



# Thorn Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



We have had a fantastic return to school since August. The children all returned looking so smart in their formal school uniforms, thank you for your support with this. A couple of uniform discrepancies I have noted from my observations and therefore wish to clarify:

- Summer dresses should be blue check
- Grey tartan is not part of our uniform

Please remember this when purchasing future items.

All the classes have settled well with their new teachers and you have the chance to meet the teachers on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September online. We will alert you separately regarding the precise details of this event.

You will be aware from our 'Warn and Inform' letter that we have had positive COVID cases in the school. We are following all national and authority guidance in relation to letting you know about these. I appreciate it is quite different to last year as the definition for 'close contact' has changed and all contact tracing is done by Track and Trace without our involvement (unless they contact us directly). I am also aware the guidance on when children need to isolate is evolving. At the point of writing if there is a case in your home you should arrange PCR testing and upon a negative result the children can return to school.

Please note that adults should still be following all COVID protection procedure as per last year. Masks must be worn at drop off and pick up and you must stick to your allocated time slots, these are noted within the newsletter.

We are delighted to be able to begin to look forward and continue to improve our school to be the best we can be at any given time. As a result of our consultation with you (Parental Questionnaire), children, staff and other stakeholders our identified priorities this session, which we like you to be aware of, are:

- Introducing a new tool to help us assess, react and track our children's well being
- Improving attainment for some children, which was affected by COVID complications, by providing extra support in literacy and numeracy
- Developing our outdoor and community learning and our outdoor learning environment
- Offering Parental Engagement opportunities within health and safety guidance
- Focusing on our curriculum progression and assessment
- Collaborating with colleagues on small tests of change to further enhance our teaching and learning

Here's to another great session working together to achieve all we can for our Thorn pupils, staff and families.

Mrs Hart



Thorn Website

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



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

ParentPay Shop:

<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

# “Thornlie Bear”

welcoming the pupils to school



“Thornlie Bear”  
welcoming his creator Rory McCall in P5  
back to school

# WELCOME TO PRIMARY ONE!



# Our new P1 pupils are settling in nicely.....



# RESPECT

## OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Vision:

Believe to Achieve

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

**R**espect **E**quity **S**uccess **T**eamwork

Our Aims help us to be our **BEST**:

**B**uild respectful, nurturing relationships and partnerships that help us feel happy, be safe and achieve success.

**E**ncourage one another to be aspirational in our learning and personal development and celebrate our achievements.

**S**upport 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.

**T**o create an environment for learning that is the best it can possibly be.

School Rules: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful

Parents are a significant part of our community and the first educators of their children. We would encourage you to promote our school vision, values and aims at home and that you model these for your child particularly in relation to anything to do with school. Here are some suggestions as to how our values may apply to parents:

Respect:

- in interactions with staff, parents, pupils and wider community .
- for our rules and systems e.g. drop off/pick up, cars stopping at school gates
- for our reputation e.g. use of social media, talking to school if any issues arrive

Equity:

- sticking to our uniform policy
- applying for free school meals and clothing grants if entitled
- understanding that all children are different and require unique supports
- engaging with school on any barriers to your child's education/success

Success:

- Share your child's achievements from outside school with us
- Share your own achievements, be proud!
- Encourage your child to engage with homework
- Feedback positives to us about our school

Teamwork:

- Read communication from the school, it helps us work together to give the best service to our children and families
- Participate in surveys and information gathering about how we can continue to improve our school together





## EQUITY

We receive funding each year from the Scottish Government to help us overcome any barriers children may have to their attainment and achievement. We consult you throughout the year in various ways to ensure we consider your views on how this money should be spent in Thorn Primary. We are pleased to be able to continue to employ Mrs Wilson, Miss Easdon, Mrs McKay, Mrs Ritchie to help support the children's learning. We are also using this money to continue to have access to our online resources: the spelling programme IDL, the reading programme Reading Eggs and the numeracy and mathematics programme Sumdog and Maths Seeds.

Our entitlement to funds and support is linked to our identified needs. To help us I would like to encourage you to apply for Free School Meals and School Clothing grants if you are eligible. We are aware that P1-3 automatically get free school lunches but we would still benefit if you applied so that your entitlement is considered in any analysis of the school profile. We are more than happy to assist you with this process if required, please just ask at the school office if you would like support.

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



### Sumdog

A personalised programme that adapts and challenges pupils in all aspects of numeracy & mathematics.



### **Reading Eggs P1-3 & Reading Eggspress** Available for selected P4-5

Reading Eggs/Eggspress allows pupils to learn literacy skills through games and songs while collecting golden eggs for their successes.



P5 have been using our online resources to help their learning. We pay for these from our Pupil Equity Fund.



### IDL

A multi-sensory programme which supports pupils literacy skills. Pupils practice reading and spelling skills at their own ability level.



# Success

Our Senior pupils have a number of whole school leadership roles for which they have to apply and/or be elected to fulfil. Congratulations to this years elected House Captains on being successful after some stiff competition from your peers.

## House Captains

### MILLIKEN



Corey Geddes & Lacey Tennant

### NAPIER



Lewis Tennant & Carla Young

### WALLACE



Luke Addison & Matthew McCann

### HOUSTON



Holly Hamilton & Nicole Young



# Successes

Some of our pupils have already been sharing there successes with us, have a look below... we are proud of them all for how hard they work and the positive attitudes they display.



Look how much and how well Beth can write!  
#Success



This is Emily's, in P2/1, terrific sunflower she displayed  
#Respect by caring for it and helping it grow.

"Grow a little Sunshine"  
**RAMH**  
recovery across mental health



Owen grew a whole year older and his class friends celebrated with him  
#Teamwork



A great example, from P6, of the need to keep trying to get better and achieve  
#Success



Learning mathematical skills in real life contexts in P5/4  
#Success



Meet the newest member of the P7 team-Poppy!

#Teamwork





OUR  
"SEEDS OF HOPE"



WALL

A Morrisons Community Champion described what she wanted from Seeds of Hope 'Everyone is emerging from lockdown in different ways and I wanted to give my customers fresh hope and food for the heart by putting smiles on as many faces as possible.' We have received some fantastic photographs from our pupils showing off their sunflowers. Thank you to our pupils and families for their photographs.



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)

# Teamwork

Together we can do our best to minimize the risk of our pupils, parents and staff contracting Covid-19. For the most up to date information visit [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

## How to avoid catching coronavirus

You can reduce your risk of getting and spreading the infection by:

- avoiding direct hand contact with your eyes, nose and mouth
- maintaining good hand hygiene
- avoiding direct contact with people that have a respiratory illness and avoiding using their personal items such as their mobile phone
- covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with disposable tissues and disposing of them in the nearest waste bin after use
- following the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#) and [arranging to be tested](#) if someone in your household has symptoms
- making sure everyone in your household follows the [Scottish Government's coronavirus advice](#) as much as possible and to stay away from other people
- making sure your household follows the [physical distancing advice](#), especially anyone in a vulnerable group

## Symptoms of coronavirus

The most common symptoms are new:

- continuous cough
  - fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater)
  - loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)
- A new continuous cough is where you:
- have a new cough that's lasted for an hour
  - have had 3 or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours
  - are coughing more than usual

A high temperature is feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back (you don't need to measure your temperature). You may feel warm, cold or shivery.

## If you have coronavirus symptoms

If you've developed symptoms (however mild), stay at home for 10 days from the start of your symptoms and **arrange to be tested**. Do not go to your GP, pharmacy or hospital.

You should remain at home until you get the result of the test, and then follow the advice you will be given based on the result.

## When to get help

Only phone 111 if:

- your symptoms worsen during home isolation, especially if you're in a high or extremely high-risk group
- breathlessness develops or worsens, particularly if you're in a high or extremely high-risk group
- your symptoms haven't improved in 10 days

If you have a medical emergency, phone 999 and tell them you have coronavirus symptoms.

## Do the people I live with need to take any action?

If you live with other people and have symptoms, they'll need to stay at home for 14 days from the start of your symptoms even if they don't have symptoms themselves.

If they develop symptoms within the 14 days, they need to stay at home for 10 days from the day their symptoms started and arrange to be tested. They should do this even if it takes them over the 14-day isolation period.

Your whole household should follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.



## Arrival

Children with surnames A-L should arrive between 8:50am and 8:55am.

Children with surnames M-Z should arrive between 9:00am and 9:05am.

The children will go straight into their classroom. They will not wait in the playground or line up.

## End of day

Children with surnames A-L will finish school at 2:50pm.

Children with surnames M-Z will finish school at 3:00pm.

\*If two siblings have different surnames, one A-L and one M-Z, please follow guidance for A-L and inform the new class teachers.

**P1-3 to be collected from outside their classroom door**  
**P4 to be collected from the garden area.**

**PLEASE ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES**





If you have not done it already so can you please sign up for ParentPay.

People who still need to activate their account have been contacted and Activation codes and instructions on how to set this up have been provided to the relevant children. If you need duplicate copies please contact the school office on 0300 300 0189.

As we are a cashless school we cannot accept money.

ParentPay is used for collecting money for school trips, consent forms for trips. We have many fundraising events along with our Bookfairs and Christmas Card and mug orders via the Thorn shop.

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

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## FEEDBACK

### Your Feedback Matters To Us!



From time to time we send out Parent and Pupil Surveys to complete, this allows us to gather valuable information and allows you to notify us of any concerns and provide feedback on how we are performing.

We would appreciate if everyone can complete these as and when they are published.

While we love our open door policy we can only allow parents into the school if they have made an appointment. **For anyone arriving without an appointment please speak to office staff via the window or by calling 0300 300 0189 or by email: [thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:thornenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)**

**Mrs Hart and Miss Lawson try to be available outside at drop off and pick up and are happy to chat then too, if it is appropriate.**



We are very happy to announce that we have a new addition to the "Thorn Team" this year.

**Mrs Donaldson** is our new Probationary Teacher this year, she will be working alongside Miss Lawson in P4/5.

Sadly we say goodbye for a short time to **Mr Barrett** who was successful in gaining a secondment as a Numeracy Coaching and Modelling Officer supporting schools across Renfrewshire Council.

New dates from last month in red

Date	Event/Time	Notes
08.09.21	Meet the Teacher event 3.30pm	Letter and Instruction guide on how to access sent on Seesaw/by email.
24.09.21 – 27.09.21	Holiday	School closed Friday and Monday for September weekend.
28.09.21	School reopens	School reopens 9am following holiday
05.10.21	Flu Immunisation	NHS will visit school for Flu immunization for Staff and pupils who have returned the permission form.
11.10.21 – 17.10.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. October week.
18.10.21	Inservice Day	School closed for pupils for Staff training.
19.10.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
10.11.21	Book Fayre	Our book fayre arrives for one week. Children can buy during school time or order on-line between 10.11.21 and 16.11.21. The school receive a percentage of sales to boost our library in school.
30.11.21	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. St Andrews Day
01.12.21	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
17.12.21	Panto	Hopscotch Theatre Panto in school
22.12.21	Early Finish	School closes at 2.30pm due to Christmas Holidays
23.12.21 – 05.01.22	Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. Christmas Holidays
06.01.22	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
14.02.22-15.02.22	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff February holiday
16.02.22	Inservice Day	School closed for pupils for Staff training.
17.02.22	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday
23.03.22	Book Fayre	Our book fayre arrives for one week. Children can buy during school time or order on line between 23.03.22 and 29.03.22. The school receive a percentage of sales to boost our library in school.
01.04.22	Early Finish	School closes at 2.30pm due to Easter Holidays
04.04.22-17.04.22	School Holiday	School closed for both Pupils and staff. Easter Holiday
18.04.22	School reopens	School reopens for both Staff and Pupils at 9am following holiday

Achievement Notification, please return to the School Office:

Child's Name:

Child's Class:

Child's Achievement: