



Renfrewshire
Council



Welcome to Thorn Primary School

In Thorn Primary School, we aim to give all Primary 1 pupils the best possible start to their education.

Research has shown that children achieve more when pupils, teachers and parents work together towards a common goal.

This information booklet has been produced to give you an insight into your child's school day and practical advice. A copy of the booklet can also be found on our information page on our school website.

We hope you find this useful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to you and your child joining our school community here at Thorn Primary.

Yours in partnership

Rebecca Lawson
Deputy Head Teacher

What can I do to help prepare my child for starting school?

There are lots of ideas you can do!

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Practise button jackets, pulling up zips, taking on and off shoes etc.
- Make sure that he/she is confident using the toilet
- Help your child to use a knife and fork for cutting up food as well as eating
- Social skills are really important - learning to share and take turns, helping to tidy up at the end of an activity and understanding what is / is not acceptable behaviour
- Activities which strengthens fingers such as rolling, threading beads and making patterns with salt, sand or shaving foam are great preparation for writing
- Many children will know how to write their own name before they start school, please don't worry if your child is not ready to do this yet.
We would ask that if this is something your child is keen to do that you encourage them to only use a capital for the first letter of their name.
- Play 'I spy', rhyming and memory games these games help to develop pre-reading skills
- Let them help with weighing and measuring if you are cooking or baking
- Counting games like snakes and ladders or other games that use a dice helps to develop understanding of number
- Setting the table - this encourages children to look at sets of things as well as one-to-one correspondence, patterns and sequencing.
- Talk about how much things cost when you go shopping
- Read to your child to encourage an interest in books

Our School Vision



Our School Values

- Respect
- Equity
- Success
- Teamwork

Our School Aims

Our aims help us to be our BEST

- Build respectful, nurturing relationships and partnerships that help us feel happy, be safe and achieve success
- Encourage one another to be aspirational in our learning and personal development and celebrate our achievements
- Support the development of leadership at all levels, providing high quality teaching and learning that inspires everyone to reach their potential and develops skills for future success
- To create an environment for learning that is the best it can possibly be

Playtimes

Our interval is 10.30 a.m. until 10.45 a.m. The children are supervised in the playground by our janitor, support staff and Primary 7 buddies.

For the first couple of week Primary 1 pupils will have an allocated area to play until they become familiar with the school grounds.

Snacks

Young children tend to eat slowly therefore a small snack will allow the children time to eat and play with friends.

As Thorn Primary is a Health Promoting School we encourage pupils to bring fruit as a snack or they can buy toast and milk from the lunch hall at playtimes using Parent Pay.

Toys

Sometimes children like to bring a toy to play with at school. We would ask you to ensure that it is not a treasured possession because accidents can happen and we cannot guarantee to find it if it is lost.

Absence / Late Coming

If your child is going to be absent, we would ask you to telephone the school office after 8.45 a.m. If your child is absent and we have not received any notification, the school will text after registration has taken place. In the interest of the safety of all our pupils we ask if you and your child arrive after 9.00am, we ask you to bring your child to the school office where they can order lunch and be escorted to the class by a member of staff.

Enquiries

We realise that this is a new experience for many parents with children starting school. At Thorn Primary we encourage open communication between staff and parents. If you have a concern or require a 'quick word' we would ask you to either speak with staff during soft start, give your child a note to hand to the teacher, leave a note with our clerical team or wait until 3.00 p.m. By following this system it will allow the staff to ensure the safety of all pupils in the classroom. You may also make an appointment to meet with our leadership team if you have any concern / questions.

Wet Weather Arrangements

On rainy days pupils will have access to their classroom at 8.50 a.m. We would ask if it is raining heavily that you arrive as close to 8.50am as possible.

If it is raining at playtime or lunchtime your child will be supervised by our support staff and senior leadership team and Primary 7 monitors. Your child will eat their snack in the class and have the opportunity to visit the toilet.

Medicine

A form has to be completed to allow support staff to administer prescribed medicines to children.

This can be obtained from our school office and found on our school website.

Parking

We ask in the interest of the safety of our staff and pupils that only staff and authorised vehicles are permitted into the school car park.

Parent Council (including Parent Teacher Association)

Thorn Primary School has a very active, hardworking Parent Council.

Many fundraising events are held throughout the session. Hallowe'en, Valentine's Day and Shorts and Shades discos, Fashion Show, Sponsored Walks to name a few. The PC works closely with the school, and all funds raised are used to enhance your child's education and curriculum. Example - In the past the PTA purchased iPads for pupils to use and have planned to enhance our playground.

Meetings are held every 2/3 months and new parents are encouraged to join the PTA. Information is available on the Thorn PTA Facebook page.

What We Need?

A School Bag - big enough to carry essentials

PE Kit - shorts, t-shirt / school polo shirt and gym shoes.

Gym shoes can be put in a small gym bag and be stored on the coat peg.

A pencil case with writing pencils, some coloured pencils or pens, a rubber and glue stick would be helpful but not essential.

Lunchtimes

All Primary 1-3 pupils in Scotland are entitled to a free lunch and your child will be able to have a lunch from the first day.

A menu detailing the choices each day is included in your pack.

Packed Lunches: Children will eat their lunch at designated tables in the lunch hall

The pupils are assisted with lunch by support assistant and our Buddies.

Uniform

Our uniform is very smart and we encourage all pupils to wear it. It promotes school spirit and presents a good image of the school to pupils, parents and the wider community. It also allows us to quickly identify our pupils from any other visitors within the school grounds.

We cannot stress enough the importance of naming all clothing, gym shoes, bags, wallets, purses, pencil cases, packed lunch boxes etc. It allows the pupils to identify their own belongings and also is a great help to the staff.

On P.E. days for P1-P3 to assist the pupils getting changed, wearing a polo shirt on that day allows the pupils to change quickly. Velcro or slip on shoes for P.E. can be helpful and easier. This kit can be stored in a gym bag and kept on the pupil's peg in the cloakroom.

Parent Pay

Our school office is now a cashless office. Payments for meals, snacks and trips will be made through ParentPay. The system also allows you to give permission for trips which is completed online.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, seven days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

Activation letters with unique username and passwords will be issued on the first day of school. The office staff would be more than happy to help you sign up.

Classes

In August 2019 there will be a Primary 1 class.

Parental Workshops

Throughout the session we provide opportunities for parents to join us to learning together on many aspects of school life. These include reading, writing, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

Homework

Pupils begin learning letter sounds and names right away together with counting & writing numbers. Weekly homework tasks will be issued at the start of the week and we would appreciate if it could be returned on the day requested by the teacher.

Buddies

Our Primary 7 buddies play a very important role in helping our new pupils to settle into school. We really appreciate how seriously they take their responsibilities.

Nurturing Positive Relationships

Last session we created our vision of Believe to Achieve at Thorn Primary. Our school community voted for the values that meant the most to us at Thorn. For pupils who display our school values house tokens are given by staff to pupils. For pupils who go 'Above and Beyond' in their actions, our Senior Leadership Team may give out a Golden Star - worth 20 points.

Our School Rules were also designed by our pupils

Be Safe

Be Ready

Be Respectful

House System

We operate a house system in the school and have four houses - Houston, Milliken, Napier and Wallace. Children with family already in the school will be in the same house as their brothers or sisters. Each month the winning house receive an award - treat such as a Come As You Please Day.

Assessments

Throughout the year all pupils undertake assessments. We find that the results allow us to very quickly identify strengths and provide support for children who need it.

Primary 1 pupils will also be involved with standardised assessments.

Communication

At Thorn Primary we attempt to keep you up to date with all our successes and achievements together with important dates to allow you to plan and organise your family commitments.

Twitter: @ThornPri

As our Twitter account requires us to allow you access, if we are unable to identify you from your email address, could we ask for you to ask for a follower request and then inform our office team who can provide access to you.

MySchoolApp - Thorn Primary - free to download from App Store or Google Play

Tips

The following tips for parents and families of children starting school comes from the Website: www.parentingacrossscotland.org

1. Starting school

Going to school for the first time is a big event for children. Visit the school before your child starts, schools often provide opportunities for parents and children to visit. Even though your child may not remember where everything is, at least the journey and teachers will be more familiar on their first day.

2. Have patience

Sometimes children's behaviour becomes babyish when they start school. They can swing from being dependent one minute to independent the next. Be patient with them, give them a cuddle and show a genuine interest in their worries.

3. Establish a routine

Mornings can be especially stressful for both of you. Establish a morning routine and make sure your child has breakfast. Give yourself and your child enough time to get ready in the morning especially if they are beginning to dress themselves.

4. Show interest

Show a genuine interest in everything your child does, both in school and at home, encourage them to talk to you about how they are feeling, but beware of turning interest into pressure.

5. Encourage them

You don't need to go over the top with praise - it is often better to show interest and encouragement. This will help them to feel confident and secure. Don't be afraid to constantly tell them you love them.

6. Time to relax

When children start school, it can be very long and tiring for them - allow them time to relax when they get home. Children have a continuing need for love, support and encouragement from those who love them the most.

7. Spend time together

Try to spend even a small amount of time doing something together each day, even if this is just watching their favourite T.V. programme with them and talking to them about it.

8. Have fun

Starting school is an anxious time for all children. Having fun and playing with your child helps to alleviate some of the anxiety, and plays helps children to manage new situations and develop social skills.

9. Talk to the teacher

Make a point of talking to your child's teacher if you are worried about anything at all. It's best to voice concerns early on, even if you think that it's just a small thing.

10. Look after yourself

Parents today have a difficult and complex job to do. Make sure you look after yourself and have people to talk to when you need to.

School Term and Holidays

Term 1 - August 2019

There are 2 additional Inservice Days which have still to be announced

Inservice Day	Tuesday 13 th August 2019	Pupils do not attend
Inservice Day	Wednesday 14 th August 2019	Pupils do not attend
1st Day of Term	Thursday 15 th August 2019	
September Weekend Break	Friday 27 th - Monday 30 th September	
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 1 st October 2019	
Inservice Day	Friday 11 th October 2019	Pupils do not attend
October Break	Monday 14 th October - Friday 18 th October 2019	
Pupils Restart	Monday 21 st October 2019	
St. Andrew's Day holiday	Monday 2 nd December 2019	
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 3 rd December 2019	
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 th December 2019	School closes at 2.30pm
	Monday 23 rd December 2019 - Friday 3 rd January 2020	

Term 2 - January 2020

Pupils Restart	Monday 6 th January 2020	
Inservice Day	Friday 7 th February 2020	Pupils do not attend
Mid Term Break	Monday 10 th February and Tuesday 11 th February 2020	
Pupils Restart	Wednesday 12 th February 2020	
Spring Holiday	Thursday 2 nd April Friday 3 rd April 2020 - Friday 17 th April 2020	School closes at 2.30pm

Term 3

Pupils Restart	Monday 20 April 2020	
Inservice Day	Friday 1st May 2020	Pupils do not attend
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2020	
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 5 th May 2020	
May Day Weekend Holiday	Friday 22 nd May 2020 - Monday 25 th May 2020	
Pupils restart	Tuesday 26 th May 2020	
LAST DAY OF SESSION	Friday 26 th June 2020	Close at 1pm

