



Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

August 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all at the start of this new nursery and school year, particularly to those of you who are new to Thornliebank - we are very much looking forward to getting to know you and working closely with you this year and in the years ahead. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and I am sure you are looking forward to this new session getting started. There is a lot of important information included in this newsletter and I would encourage you to read it carefully to ensure you are aware of the key dates, events and other information we are sharing as the new term starts. If there is anything you need to know that is not included here, please contact the school office who will be happy to help. As always, you can contact me via the office if you have any questions, comments 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 - P4 to P7

Principal Teacher: Mrs Janine McGarvey - P1 to P3

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

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 14 th August @ 8.00am	Nursery re-opens
Wednesday 14 th August @ 9.00am	School starts for P2-7 pupils
Wednesday 14 th August @ 9.15am	School starts for new P1 and Clas 1 pupils (and early finish @ 2.45pm for first day only)
Wednesday 21 st August @ 11.45am	Primary 1 lunch experience (in lunch hall) P1 and Clas 1 parent/carers invited - 2 per child max.
Wednesday 21 st August @ 5.00pm	Meet the Teacher Event (in classrooms) P1-7 and Clas 1/2 parents and carers all invited
Wednesday 21 st August @ 6.00pm	P7 Lockerbie Manor information session (in gym hall) P7 parents, carers and children invited
Tuesday 3 rd September @ 7.00pm	Parent Council AGM @ Woodfarm High School

Staffing Information

We are delighted to welcome a few new faces to the Thornliebank staff team this year - Miss Bell is a newly qualified teacher who will be responsible for P3, Mrs White is on supply and will provide cover in P3 and support for learning, and Mrs Fraser is on supply and will provide support for learning. Mrs White and Mrs Fraser are both part time and are here to cover for Mrs Johnston who has safely delivered a beautiful baby girl called Morven earlier in the summer.

As a reminder, classes and staff for this session are as follows:

NURSERY

Nursery Teachers	Mrs MacAskill and Mrs Doherty
Senior CDOs	Miss Livingstone and Mrs McLaughlin
CDOs	Mrs McLure, Mrs Burnett and Mrs Mair
Playworkers	Mrs Kaur and Mrs Miller

GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION

Gaelic Clas 1/2	Mrs Campbell and Mr McColgan-Smith
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SCHOOL

Primary 1	Miss Vannet
Primary 2	Mrs Grant
Primary 3	Miss Bell and Mrs White
Primary 4	Miss Cameron
Primary 5	Miss Davidson
Primary 6	Miss MacLean
Primary 7	Mrs Pollock
Nurture	Mr Egan
NCCT/SfL	Ms Hamilton & Mrs Fraser
Pupil Support Assistants	Mr Westcott, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Doyle, Miss Miller
CDO	Mrs Hughes

First day of school...

Our staff are already in school preparing for Wednesday, and we are all excited to welcome the children back to school this week! Please note that new Primary 1 and Clas 1 pupils will not start until 9.15am **on the first day only**, giving us time to get the older children in and settled before our new starts arrive. New P1 and Clas 1 pupils and families should gather in the infant playground where staff will meet you at 9.15am. Adults are welcome to come into school with the new children to help reassure them on the first day and to take photos of the momentous occasion! **For the first day only**, P1 and Clas 1 pupils should be collected at 2.45pm. As of Thursday they will follow the usual school day of 9.00am until 3.00pm.

For all other children, school will start at 9.00am on Wednesday 14th August. The children should know where to line up as they were shown when they met their new teacher back in June, but there will be staff around on the day in case anyone is not sure. P2 and P3 pupils should gather in the infant playground to come in the infant door, P4 and P5 pupils will enter via the main door of the older building, P6 will enter via the door in the bottom playground nearer the car park and P7 will enter via the door in the bottom playground nearer the nursery. Classes will be dismissed from these doors at 3.00pm.

School Absence and Latecoming

Please remember that school starts at 9.00am. It is very important that children are here on time, as it ensures they have a settled start to their day and are part of the morning routine where they will find out what will be happening that day, order their lunch and have their attendance noted. If your child arrives late to school and the rest of the class have already gone inside with their teacher, please bring your child to the school office and they will be directed to their class from there.

