.

The children have been harvesting their crops that they planted before the summer. They have been finding out where food comes from and what plants need to grow as they planted and looked after a variety of different fruit and vegetables. There was great excitement from the children when they picked and tasted the potatoes they had grown.

### **Nursery Fund**

At Thornliebank Nursery Class we kindly ask parents to contribute to our nursery fund this is £2 per week or £20 per term. This money is used to buy items for special celebrations, resources to support responsive planning with the children, activities like baking, cooking and gardening. The preferred method of payment is online via ParentPay. Our Business Support staff will issue login details if you do not already have an account. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to date.

### **'X' (Twitter)**

We share learning and achievements online through our nursery Twitter page. Please follow us **@Thornliebank NC** to celebrate our nursery learning journey. If you have not used Twitter before you can create an account with no photos or personal information and do not need to post anything. This allows you to read the Twitter pages and is a great place to keep up to date with what is happening in the nursery.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mrs MacAskill or speak to any member of the team. We look forward to working with you and your child over the coming months.

Warm wishes,

The Nursery Team.

