



Starting School



Thorn Primary School

**Thorn Brae
Johnstone
PA5 8HE**

Tel: 0300 300 0189

Email address: thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

School Website - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/thorn/>

Twitter - @ThornPriSch

MySchoolApp - download app from Apple/Google store - Thorn Primary School



Welcome to Primary 1



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
Depute 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 numbers
- 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 Vision, Values and Aims



School Vision:

Believe to Achieve

At Thorn our Values help us do the **REST**:

Respect **E**quity **S**uccess **T**eamwork

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 support staff.

Primary 1 currently has their own area for playing.
This helps to keep the accident rate down.



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.

Snacks



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



Absence / Late Coming



If your child is going to be absent, we would ask you to telephone the school office after 8.50 a.m.

A message will be passed onto the class teacher. If your child is absent and we have not received any notification, the school will telephone/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 9am that you take 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 give your child a note to hand to the teacher or leave a note with our clerical staff or wait until 3.00 p.m. By following this system it will allow the staff to undertake their teaching duties and ensure the safety of all pupils in the classroom. You may also make an appointment to meet with our management team if you have any concerns/questions.



Medicine

A form has to be completed to allow support staff to administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor or pharmacist. This can be obtained from our school office and found on our school website.



Seesaw App

At Thorn Primary School we use Seesaw to record and share what is happening in the classroom. It allows each pupil a place to document their learning.

Parking



Only staff and authorised vehicles are allowed into the 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 and Chromebooks for pupils to use.

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 (Thorn Primary School Johnstone Parents Group).



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 their coat peg.

No earrings to be worn at P.E. If unable to remove they must be covered with plasters.

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

Change of shoes for outdoors - wellingtons would also be helpful.



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 available. Pupils will select their lunch choice in the morning upon entry into the classroom.

Packed Lunches: Children will eat their lunch in the lunch hall

The pupils are assisted by support & catering staff.

ParentPay

Our school office is now a cashless office. Payments for meals, snacks and trips will be made through our online payment system ParentPay.



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 packs with a unique username and password will be issued within the first week of school. This will include full instructions on how to set up your account/add a child to your account. If you need any help setting up your account our Office Staff will be happy to help.



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. Our Lost Property is stored near our school office.

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.

Apply online for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants for 2021/22

In June 2021 you will be to apply for free school meals and a clothing grant if you are a parent or guardian of a child and are in receipt of particular benefits.

P1-P3 pupils are all entitled to Free School Meals but you may still be entitled to apply for a Clothing Grant.

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants#eligible>



Throughout the session we provide information for parents on many aspects of school life.

These include reading, writing, numeracy and health and wellbeing.



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 Seesaw to the class teacher.



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



Through stories, assemblies and discussion the pupils are introduced to our School Values and our School Rules.

Be Ready!

Be Safe!

Be Respectful!

Nurturing positive relationships is the collective responsibility of all pupils, parents and staff.



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 receives an award - Come As You Please Day (own clothes can be worn).



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.

School Website - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/thorn/>

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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

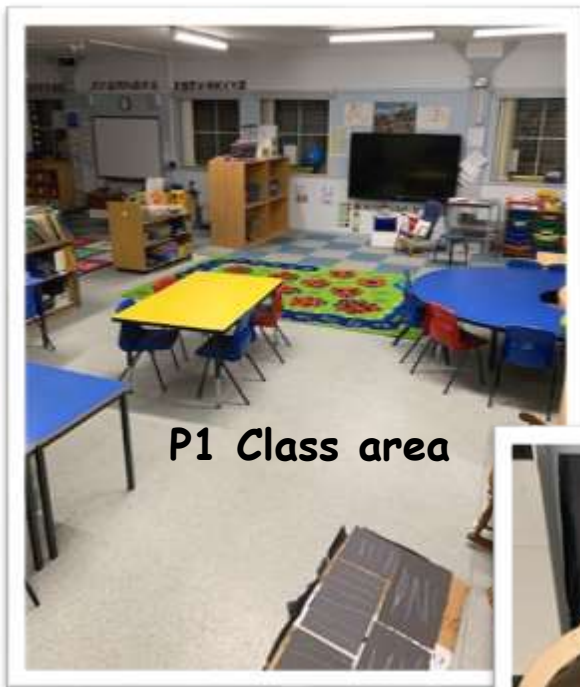
Starting school is an anxious time for all children. Having fun and playing with your child helps to alleviate some of the anxiety, and plays helps children to manage new situations and develop social skills.

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.



P1 Class area



Teaching Table



Imagination Station



Role play



**Target Table
working area**



Quiet Area



Construction Zone



Target Board



Literacy Trolley



Group Space



Numeracy Trolley



IT Station



Gathering Space 1



Gathering Space 2



Cloakroom



Smartboard



Lunch hall



Toilet Area 1



Toilet Area 2



Gymhall



...a fun place to
play and learn!





IMPORTANT DATES

Term 1 - 2021

InService Day	Thursday 12 th August 2021	Pupils do not attend
InService Day	Friday 13 th August 2021	Pupils do not attend
<u>1ST DAY OF TERM</u>	Monday 16th August 2021	
September Weekend Break	Friday 24th-Monday 27th 2021	
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 28th Sept 2021	
October Break	Monday 11th October - Friday 15th October 2021 (inclusive)	
InService Day	Monday 18 th October 2021	Pupils do not attend
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 19th October 2021	
St. Andrew's Day School closed	Tuesday 30th November 2021	
Pupils Restart	Wednesday 1st December 2021	
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 23rd December 2021- Wednesday 5th January 2022 (inclusive)	



Term 2 - 2021

Pupils Restart	Thursday 6th January 2022	
Mid Term Break	Monday 14th February and Tuesday 15th February 2022 (inclusive)	
In-service Day	Wednesday 16th February 2022	Pupils do not attend
Pupils Restart	Thursday 17th February 2022	
Spring Holiday	Monday 4th April 2022 - Monday 18th April 2022 (inclusive)	

Term 3 - 2021

Pupils Restart	Tuesday 19th April 2022	
May Day Holiday	Monday 2nd May 2022	
Pupils Restart	Tuesday 2nd May 2022	
In-service Day	Thursday 6th May 2022	Pupils do not attend
Pupils Restart	Friday 7th May 2022	
End May Local Holiday	Dates to be confirmed	
Pupils restart	Tuesday 31st May 2022	
<u>LAST DAY OF SESSION</u>	Wednesday 29th June 2022	Close at 1pm