There is adult supervision in the playgrounds **from 8.45am** for children who arrive early. Please note that we are not responsible for your child should they access the playground prior to this time.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school office as early as possible to let us know the reason for their absence and how long you expect them to be off school.

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. We would very much appreciate you giving us as much notice as possible if you wish to collect your child for an appointment, as it can be difficult to pass on messages at the last minute if our office is short staffed.

If you are going to be late to collect your child from school, please contact the school office in plenty of time so that we can get a message to their class teacher and ensure that they come to the school office to wait safely until they are collected.

Breakfast Cart

You may be aware that East Renfrewshire Council has funded a breakfast cart in Thornliebank for the past few years, providing free toast and fruit from 8.45am. At the moment, we are waiting to find out if this service is able to continue, so unfortunately there will be no breakfast cart provision in the meantime. We will keep you updated on this matter.

Meet the Teacher Event

We are already looking forward to welcoming you into school for our first partnership event of the new session. Our Meet the Teacher evening will take place on Wednesday 21st August between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. Parents and carers are invited into school to visit your child's class, have a look around the learning environment, collect a copy of the class newsletter and meet your child's class teacher. This is an informal evening aimed at making initial introductions between families and school staff at the start of the year, and you are not required to stay for the duration - please feel free to pop in any time between 5.00pm and 6.00pm. There will not be any presentations - the class newsletters will contain all the key information for the term and year ahead.

Please note that Meet the Teacher is not an appropriate forum to discuss anything specific about your child with their class teacher as it is not a private meeting. You can contact the school office if you wish to speak to the teacher separately. All members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available on the evening, should you have anything specific you wish to discuss.

If you are unable to attend, a copy of the newsletter will be emailed out to everyone the following day. We hope you are able to make it along and look forward to welcoming you into school on the night.

Primary 7 Lockerbie Information Evening

Our Primary 7 residential trip is booked for 10th - 14th March 2025 at Lockerbie Manor. We know that this is an exciting part of the Primary 7 year and that lots of the children have already been talking about it prior to moving into P7 this week. We will be holding an information evening in school on Wednesday 21st August at 6.00pm, straight after Meet the Teacher. P7 pupils, parents and carers are all invited along to find out more about what to expect from the residential trip and to ensure that families have all the information they need in order to make the decision as to whether or not your child will be attending. Mrs Wilson will be sending out a separate letter with more details.

School Meals

Every child in Primary 1 to 5 currently receives a free school meal. Pupils in P6 and 7 require a ParentPay account to allow them to order and pay for their lunch. Lunches are ordered in class first thing each morning to allow the kitchen staff enough time to prepare what is required and minimise waste. A copy of the menu has been sent out with this newsletter so you can discuss the options with your child (parents/carers of our younger children can find this helpful).

The first day back after a holiday is always the Monday menu for that week and then the normal days will follow.

Our catering manager is available to meet with parents/carers to discuss and plan for any food intolerances or dietary requirements - please contact the school office to arrange this.

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 and PE Kit

As a reminder, our school uniform is as follows:

Black trousers/shorts/skirt/leggings

Black sweatshirt*

Yellow or black polo shirt for P1-5*

White shirt and school tie for P6/7

Black shoes

On PE days, your child should wear their PE kit to school, to save time changing during the school day. PE kit is as follows:

Black shorts/joggers/leggings

Yellow or white polo shirt or t-shirt*

Appropriate footwear for indoor or outdoor PE

* Polo shirts, t-shirts and sweatshirts do not have to have the Thornliebank logo - plain ones can be purchased from most supermarkets to keep costs down. If you do wish to have uniform items with the school logo, these can be purchased online from Schoolwear Made Easy.

There is a separate logo and tie for children attending Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank.

Personal belongings and water bottles

Please ensure that all personal belongings and water bottles are labelled with your child's name. You would not believe how quickly our lost property box fills up and overflows with un-named items after just a couple of days back in school. Every child should bring a water bottle to school each day. There are water coolers in both building where they can be refilled. We discourage children from bringing juice in their water bottles and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Family Support

Nicola Reid-Taylor 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. Nicola's first day this session will be Wednesday 21st August. She can also be contacted at financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 07741937871.