**Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class**

**Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank**

**June 2024 Newsletter**

Dear Parent/Carer,

With less than two weeks left of this year at school and nursery, we have lots of news to share with you and important reminders about the events that are still to take place. We are definitely on the countdown now, and you can feel the excitement in school with all the children (and staff) looking forward to the summer holidays. I hope you find this final newsletter informative and, as always, you can contact me via the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Jenni Miller (Head Teacher)

**Staffing updates**

Unfortunately Mrs McGarvey is going to be absent for the rest of this term. We were delighted to see her at Sports Day and the trip to Calderglen and she is planning on making another few visits into school over the next couple of weeks as she continues to recover from her back surgery. We look forward to welcoming Mrs McGarvey back full time in August.

Mr McQuillan and Miss Khan are coming to the end of their probation year at Thornliebank and will be leaving us at the end of this term. We are very grateful for all the hard work that both teachers have put in this year and they will definitely be missed. We wish them every success with their future careers.

Mrs Johnston will be starting her maternity leave on Friday 14th June and Miss MacLean will be our P2 teacher for the rest of this term. We are all looking forward to hearing Mrs Johnston’s news when the little one arrives and hope she manages to get some time to rest before that happens!

We are awaiting confirmation about Mrs Johnston’s cover for next year as well as any probationer teachers that might be joining us at Thornliebank. We will share this information as soon as we have it.

Mrs MacAskill’s role as Acting Principal Teacher comes to an end in June and unfortunately this post will not continue next session. Mrs MacAskill has put a massive amount of work in during her time as Acting PT, and we are extremely grateful for all the improvements she has led, particularly across the nursery and P1. She will be a real loss to our Senior Leadership Team. Mrs MacAskill will continue her role as nursery teacher from August.

**ERC Cricket Festival Success**

Three teams from P5 to P7 were accompanied by Miss Cameron to the ERC Cricket Festival in May, and we were delighted that Team 1 from Thornliebank were crowned champions on the day! The P7 boys were all presented with medals as well as a trophy which will be engraved and displayed with our other school awards. Well done to all the pupils who took part and particularly the winning team!

**Gold Active Schools Award**

Thanks to the hard work of Craig Gordon (our Active Schools Co-ordinator), Thornliebank Sports Committee and the wider Thornliebank learning community, we were awarded the Gold Active Schools Sport Award in May. We are very grateful to Craig for all the hard work he puts in at Thornliebank and for all the different sports he promotes here.

**Parent/Carer Feedback Survey for Improvement Planning**

Thank you to all of our school and nursery parents and carers who took the time to fill in our end-of-year survey that was shared in the April newsletter. We are currently finalising our Standards and Quality Report for this session, and our School Improvement Plan for 2024/25. We will share these documents with you early in the new school year. Our priorities for next session will be a continued focus on raising attainment for all children and developing approaches to anti-racism and inclusion.

**Parent Council**

The Parent Council discos were a great success in May and everyone who attended had a great time. They also had a very successful ‘Donut Stall’ last week, selling out in under half an hour! We are very grateful to the parents and carers across the school, nursery and Gaelic provision who take on various roles and responsibilities in the Parent Council, attend meetings, and plan, organise and run a range of activities for the children to enjoy. The funds raised by our Parent Council come straight back into the school and nursery, paying for buses for trips and contributing to resources for learning and teaching. The next meeting of the Parent Council will be the AGM at Woodfarm High School on Tuesday 3rd September to which everyone is invited. The Parent Council are always looking for new and enthusiastic members and you can contact them via their email address at thornliebankpc@gmail.com .

**Grandfriends’ Afternoon Tea**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Parent Council were successful in securing funding for Primary 6 to host an afternoon tea for our nursery children and their grandfriends from Trust Housing. The nursery have enjoyed visiting their grandfriends over the last few years and we were delighted to host this event to further build this strong community link and provide local residents with a fun afternoon out. P6 worked so hard preparing for the event which was a great success! The nursery children and their grandfriends had a wonderful time together and Bingo was a real highlight of the afternoon!

**Euro 2024 Day**

Ms Hamilton and Miss MacLean have been busy planning a fun-filled Euro 2024 Day, which will take place this Friday 14th June. The children will be involved in a range of sporting activities and learning experiences throughout the day as we celebrate Scotland’s National Team making it through to the finals! There has been a real buzz around the school about the Euros kicking off so hopefully the children have a great day to get things started!

**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.

**Pupil Council Update**

Pupils from P3 to P7 were appointed as members of the Pupil Council earlier this year, and lots of the pupils have been working hard to support improvements across the school and nursery. The P3 members in particular have been keen to tidy up our playground, reduce litter and brighten the playground up for everyone. They have created posters reminding everyone to look after the playground, to put litter in the bin and to use the equipment safely. Well done to Eli, Millie and Isla in P3 for showing great leadership and working hard to improve our playground. Other Pupil Council members have been focusing on anti-bullying, recycling and getting a new surface for the MUGA. This is something that is very important to lots of the pupils and we are looking into the options and costs to see if it will be manageable.

**House Winners’ Treat**

As you already know, all pupils from P1 to P7 are allocated a house when they start at Thornliebank. The houses are Brodie, Dean, Kelburn and Stirling. Miss Cameron is our House Lead and pupils from P7 are elected at the start of the year as House Captains and Vice Captains. Throughout the year, house events are organised where pupils can earn points by working together with the other pupils in their house. House points are also handed out for showing our school values of Nurture, Kindness, Respect and Effort. Sports Day is the final big opportunity of the year to earn house points and the annual totals will be calculated this week. The winning house will receive their reward before the end of term. More information to follow soon…

**Sports Day**

Our School Sports Day went ahead on a very mixed day weather-wise and we are very grateful to Mr McColgan-Smith for all the hard work that went in to organising the event. Craig and Murray also put in a lot of work to ensuring the event was a success, and the P7 helpers did a great job with the potted sports. Thank you to all of the parents, carers and families who braved the elements on the day and came along to cheer the children on. Aside from the rain, it was a great morning and the children did us proud!

**School Uniform**

As we look ahead to the next school year, we wanted to share some information about the financial support that is available to help parents and carers with the cost of school uniform. Along with this newsletter is an attachment with information about Clothing Grants, Back to School Bank and Sustainable Uniform Schemes. We hope this information is useful and we will ensure that our pre-loved uniform items are made available before the new school year starts if there is anything specific you are looking for.

**General Election**

With the General Election now confirmed for Thursday 4 July, East Renfrewshire Council is reminding residents that they may wish to apply for a postal or proxy vote if they intend to be away from home on polling day. It is simple to apply for a postal or proxy vote. Find out more information at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

**Improving the Cancer Journey**

Julie Douglas, who was previously our Family First link worker at Thornliebank, has asked us to share the following information about her new role as MacMillan Improving the Cancer Journey Wellbeing Practitioner, which may be of interest to our families.

“I would like to make you aware of a new service for people in East Renfrewshire with experiences of cancer. Improving the Cancer Journey is a partnership between MacMillan Cancer Support and East Renfrewshire HSCP which launched recently. The service supports individuals with a cancer diagnosis and their loved ones on a wide range of issues ranging from finances and employment supports to emotional wellbeing. More information about Improving the Cancer Journey and how to make a referral can be found here: [Helping you live with cancer - East Renfrewshire Council](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/cancer) . Individuals affected by cancer can also self-refer if they prefer. If you would like further information or to discuss anything about the ICJ service please give me a call and I will be happy to help.” Julie Douglas 07586815683

**Family Support**

Nicola Reid-Taylor is our link Financial Wellbeing Officer from the Money Advice and Rights Team (MART). Throughout the year she can support with claims for Free School Meals, Uniform Grants and other help with the cost of living. Nicola has arranged a drop in session to assist with bus passes, clothing grants and free school meals applications and much more for Wednesday 19th June (10am-3pm) before the schools close for summer. This will take place in our Family Room – please come to the school office where Nicola will meet you. Nicola is also keen to highlight to parents that she is not limited to term time and can be contacted throughout the summer holidays at financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 07741937871. 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)

**Single Parent Families**

One of our parents works for One Parent Families Scotland and is keen to highlight the support that is available. See information and contact details below if this may be something that is of interest to you.

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**Dates for your Diary**

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| Friday 14th June | Euro 2024 Day |
| P4-7 Friday Fun Zone @ 2.30pm |
| Tuesday 18th June  | Gaelic Clas 1 and Primary 1 Transition Event @ 1.30pm |
| P7 Leavers’ Party @ 6.00pm |
| Wednesday 19th June @ 2.00pm  | Nursery Graduation |
| Thursday 20th June @ 9.30am | P7 Leavers’ Assembly |
| Friday 21st June pm | New classes for next year – pupils will meet their teacher  |
| Wednesday 26th June | Last day of term (1.00pm finish for school) |

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We also post regular updates on our ‘X’ (Twitter) accounts @ThornliebankPS for the school and @ThornliebankNC for the nursery, as well as our website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Thornliebank/>

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**Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank**

**Mòd Chille Bhrìghde an Ear | East Kilbride Mòd**

Our Clas 1 pupils took part in their first Mòd competition and were awarded 1st and 2nd place for their Gaelic singing. This was an excellent result for the first Mòd that Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank pupils have taken part in. We look forward to further opportunities to take part in local and national Mòdan in the future.

**Gaelic Medium Education – Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank**

As we near the end of the first year of Gaelic Medium Provision here at Thornliebank Primary and the beginning of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank it’s the ideal opportunity to reflect on a successful session. Pupils across the whole school and nursery community have embraced opportunities to learn about Gaelic language and culture and it has been a highlight to see pupils singing Gaelic songs or greeting others in Gaelic around the school.

During Languages Week Scotland, all classes completed a survey asking what different languages pupils and staff can speak – the total being around 20 different languages across our whole school – this is amazing. We can now be proud that Gaelic language and cultural experiences form another part of our whole school community.

We look forward to building on this throughout next session as we welcome our new Clas 1 (P1) cohort to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank.

**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**

It has been another very busy term in the nursery. The children have been carefully watching and caring for our caterpillars and there was great excitement when they became butterflies and we released them in our nursery garden. They have also been learning about recycling and have been reusing items to invent and create wonderful models.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the last session of Forest School where they toasted marshmallows on our fire and made yummy smores. We would also like to say a big thank you to Lynsay from our school kitchen who has been helping the children to make their own pizzas which have been a great success.

Our nursery and P1 potted sports was a great fun day and we would like to say a big thank you to Craig and the P7 children for organising it so well.

The children had a wonderful afternoon tea with our Grandfriends from Trust Housing. A huge thank you to P6 for being such fabulous hosts. We are looking forward to some of our Grandfriends from Trust Housing coming along to our Graduation ceremony and celebrating with us.

Our Family Bookbug sessions have been lots of fun and we look forward to more families coming along to them next session, the children really enjoy teaching their families their special songs.

Our pre-school children have been excited to visit their new P1 classes and have been very busy practising for their graduation on Wednesday 19th June at 2pm. We enjoyed meeting some of our new nursery children when they came for a play visit last week and are looking forward to seeing them in August.

As we get to the end of this session we are very proud of our nursery and the hard work, dedication and the wonderful ethos that the children, staff and our families create here at Thornliebank. We hope you all have a happy, healthy summer break and we wish our children who are moving on lots of luck and we look forward to seeing our returning families in August.