

# Thorn Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

December 2020



'Tis the season to be jolly and COVID 19 will not stop that at Thorn Primary. Our staff have been working hard to ensure the festive spirit is well and truly alive for our children. We had Christmas Lunch on Wed the 9<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Pantomimes galore and Class Christmas Parties too. Santa even made a socially distance visit to each class party!

In addition, the children have had the opportunity to get creative with a festive theme and have made their own version of a snow globe. The PTA provided the favourite 'Guess how many Sweets?' for each class and the Christmas Hamper Raffle raised an excellent amount for PTA. I must extend a HUGE thank you to all our families for your generous donations and to everyone who supported the PTA by buying tickets to have the chance of winning one of the beautiful hampers.

Our children have also been working on ways to share the festive cheer with the Johnstone Community which you can read about later in our newsletter.

I was disappointed that we could not welcome you to Thorn to celebrate Christmas at our annual nativity and concert. I hope you found some joy in the virtual efforts shared with you from your child's class. While not our usual way to celebrate, I was thoroughly impressed by the creativity of the staff and, of course, the talents of our pupils.

Our staff will now enjoy a well-deserved break over Christmas, I very much appreciate their hard work to keep the children safe and learning and know you will too. All laptops and Seesaw will be switched off until we return on 6<sup>th</sup> of January so they can enjoy Christmas with their families.

On behalf of everyone at Thorn Primary I wish you a healthy, happy Christmas and look forward to hopefully welcoming you through the doors of Thorn as soon as we can on 2021! Merry Christmas Team Thorn!

Festive wishes,

Mrs Hart



**Thorn Primary School has recently achieved a Level 1 - Jade Award in recognition of progress made in the Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach.**

Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Service, in partnership with the PT Nurturing Attainment Teachers and local authority managers, have developed an approach entitled Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA) in response both to the poverty related attainment gap and to the increasing levels of social and emotional needs being highlighted by schools. Renfrewshire has focused on the development of whole school nurturing approaches to support the wider needs of school communities.

The Aims of RNRA are:

- To promote an understanding of attachment theory and of the importance of nurturing relationships in helping all children and young people to learn and develop socially and emotionally
- To promote an understanding of the key principles of nurturing practice and support schools to embed these at a whole school level
- To support practices which will improve wellbeing and promote resilience for children and young people
- To introduce an approach to implementation which is evidence-based and therefore has the best chance of delivering a sustainable approach for establishments and children and young people

**The Accreditation Panel quote to Thorn:** Well done- you have clearly been through the readiness process, undertaken whole-establishment training and are implementing nurturing approaches across the school.



Our children have been very busy over the last few weeks creating Christmas Cards to give to the community to spread a little bit of Christmas Cheer.

Below is a list of who the children selected to receive the cards:

- P1 - Bield Housing
- P2 - The Foodtrain
- P3 - Ranfurly Care Home
- P4a - St Vincents
- P4b - Key Workers
- P5 - I Am Me Nursing Homes
- P6 & P7 Farrier Court & Walkenshaw Street Complex

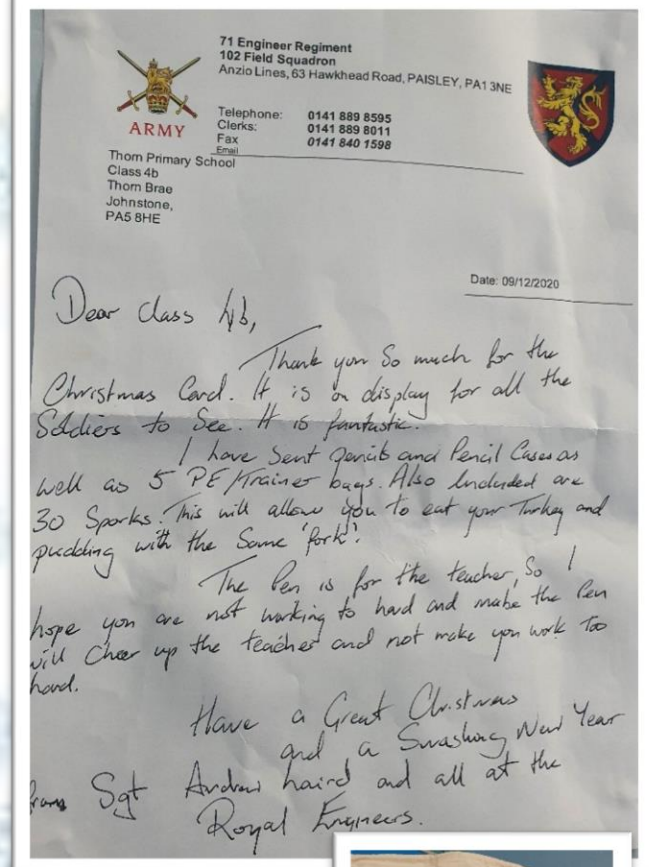
We have had a massive response from the community in response to the Christmas cards. We have received numerous phone calls of thanks and Asda have generously provided sweets for all the children to enjoy. P4b also received an additional present of a pencil case and "spork" from our local Army 71 Engineer Regiment as a thank you for their card.

