



**Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class**

**Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank**

**January 2024 Newsletter**



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024. I hope you find it informative and that it gives you an idea of what has been going on across our school and nursery. There are also a number of dates for your diary - we are looking forward to welcoming in parents and carers for our Lunar New Year cultural celebrations, including Primary 4's class assembly.

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

Kind regards

Jenni Miller (Head Teacher)

**Dates for your Diary**

Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Nursery, Primary 1 and Clas 1 to Celtic Connections Concert
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Primary 4 to Celtic Connections Concert
	Languages Week Scotland
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Information meeting for P7 Lockerbie trip
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	In-service Day - School and nursery closed to all pupils
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Holiday
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Holiday
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Lunar New Year Celebrations whole school
	Primary 4 class assembly at 2pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	World Gaelic Week
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	ERC Cross Country competition - P5-7 runners
	Parent Council meeting
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Woodfarm Cluster Volleyball Festival Afterschool
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	3.20 - 9.00pm Parents' Evening

**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

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### Staffing updates

Miss Maclean returned from her maternity leave on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January and will be working across a number of classes in Primary 1-4.

### Lunar New Year Celebrations

Our school will have our next Cultural Celebration over the fortnight from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February for Lunar New Year. Pupils will be learning about the cultures that celebrate their New Year at this time of year and some of the traditions associated with these celebrations. All pupils are invited to wear their own cultural clothing on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February or the colours of red and gold, which are associated with this festival. Primary 4 are hard at work preparing for their class assembly which will also take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. We would be delighted to welcome any parents into their child's class who would wish to share any of their own traditions around these celebrations. Please contact Mrs McGarvey to arrange a suitable time.



Commented [JM1]:

### Diversity and Inclusion Group

Our pupil group have met several times this session and have some great ideas about ways our school can celebrate diversity and become a more inclusive school. Should any parents wish to be a part of this group please let Mrs McGarvey know.

### Uniforms

Uniforms continue to be available from the same retailers. There is uniform now available for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education with the school name in Gaelic with the logo.

### Playground Improvements

We are delighted to report that we will be having some playground improvements as part of the ongoing building work for the Gaelic provision in our school. We hope the work will be completed in early February with additions to all 3 playground spaces in the school. Mrs McGarvey and Mrs MacAskill were involved in a pupil voice consultation activity with lots of classes. This enabled the children to draw and create their ideas for our playground improvements which were shared with the company tasked with designing the equipment.



### Thornliebank Library Visits

We hope to get regular visits up and running for classes to visit the library once every term. If you are interested in being part of these regular visits please contact Mrs McGarvey to let her know when you are available to help walk classes to and from the library. We really appreciate all the support we get with class trips and cannot facilitate these without your support.

### Celtic Connections

As part of the Celtic Connections event which is underway in Glasgow we have classes visiting the Concert Hall to enjoy concerts from some of the performers. The Nursery Class, Primary 1 and Clas 1 will travel by coach to the Concert Hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Primary 4 are really excited to travel by train to and from Glasgow to enjoy a concert by members of the band Skerryvore.

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### **Tesco Stronger Starts**

Thornliebank Primary are hoping to be awarded up to £1500 from a Tesco Stronger Starts Grant. You can vote anytime you make a purchase in Tesco Clarkston Express, Newton Mearns Express and Barrhead stores. Please spread the word to any friends, family and neighbours to vote for Thornliebank Primary if they are making a purchase from these shops.

### **Cost of Living Support**

A reminder of the supports we have in school and through our partners to help with the increased cost of living. We have a school Food Larder which is outside our school and available for all to take what they need and give what they can. Our Recycled School Uniform Rail in our Family Room can be accessed at any time by contacting Mrs McGarvey and will be open most Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 until 2.55pm. We also have food vouchers available as a short term support for anyone in financial difficulty.

Nicola, our financial inclusion support worker can be contacted through email [financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) or on 07741937871 for help with benefits checks and other supports and help. She is based on some Wednesdays in the school Family Room. Mrs McGarvey can also pass on your details to Nicola for help. Seona from Family First can also be contacted for support by email at [seona.lawless@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:seona.lawless@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) or on 07867150911.

### **Playtime Snacks**

We are finding an increasing number of pupils are accessing our school snack box which is kept in school for those children who may not have or have forgotten their snack. If you wish your child to have a playtime snack please include 1 small snack in their school bag or ensure there is money in their account through Parent Pay for them to buy tuck. Please can we also remind you that your child should have a suitable water bottle with them to school as well. We may contact families whose children are accessing the box regularly to check if any of our Cost Of Living supports would help with any financial difficulty.

### **Nut-free School**



Please remember 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.

### **Lost Property**

Can we please ask that all items of uniform and clothing are named. We are having an increasing number of lost jackets and jumpers which are unnamed. It is almost impossible to return the correct items especially black sweatshirts and cardigans to pupils when they are not named. Last term a huge amount of lost property was recycled into our school uniform rail. If you require any items of uniform please ask to access our recycle rail or speak with Mrs McGarvey.

### **Head Lice**

We have had a few reported cases of head lice in school. Please remember to check your child's hair regularly. The local pharmacy will be able to help recommend any treatments should these be required.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

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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 is Clas 1**

### **World Gaelic Week**

World Gaelic week is taking place this year from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February. There will be lots happening across the school that week to learn more about Gaelic language and culture. Pupils will get to hear some traditional Scottish music, there will be art activities, language clubs, song and story sessions and a Gaelic Bookbug session. We look forward to our Gaelic Medium pupils getting the opportunity to visit other Gaelic schools and host some visitors from another school here at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank as well. Information about other events taking place that week can be found at: <https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/events/> and <https://www.cleachdi.scot/>

### **E-sgoil Learning**

Last term Clas 1 benefitted from a block of online sessions delivering art lessons through the national e-Sgoil provision. We will continue to make links with e-Sgoil to provide further learning experiences for pupils, making links with wider Gaelic networks.

### **Visit to Mearns Primary School**

Mearns Primary School have been learning about the Scots Language and some Gaelic! We were delighted to be asked along to share some Gaelic vocabulary, songs and culture with the classes there at the beginning of January. Mrs Campbell also led a Gaelic Bookbug session for Mearns Nursery pupils and parents.

### **Celtic Connections**

Keep an eye out for events in and around Glasgow during the Celtic Connections festival this year. We are very much looking forward to our visit to the Concert Hall to see some live music and this is a great time of year to experience traditional music. There are some workshops and events open to children. More information on the Celtic Connections website.

### **Ceanglaichean Feumail | Useful links:**

[LearnGaelic](#)

[Fàilte! - Gaelic4Parents](#)

[BBC iPlayer - BBC ALBA](#)

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## **NURSERY NEWS**

### **Welcome**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and families who have recently joined the nursery. The children have settled so well and are enjoying playing and building new friendships. We are very much looking forward to working with you this year.

### **Celtic Connections Concert**

This month the children are very much looking forward to joining with Primary 1 and Clas 1 to go to see HEISK/Celine Donoghue & Neil Sturgeon in a live concert at The Royal Concert Hall as part of Celtic Connections concerts for schools. This event promises to be an incredible opportunity for the children to enjoy traditional Scottish music in a vibrant atmosphere.

### **Big Garden Birdwatch**

This month the children have been enjoying learning about birds and are getting ready to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch where they will be observing and recording the birds that visit the nursery garden.

### **Peas Please Project**

Shortly we are going to be taking part in the Peas Please project where the children will be learning through a holistic approach about vegetables throughout the nursery. Therefore, increasing their awareness of vegetables and encouraging children and their families to enjoy lots of different vegetables. This will hopefully increase the variety of vegetables children will try and encourage them to eat more.

### **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.

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