



Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

October 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we have lots to share with you in this month's newsletter as Thornliebank continues to be a busy place! We have been getting our pupil leadership roles up and running for this session, with a huge number of pupils putting themselves forward for extra responsibilities, which is great to see. Read on for House Captain announcements and much more...

We are looking forward to welcoming you into the school and nursery this week for Parents' Night and we hope you enjoy the opportunity to hear about your child's learning and progress, and have a look at some of the work they have been doing so far this year.

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

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

OCTOBER	
Tuesday 8 th	Parent Council Meeting @ Woodfarm High School 7pm
Wednesday 9 th	11.00am P3 visit to Thornliebank Library
	Parents' Night from 3.20pm
Friday 11 th	In-service Day - School and Nursery closed for all children
Monday 14 th - Friday 18 th	HOLIDAY - School and Nursery closed
Wednesday 23 rd	11.00am P7 visit to Thornliebank Library
Tuesday 29 th	Parent Council Hallowe'en Discos
Wednesday 30 th	11.00am P2 visit to Thornliebank Library
NOVEMBER	
Friday 1 st	Primary 6 Class Assembly and Open Afternoon
Wednesday 6 th	11.00am P5 visit to Thornliebank Library
Wednesday 13 th	11.00am P4 visit to Thornliebank Library
Wednesday 20 th	11.00am P1 & C1 visit to Thornliebank Library
Thursday 21 st	Flu vaccines
Tuesday 26 th	P1 and P7 Dental Checks
	Parent Council Meeting @ Woodfarm High School 7pm
Wednesday 27 th	11.00am P6 visit to Thornliebank Library
Friday 29 th	Primary 2 Class Assembly and Open Afternoon

KEEPING THE PROMISE @ THORNLIEBANK

Further to the Independent Care Review, Scotland made a Promise that all children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected. As a school and nursery, we have committed to keeping this Promise on behalf of all children and specifically care experienced children. School and nursery staff undertook The Promise training on the August in-service days, as well as a follow-up e-Learning module. As a result of the hard work of the staff, Thornliebank has been awarded the 'We Promise' award. We are very proud that our commitment to keeping the Promise has been recognised and we will continue to strive to ensure that every child feels loved, safe and respected.

ANTI-BULLYING AND ANTI-RACISM

A large part of our School Improvement Plan for this session is focused around equality, diversity and anti-racism. We have been talking about a range of related issues at assembly and in class, and linking these with our school values. This will continue throughout the year as we work hard to ensure everyone in our school and nursery community feels involved, valued and respected. We would welcome insight and input from parents and carers to help us focus our work in the right areas, and would encourage anyone interested to sign up for Mrs McGarvey's Diversity Group where a range of issues and approaches will be discussed and plans made to promote diversity in the widest sense across our community.

CELEBRATING OUR VALUES CHAMPIONS

Since our last newsletter, we have had three assemblies where we have celebrated a range of achievements both in and outside of school. We have had a major focus on our values of Kindness and Respect and our recent Values Champions are as follows: Peyton, Oakley Ray (Clas 1/2), Eilidh and Martha (P1), Amrinder and Ethan (P2), Ibrahim and Adam (P3) - all for KINDNESS - and Bella (P4), Jacob (P5), Simran (P6) and Jack (P7) - all for RESPECT. We will have a continued focus on these two values as we get closer to Anti-bullying Week in November.

SPONSORED DANCEATHON

We shared the fantastic grand total raised through the Danceathon with the children at assembly, and they were as amazed as we are! Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored the children and helped us to raise the incredible amount of £2,700 for school and nursery fund. We have already been consulting with the children about what they would like to spend the money on, and have purchased some extra materials for writing activities in P1, and some art resources to be used across the school.

DIGITAL XTRA FUND - LUNCH TIME CODE CLUB

We have been successful in securing funding from the Digital Xtra Fund to purchase equipment to run lunch time coding clubs throughout this session for Primary 1 to Primary 4 pupils. These will be using Sphero Indi robots and also Beebot robots with a focus on developing digital literacy skills, learning about coding and exploring a variety of other skills that pupils will gain from working in groups with their peers. Mr McColgan-Smith and Miss Hamilton will be delivering these sessions throughout the year. The Digital Leaders from P5 - P7 will support in promoting the club and also delivering the sessions if they choose to do so. Further information will be shared to confirm pupils have a place on the club and share an opportunity for parents / carers to attend a short after school session at the end of each block. The Sphero Indi robots and Beebots are an excellent resource that we will now be able to use across the school for different learning experiences.

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND OTHER PUPIL LEADERSHIP ROLES

Our P7 pupils worked extremely hard to write their House Captain speeches, which they delivered to all the children in their house a few weeks ago. The votes have now been counted and the badges handed out (so it's official!). Congratulations to our House Captains and Vice Captains for this year:

Brodie: Darcy (HC) and Mustafa (VC)

Dean: Isla (HC) and Fatima (VC)

Kelburn: Evan (HC) and Liam (VC)

Stirling: Jack (HC) and Bethany (VC)

Our school Language Leaders for session 2024 - 25 are listed below. The Language Leaders will work with Mr McColgan-Smith to consider how we can further develop and promote languages across our school. The focus will be on French and Gaelic but also in looking at further opportunities to learn about different languages and cultures throughout the year. At the first meeting, the Language Leaders had a discussion about what their role would be as well as thinking about different ways to share our language learning. Ideas were gathered as we begin planning events that will take place this year again such as Gaelic Week and Languages Week Scotland. Language Leaders returned to classes to share some ideas for using French in the daily routines of the class.

P3 - Broden

P4 - Frankie

P5 - Isobel

P6 - Aamina

P7 - Abdullah

To give our younger pupils an opportunity to experience and learn about being part of a school committee or leadership group we will be choosing different pupils to attend each meeting. Our first meeting was attended by Eli, Shourya, Emma and Brèagha.

Our Pupil Council members will remain the same for the start of this session, as they didn't start until January last year. The Pupil Council have already had a couple of meetings with Mrs Miller to discuss the priorities for this year. There will be a continued focus on litter and the environment, our school values and anti-bullying.

Ms Hamilton has established the Digital Leaders group for this year and they have already been hard at work sorting out the Chromebooks for the classes to use. We will share more information from the Digital Leaders in the next newsletter.

Mrs Wilson and six pupils from P6 and P7 took part in a training session for the 'Young Leaders of Learning' programme. The pupils all contributed very well during the session, and are looking forward to visiting Giffnock Primary School to put into practice what they have learned and discussed.

PARENTS' NIGHT

Thank you to all of you who have signed up for an appointment with your child's teacher on Wednesday 9th. We are looking forward to seeing you. The meetings will take place in the gym hall where each teacher will have a table set up with a selection of your child's work. After your discussion, you can take the work into the lunch hall to have a closer look before you leave. We will also have our pre-loved uniform items available on the night - please have a look and take what you need.

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. The Breakfast Cart is available for all children to access from 8.45am if they would like some toast or fruit before school starts.

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.

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 in due course (a new menu begins 21st October) 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 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 and Kinder Bueno.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

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. 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 and can help with any claims for Free School Meals, Uniform Grants and other help with cost of living. Nicola can also be contacted at financialinclusion@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or 07741937871.



Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank

Gaelic Medium Education Information Evening

Wednesday 30th October - 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Thornliebank / Thornliebank Primary School

Come along to find out more about the opportunity and benefits for your child to learn through the medium of Gaelic. This event will be supported by Comunn nam Pàrant and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Application process for P1 commencing August 2025 will open in December 2024.

Gaelic Bookbug Sessions in East Renfrewshire

Thornliebank Library - Tuesdays 10:15am

Clarkston Library - Thursdays at 2pm from 3rd October 2024

Bilingual Gaelic / English Bookbug Session

Barrhead Foundry - the 3rd Friday of the month at 10.30am

NURSERY NEWS

Danceathon

We are delighted to share that the nursery raised the fantastic total of £300 from the Danceathon last month which was a great success. The children will be consulted as to what they would like to buy for the nursery with the money raised.

Joined up Learning

A group of Nursery and Primary 1 children join together on a Thursday afternoon for Muddy Movers where the children play and learn together through outdoor play and loose parts developing their physical skills. Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school so that they can take part in this valuable experience.

Forest School

Groups of children from Nursery and Primary 1 will be starting Forest School after the October break. This is an 8 week programme which takes place in a woodland setting. Look out for your child's letter if they are in the first group.

SIMOA



SIMOA the elephant has joined us in the nursery helping the children to understand and be aware of how to keep themselves safe. The children have been exploring ways of incorporating SIMOA the elephant into their learning about safety. The children use SIMOA as a mascot for safety and risk assess their environment daily. SIMOA will also accompany us on trips in the local area. This will encourage the children to develop independent thinking when it comes to safety, developing skills that will be useful throughout life.