Well done to all our children for thinking of others this Christmas!





St Vincent's receiving their Christmas Cards from P4A



Mrs Mrs Kerr.  
10-12-20

Dear Headteacher Mrs Hart

I am writing to thank your pupils in Primary 6 to say what a lovely surprise to received two cards for my husband and I. one card was from Holly Hamilton and one sign with it brought a smile to our faces and cheered 2 old people happy to think children from the Primary 6 thought of us and also the teacher who helped the children

Once again thanks to your teacher the children and to you being the head teacher for your kindness I was once a pupil at the Thorn School many years ago and I am so proud to have been.

Please excuse writing I'm not as good as I use to be

Norma Kerr



TO ALL THE CHILDREN AT THE THORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SEND ME LOVELY CHRISTMAS CARDS IT WAS A LOVELY THOUGHT

THANKS TO YOU ALL  
XXX

KEEP SAVE I HOPE SANTA IS GOOD TO ALL OF YOU

This very special greeting is being sent to say, Hope Christmastime is wonderful for you in every way.

Helen M Stov  
29 FARRIER COURT



# EQUITY



Our Primary 1, 2 and 3 children received a "Read, Write and Count" bag from the Scottish Book Trust.

Each bag contains items including notebooks and pencils, a card game and various books for the children to read at home.

The bags are a great opportunity to build relationships with parents and strengthen links between home and school learning.

## It's Panto Time! (Oh no it's not..)

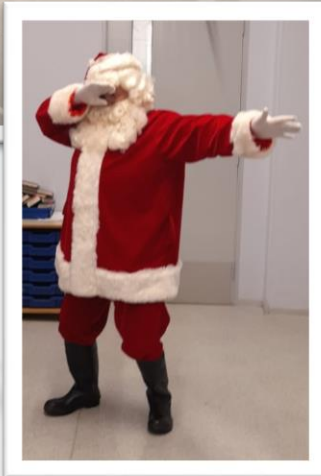
The children had a choice of online pantomimes to watch this week

**Jack and the Beanstalk** and **Robin Hood** went down a treat and got all the children in the Christmas spirit ready for Santa's socially distanced visit on Thursday afternoon.





Even Santa stuck to the social distancing rules this week at Thorn as he made a socially distanced visit to each class to deliver duly quarantined presents!





## Virtual Parents Night



Our first "Virtual" Parents Night was a great success going by all your lovely comments.

Loved hearing how well my children are getting on in class. Chatting to the teachers & getting great positive feedback from them.

It was on time, positive and constructive feedback given.

Good update. Lots of positives shared.

Call was on time, spent time explaining things and gave me a brilliant report about my daughter.

Both teachers called at appointment time and were very informative. I feel they know my children well and gave specific examples of their achievements which is lovely to hear.

Call took place on time, no delays. Informative. I was able to easily adapt my day to take call.

Appointment times allocated without issue. Calls happened at allocated time. Teachers were very positive, informative and I was encouraged to express concerns and to ask questions.

The teacher had clearly prepared well and had gathered thoughts on the children. Communicated thoughts well and provided good positive points.

Phone call took place on time. Mrs Steele was very pleasant, really good information passed over about junior and how it's being managed. Hearing how my child is doing well academically.

Phone call took place within time schedule. Positive information on child progress. Overall satisfied experience.

Straightforward process. Honest pleasing feedback. Confirmation of continuing improvement.

Great parents evening, good feedback academically and personally.

Good info, not too long, felt informal, given opportunity to ask questions etc.

Call arranged easily on seesaw, call received on time, we had sufficient time to hear how my child was doing.

Teacher appointment was on time, both were pleasant to talk to and didn't rush the call.

Clear communication. Was nice to get a chance to speak with the teacher.

Phone call was on time, teacher was really informative & so lovely.

