

# Thorn Primary School



## NEWSLETTER



January 2020



### Success for Team Thorn.

Thank you very much to everyone for your good wishes on my return, it is good to be back among the Thorn family.

I must extend a special thank you to Miss Lawson for her hard work and dedication as Acting Head Teacher in my absence, to Mrs MacLeod and Mr Barrett who acted as Principal Teachers, to support the management of the school, and to all the teachers and support staff who went above and beyond to ensure continuity for everyone at Thorn. We are very lucky to have such a great team!

As well as seeing all of the children, one of my favourite tasks since returning was working with a parental focus group to evaluate learning and teaching in our school. The feedback was fantastic and you can read more later in the newsletter. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time and undertook the learning walk through all the classrooms and the finishing discussion and task very seriously. Owing to the success of this I would like to extend the opportunity to any other parents who would like to contribute. If you think you have the time to spare please contact Mrs Young and she will compile a list of interested parent/carers that I can contact for future learning walks.

We also evaluated teaching and learning with our children and the staff team. They were equally enthusiastic and as impressed as our parents. This week our Education Manager, Julie Colquhoun, from Renfrewshire Council visited and gave another perspective on our work and I am proud that she recognized the excellent work happening at Thorn Primary.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and continuing to work in partnership with you to help your children achieve and thrive.

*Stephanie Hart*

Head Teacher  
Thorn Primary School

## RESPECT – Respecting your views and feedback

When we evaluate our work at Thorn we RESPECT everyone's views and feedback. When we look at how good is our teaching and learning the children of our school are some of the best people to listen to.

Each term different groups of children meet with Mrs Hart and Miss Lawson, every day class teachers seek the children's views on how they learn and recently all of the children had the chance to feedback during using questions from **How Good is OUR School** during House Time.

**Here is what some of them had to say....**

We get lots of choice: vote on trips, choose our targets and when to do them, choose topics, work stations, colour of uniform, what our classroom looks like, our seating layout, what Sumdog games to play, how we research, ideas for lessons. (Mr Newton's Milliken House Group)



## Emotionworks – Do you know about the cogs?

Mr Barratt, Miss Lawson and Mrs MacLeod have introduced a Health and Wellbeing programme called Emotionworks to the whole school. The 'Cogs' framework identifies seven categories of emotional knowledge and competence that link together to demonstrate how 'emotion works'. It allows pupils and staff to explore the connections between triggers, body sensations, behaviours and emotions together with developing coping strategies for regulation.





# EQUITY



Our P7's demonstrated their commitment to our values of equity during their Scottish Celebration performing sign language while singing Flower of Scotland.

P7's family members had an enjoyable evening watching the children perform Scottish songs and reciting some poetry before enjoying a plate of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.

Miss McLachlan would like to thank everyone who attended for their support and the pupils for holding such a fantastic show. Special thanks go to our P6 Highland Dancers.



## Equity Cont'd...

### Seasons for Growth programme

We are delighted to be working with one of our community partners, Families First on this programme supporting pupils. The targeted programme allows pupils to explore emotional wellbeing through discussions and activities. We welcome Mrs Little who is leading this training supported by Miss Easdon.



## Success

Congratulations to Linden Medical Practice Competition Winners who received gift vouchers and will have their artwork will be displayed in the surgery.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner** – Cole Rowan P7 who also got to name the surgery skeleton “Papyrus”.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner** - Millie Hunter in P7



Please remember to notify us of your child's successes outwith school so we can offer our congratulations at assembly.

**There is a tear off slip at the end of this newsletter which can be completed and returned to the school office or you can also email us at: [thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)**





# Teamwork

Our Parent Focus Group visited classes and worked on tasks to help us evaluate teaching and learning within the school.

We received some fantastic feedback...

- Ethos and culture promotes children's rights and positive relationships**
- Pupils are active participants**
- Pupils are active engaged**
- Pupils are highly motivated**
- Pupils exercise choice**
- Pupils are responsible**
- Pupils are independent**
- Pupils are confident**

Replies	Very Good %		Excellent %	
6	0	0	6	100
6	0	0	6	100
6	2	33	4	67
6	2	33	4	67
6	0	0	6	100
6	1	17	5	83
6	1	17	5	83
6	3	50	3	50

**We were delighted that 100% of parents agreed that they say that our children and staff acted in accordance with our values.**

The values were very apparent and clear. Had a great sense of how the children follow and are achieving so much through the values of the school. Very impressed.  
 Great positivity around the school. A real family/team feeling and attitude.  
 I enjoyed visiting the different classrooms and seeing how the children are developing and becoming independent. All positive!!  
 Teachers engaged the classes well, I was impressed that groups working on their own were self focused and expressed understanding and confidence in what they were doing.  
 Children showing respect by listening and giving time for answers and not talking over each other.  
 Supporting teachers were about among our visit and were engaging 1 to 1 with pupils.  
 Good to see kids have targets to do, this means they can make their own choice.  
 Liked seeing how the children evaluate themselves, they write down what they're good at and what they would like to improve on.



**Our Parent Focus Group**





## Teamwork Cont'd...

**Parents were asked to tell us 3 things they learned during the learning walk, here are some of their comments:**

All teachers are engaged with the pupils, they interact with and sit amongst the children.  
 The children all look happy.  
 Giving the children a voice.  
 All classes were well behaved.  
 Liked the way the learning was freeflow.  
 The children seemed to be so involved and engaged in their learning.  
 Teachers were interacting so well with the children in class, some sitting down on the floor or walking around, involved with what they are doing.  
 All pupils involved in tasks provided.  
 All pupils engaged in their work.  
 The pupils all seemed happy in class and looked like they were enjoying their learning.  
 Kids actually enjoy school and are willing to take part.  
 Teachers engage pupils in a broad range of ways to maximise their learning potential, they embrace the differences in the child this way and therefore seem to hold class attention span excellently.  
 Emotional wellbeing is encouraged in the school through offering the children to continue their own work.  
 Learning goals displayed. Self-belief encouraged through challenging tasks and open discussions.



As the cold weather draws near Playground Supervisors are on high alert to remind children about the importance of wearing their jacket outdoors. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed for all weathers. Hats and costumes are also the ideal way for head lice to be transferred between children, please be on the lookout for any stowaways!

During icy and snowy weather conditions our janitor Mr Ferris will ensure there will be a path cleared from the gate to the main entrance only. Please ensure to use the pathway for your own and children's safety.

Please provide feedback and return slip to the School Office or email: [thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Comments/Suggestions:

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New dates from last month in red

Date	Event/Time	Notes
30.01.20	P5 trip to Glasgow Science Centre	More Details to follow via ParentPay
05.02.20	P6 Class Assembly	Warm invitation is extended to Parents and Grandparents for P6 to join them from 11-11.30
05.02.20	Girls Football Tournament	@ Ferguslie 12:30-2:30 – Team details to follow
06.02.20	STL Drop in	Monthly event. 9.15 am in staff base. Join Mrs Hart/Miss Lawson and other staff members who are available for morning refreshments and a chance to share constructive feedback or muse ideas for the future.
07.02.20	Additional In-service Day	School closed for pupils
10.02.20 – 11.02.20	School Holiday – Midterm	School closed for pupils and staff
12.02.20	In-service Day	School closed for pupils
13.02.20	School reopens	School reopens for all staff and pupils
13.02.20	PTA School Disco	P1-P3 6:15-7:15 P4-P7 7:30-8:45 Tickets cost £2 and will be available through ParentPay shop
14.02.20	Dental Inspections	P1 & P7 Dental Inspections. Information has been sent home previously.
26.02.20	P4 Assembly	11am and all Parent/Grandparents of P7 are invited to come along and join us.
26.02.20	Boys Football Tournament	On-X 12:30-2:30 – Team details to follow
26.02.20	Seal Workshop for P3 Parents	We have arranged a workshop for P3 parents on our teaching approaches to numeracy including Number Talks & Stages of Early Arithmetical learning (SEAL) 9:15-10:15am
27.02.20	Learning Event	Focus Outdoors more details to follow soon
04.03.20	Girls Football Tournament	Ferguslie 12:30-2:30 – Team details to follow
05.03.20	World Book Day Event	More details to follow nearer the time
06.03.20	STL Drop in	Monthly event. 9.15 am in staff base. Join Mrs Hart/Miss Lawson and other staff members who are available for morning refreshments and a chance to share constructive feedback or muse ideas for the future.
13.03.20	Rag Bag Collection	Bags will be sent home nearer the time.
17.03.20	P4/3 Trip	Information has already been issued. Sign your child up via parent pay.
18.03.20	Boys Football Tournament	On-X 12:30-2:30 – Team details to follow
18.03.20	P3/2 Trip	Information has already been issued. Sign your child up via parent pay.
19.03.20 (Thurs)	P5 Class Assembly	Warm invitation is extended to Parents and Grandparents for P5 to join them from 10-10.30
26.03.20	Parents Night	Letters will be sent nearer the time for appointment requests. Appointments will be available from 3:10-5:20pm & 6:00-8:30pm
01.04.20	P1 Class Assembly	Warm invitation is extended to Parents and Grandparents for P1 to join them from 11-11.30
02.04.20	Easter Service	Pupils only in school
02.04.20	Early Closure	School will close at 2.30pm for Easter Holidays

03.04.20 – 19.04.20	Easter Holidays	School closed on Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April and reopens on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April
27.04.20	SLT drop in	Monthly event. 9.15 am in staff base. Join Mrs Hart/Miss Lawson and other staff members who are available for morning refreshments and a chance to share constructive feedback or muse ideas for the future.
28.04.20	P1 Induction Play dates	We have playdates for our Nursery children who are joining us in Aug. 9.30-10am or 1.30-2pm
05.02.20	P1 Induction Play dates	We have playdates for our Nursery children who are joining us in Aug. 9.30-10am or 1.30-2pm
06.05.20 & 07.05.20	2 x Inservice Day	School closed for Pupils
08.05.20	School holiday	School closed for Parents and Staff
12.05.20	P1 Induction	1 <sup>st</sup> Induction day for Parents and our new P1 Induction
19.05.20	P1 Induction	2 <sup>nd</sup> Induction day for Parents and our new P1 Induction
20.05.20	P4/3 Class Assembly	Warm invitation is extended to Parents and Grandparents for P1 to join them from 11-11.30
23.05.20 – 25.05.20	May Bank Holiday	School closed on Friday and Monday
26.05.20	SLT drop in	Monthly event. 9.15 am in staff base. Join Mrs Hart/Miss Lawson and other staff members who are available for morning refreshments and a chance to share constructive feedback or muse ideas for the future.
27.05.20	Sports Day	PM – More details will follow nearer the time.
31.05.20-03.06.20	P7 Residential Trip	P7 Away Sunday to Wednesday
01.06.20	P7 Info Night for Parents @ JHS	Information night for parents of pupils starting at JHS in August. 6pm-8pm.
03.06.20	P3/2 Class Assembly	Warm invitation is extended to Parents and Grandparents for P1 to join them from 11-11.30
10.06.20-12.06.20	P7 visit JHS	P7 pupils moving to JHS in August. 3 day visit.
18.06.20	P7 Leavers Dance	More information will follow nearer the time
24.06.20	Church Service	End of year church service at Johnstone High Parish Church at 10am. All welcome.
24.06.20	P1 Presentation	All parents welcome along to the school for P1 presentation. PM arrangements to follow nearer the time.
26.06.20	Early Closure	School closes at 1pm for summer holiday.

Achievement Notification, please return to the School Office:

Child's Name:

Child's Class:

Child's Achievement:



We send information through our school app. Please make sure you sign up to avoid missing any updates.

Download Myschoolapp from the App Store or Google Play



[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

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<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=875&fbclid=>



Thorn Website

<https://blogs.glo.wscotland.org.uk/re/thorn/>