Lots of information about how my child is getting on in class. Didn't go over time. Very positive.

Information shared on seesaw before meeting. Punctuality of the call. Very pleased with the content of the conversation.

Teachers knew my children very well. Areas of strengths and areas to work in were highlighted. Offered to express any concerns.



**CHRISTMAS LUNCH WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!**



Our P1's enjoying their first Christmas at Thorn



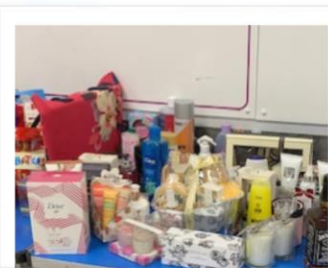
A small selection of our pupils having Christmas Lunch







# TEAMWORK



Thank you so much to all our very generous parents who handed in donations for the PTA Xmas Hamper Raffle we were overwhelmed with all your generosity. Each class had an individual hamper to win and there were also 17 additional hampers giving everyone a chance of winning.

Small Hamper winners were...

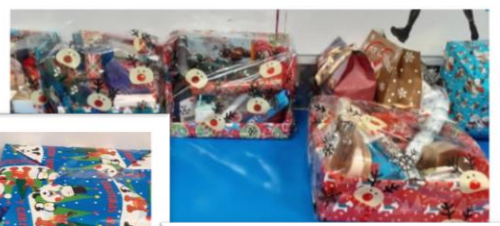
- Isla Ulliana P1
- Bethany Smith P5
- Oliver Robb P5
- Carla Young P6
- Lewis Porter P6
- Abby Watson P7 x 2
- Rene Cunningham – Suzie Fowkes P7
- Ava Boyd P4A

- Erin Cameron P1
- Mr Jones – Sophie Jones P3
- Carla Richardson P4A
- Alex Beckley P4A
- Ryan Sprott P6
- Penelope Crawford P4A
- Gillian Queen – Nicole Young P6
- Dax Salmon P5



The total raised from the sale of the raffle tickets was £1162 which is fantastic!

The PTA would like to thank you all for your support and every penny goes towards helping the children at Thorn.



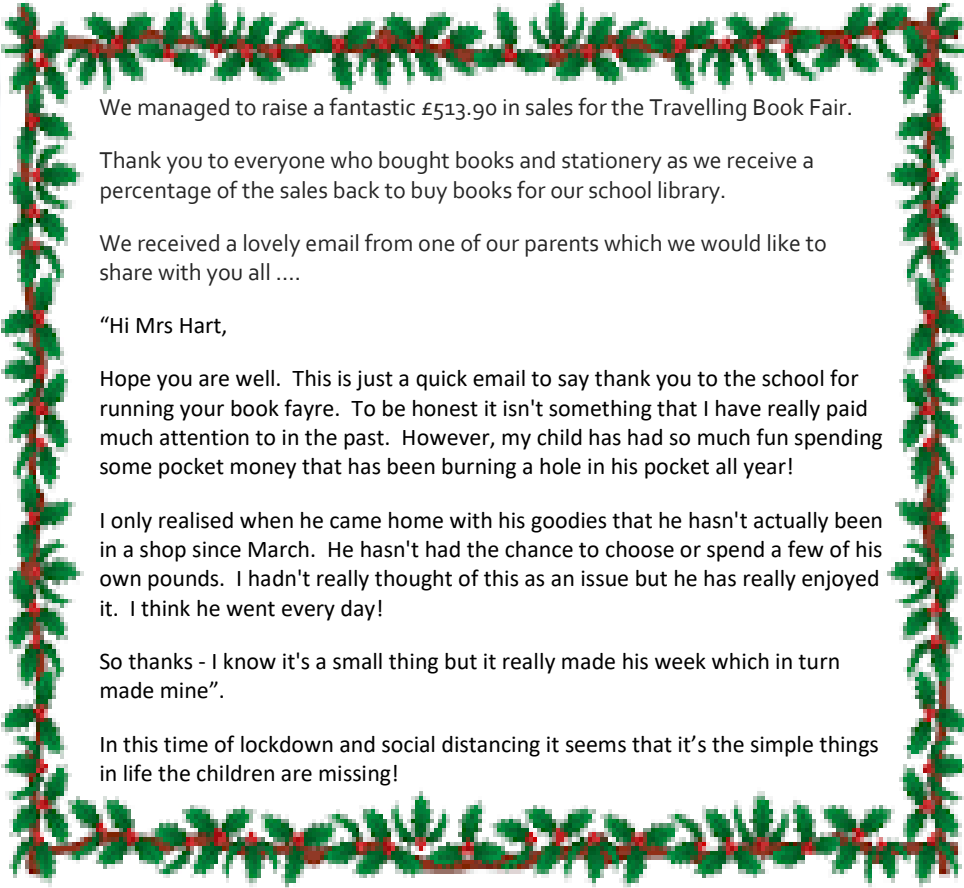


The PTA Class Christmas Hamper Winners are.....

- P1 – Emily Guy
- P2 – Ajay Bhan
- P3 – Amelia Dunn
- P4 – Anna Mayne
- P5 – Dax Salmon
- P6 – Nicole Young
- P7 – Freya McLeod



Congratulations to all the hamper winners.



We managed to raise a fantastic £513.90 in sales for the Travelling Book Fair.

Thank you to everyone who bought books and stationery as we receive a percentage of the sales back to buy books for our school library.

We received a lovely email from one of our parents which we would like to share with you all ....

“Hi Mrs Hart,

Hope you are well. This is just a quick email to say thank you to the school for running your book fayre. To be honest it isn't something that I have really paid much attention to in the past. However, my child has had so much fun spending some pocket money that has been burning a hole in his pocket all year!

I only realised when he came home with his goodies that he hasn't actually been in a shop since March. He hasn't had the chance to choose or spend a few of his own pounds. I hadn't really thought of this as an issue but he has really enjoyed it. I think he went every day!

So thanks - I know it's a small thing but it really made his week which in turn made mine”.

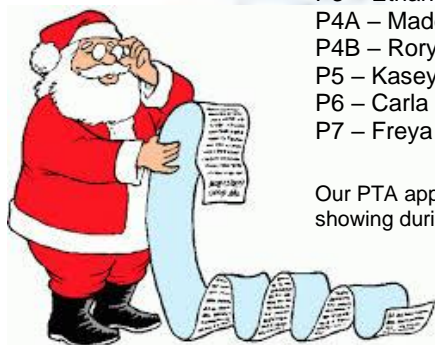
In this time of lockdown and social distancing it seems that it's the simple things in life the children are missing!



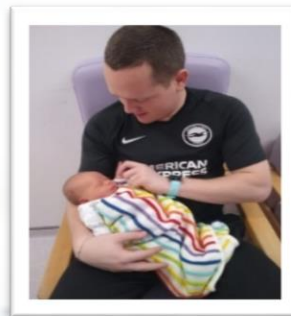
The PTA ran a competition just for the pupils this year. They are asking the children to guess the number of sweets in the jar. Each guess costs 30p with all proceeds going to the PTA.

Each class had a jar filled with sweets so each class would have a winner. The lucky winners were picked on Tuesday 15th December and the winners were...

- P1 – George Cassidy
- P2 – Gregor Perrie
- P3 – Ethan McDonald
- P4A – Maddison Rankin
- P4B – Rory McCall
- P5 – Kasey Cunningham
- P6 – Carla Young
- P7 – Freya McLeod



Our PTA appreciate all the support everyone is showing during this difficult time.




Recently we have welcomed not 1 ... but **2** new members to the Thorn Team.

The beautiful Baby MacLeod was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October followed by handsome Baby Barrett on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Both families are looking forward to spending their 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas at home with their new family.



  
 Thorn Website  
<https://blogs.glow.scotland.org.uk/re/thorn/>

  
[www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)  
 ParentPay School Shop:  
[https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Unifor/Default.aspx?shopid=875&fbclid=](https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=875&fbclid=)

  
 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

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

email us at: [thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

New dates from last month in red

Date	Event/Time	Notes
18.12.20	Early Finish	School closes at 2.30pm due to Christmas Holidays
19.12.20 – 05.01.21	Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. Christmas Holidays
06.01.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
08.02.21-09.01.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff February holiday
10.01.21	Inservice Day	School closed for pupils for Staff training.
11.01.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
01.04.21	Early Finish	School closes at 2.30pm due to Easter Holidays
02.04.21-18.04.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. Easter Holiday
19.04.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
03.05.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff 1 <sup>st</sup> May bank holiday
04.05.21	Inservice Day	School closed for pupils for Staff training.
05.05.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
31.05.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff 2 <sup>nd</sup> May bank holiday
01.06.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
25.06.21	Early Finish	School closes at 1pm due to Summer Holidays

Achievement Notification, please return to the School Office:

Child's Name:

Child's Class:

Child's Achievement:

