

Townhill PS News

November 2021



School Motto: **T**ogether we **P**romote **S**uccess for all as EVERY child matters and every moment counts.

As we enter the remaining few weeks of school before the Christmas holidays we are busy, busy, busy! A reminder that as the weather starts to decline children should come to school dressed in layers, with sensible footwear and a warm jacket. Please remember our 'Rake and Take' rail is full of nearly new, recently laundered jackets and other essential items so please come along and help yourself! Our Christmas rail will be available in the bubble from Wednesday 1st December and contains jumpers, t-shirts and other party/dressy items.

We continue to ensure Government guidelines are being followed and mitigations outlined in previously remain in place at school to ensure the safety and well-being of the staff and children. We continue to look out for updates and changes and these will be shared with you as and when they come in to play. This does mean that the majority of the Gym Hall remains out of bounds as it is being used as a staffroom. Children will continue to enjoy outdoor gym, where the weather allows, but do have a slot booked within our lunch hall and remaining gym hall space. It is helpful if children continue to come prepared to have their lesson outdoors.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Mrs Ally McGovern
Head Teacher



Our school vision:

Together at Townhill we **n**urture, **e**ncourage and **i**nspire the development of **s**kills for **l**ifelong learning and **s**uccess. We embrace **e**quality and **d**iversity to promote a **h**appy and **h**ealthy life.

Our school website:

www.townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Please follow us on
 Twitter:
@townhillps

We now have 588 followers!

Please continue to look after yourselves and your families. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school or by emailing one of the addresses below:

office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Office email



headteacher@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Mrs McGovern's email

gw20townhilldht@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Love's email

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Star of the Week



Enjoying Star of the Week in November have been:

Room 1: Gracie Compton, Cian Lyons

Room 8: Rocco Poli, Erin McCafferty



Room 2: Carsen Blue, Megan Hemphill

Room 9: Rocco Cowie, Nathan Pitt, Ava Donohoe

Room 3: Cole Hay, Arianna Gardiner

Room 10: Codey McCall, Jack Nelson, Grace Leishman

Room 4: Gregor Johnstone, Sam Clarkson

Room 11: Emily Read, Jaydon Kimm, Aariz Siddiqui
Aaron Humphreys

Room 5: Brennan Logie, Ion Millar

Room 13: Harlee Wilkie, Aidan Allan, Liam Edwards
Jack Montgomery

Room 6: Annabelle Queen, Harris Brown

Room 14: Eva Daly, Rhys Budd, Ruaridh Agnew,
Emma Wilson, Vince Cunningham

We hope you are enjoying our new certificates at home! As promised we are working through the previous Stars to give them one too!

Christmas preparations are underway at school and we look forward to sharing both our infant and senior nativities again this year via a secure, password protected online link. This year we are having our performances filmed (by a very talented parent) and cannot wait to share both shows with you! Staff are also gearing up for another Lip Sync extravaganza.... Watch this space!!

Our amazing school choir have also reached the top 10 in the Regent Shopping centre competition. We need your votes and support now to get us to the number 1 position and the chance of winning £500 for the school. Please follow the link below and record your vote and share this with friends and family too! The choir will be performing on Monday 6th December at 11am inside the shopping centre, please pop along and support us if you can!

www.theregentcentre.com



School Choir Competition
We are in the top 10
Voting Starts - 26th November
Till 10th December 2021
VOTE NOW AT:
REGENTSHOPPINGCENTRE.COM

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Parking

Unfortunately, parking continues to be a serious issue outside our school and at our recent TPTT meeting we have agreed to invite our local councillors to the next meeting in order to explore the parking issues further. We are also seeking a presence at the start and end of the day from our community police.



We urge all parents to ensure they embrace our safety guidelines and share this with grandparents/aunts/uncles etc. that might be collecting the children. **It is everyone's responsibility to keep our children and families safe.**

Please ensure you park safely in order to be able to get out of your car and ensure your child is safely on the correct side of the road to get to the playground gates.

A reminder also that the school car park should not be used to park and then walk up the lane to collect your child, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the school. The entrance to the school, including inside the gates, **must** be kept clear in the event of emergency vehicles requiring access to the grounds. Unfortunately last week there were cars parking just inside the gates- please park outwith the school grounds in a safe place.

WORKING TOGETHER...

Parental partnership is very important to us in Townhill and we work very hard to build positive relationships with all our parents/carers, in order that we can work together to support all our children to reach their potential and feel happy and safe in school. To reiterate our focus on these relationships our Parental engagement and Involvement Policy is attached with this newsletter. Please have a read at this.

We are here to help so, in the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher via the main school office with any queries or concerns. Please refrain from approaching staff at the end of the day as we aim to have a quick clearance of the playground to adhere to guidance around adults and social distancing. I would ask that in all instances you contact the school directly and avoid posting your concerns on social media, as in our experience, many worries can be easily resolved with a quick conversation.

Should you feel that more support is required you may wish to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In order that we can resolve any issues as quickly as possible our Leadership Team have pastoral responsibility for different stages within the school.

Rooms 1-4 Mrs Lorna Love

Room 5-8 Miss Jennifer Neilly/Mrs Siobhan Kennedy

Rooms 9-14 Mrs Ally McGovern

However, if you would prefer to speak directly with me, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment or telephone conversation. Alternatively use any of the email addresses at the beginning of the newsletter to contact us.

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Uniform.

Uniform, as outlined in previous communication is expected for **all** Townhill pupils. Our uniform is navy/grey trousers/skirt/pinafore and a white shirt and tie. Navy/grey jumpers/cardigans etc. can also be worn and these can be plain or have our school badge on them. Due to current COVID-19 guidance we ask that **all uniform** is washed regularly including **school ties**.

PE.

The reopening of the changing facilities means children no longer need to arrive in school dressed down in sports wear for the day. Children can wear a polo shirt and have their shorts on under their school bottoms/skirt or access space to change. Gym kit should remain navy on the bottom and white on the top and **strictly no football strips**. As always jewellery should be removed as a safety precaution. Due to guidance from the Scottish Government indoor PE sessions can resume however for the most part they will still take place outdoors with the exception of inclement weather. Please ensure your child has a warm jumper, a waterproof jacket, and sensible shoes. A reminder of PE days below.

<u>Room 1</u>	Wednesday	Thursday
<u>Room 2</u>	Tuesday	Thursday
<u>Room 3</u>	Monday	Friday
<u>Room 4</u>	Monday	Thursday
<u>Room 5</u>	Wednesday	Friday
<u>Room 6</u>	Tuesday	Thursday
<u>Room 8</u>	Tuesday	Wednesday
<u>Room 9</u>	Monday	Thursday
<u>Room 10</u>	Tuesday	Wednesday
<u>Room 11</u>	Wednesday	Monday
<u>Room 13</u>	Thursday	Friday
<u>Room 14</u>	Wednesday	Friday



ALLERGY INFORMATION There are members of our school community who have severe allergies to some food items, therefore the following are not allowed in school:

- peanuts or products which may contain peanuts
- tree nuts – such as walnuts, brazil nuts, almonds and hazelnuts etc.

*** Please note that this includes most chocolate spreads, Nutella products and Kinder Bueno. I would urge all parents/carers to bear this in mind when providing your child with snack and/or packed lunches. Thank you for your support with this. This applies to all pupils, staff and visitors.**



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COVID-19

If your child develops any of the recognised symptoms of COVID-19 then they should not attend school and you should arrange to have a test.

The symptoms are:

- ✓ a fever or high temperature
- ✓ a new, continuous cough
- ✓ a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

We appreciate your understanding in keeping the school as safe as possible. Should your child become unwell at school then they will be isolated within a designated safe space in school until the arrival of an adult to collect them.

Attendance at school

If your child is well and able then they should attend school every day. Regular school attendance is essential for all of our children to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life. Our whole school attendance target is 95%. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and the school to achieve this. **There are 190 school days across the school year, leaving 175 days to book holidays and attend non urgent appointments.**

Days off school add up to lost learning					
190 days of education each year	10 days absence 180 days of education	4 weeks absence 171 days of education	5 1/2 weeks absence 161 days of education	7 1/2 weeks absence 152 days of education	9 1/2 weeks absence 141 days of education
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	

We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment. This year Miss Neilly and I will be working closely to ensure attendance is high at Townhill PS. Some families may have already begun to receive our attendance letters, these are being issued in line with SLC policy and will hopefully instigate positive conversations about your child's attendance at school. Please remember we are here to help.

MOBILE PHONES

Pupils are discouraged from bringing any mobile devices, including phones, to school however, if they require them for after school, **they must be switched off and in school bags at all times.**

Scooters/bikes in school

Many of our children cycle or scoot to school and we can now encourage this. Anyone bringing a bike to school should make sure they wear a suitable helmet and reflective clothing and must get off their bike in the playground and push it to the bike shelter. **The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes/scooters while on school property.**



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The Townhill Parent and Teacher Team- The TPT- TEAM=Together

Everyone Achieves More!

Helen Agnew, Chair of the TPT Team has a new email and can be contacted on:

Townhill.ptt.chair@gmail.com



'Fling it in Friday' has been and gone, and once again we are blown away with the generous donations we received from our families. These have already been beautifully packaged and raffle numbers, £1 each, are on sale now! All children should've received an order form, if not please contact the school office and we can sort you out!

We have been in contact with SLC over our proposed changes to the sandpit area in the playground. Unfortunately due to insurance cover we need to await further advice from the school grounds team. This is disappointing for everyone but ultimately we want and need a safe playground for our children.

Our next meeting will be **23rd February at 7pm**. We would love to see as many faces as possible and given that it will still be online please feel free to pop on and see what we do.

If you are interested in coming along to the meeting then please drop Helen an email, we would love to have you on board.

Christmas Fun Day

We will have a Christmas Fun Day on Friday 17th December! Children are welcome to dress up, dress down, wear a Christmas jumper etc. The children will take part in lots of fun activities, games and enjoy a Christmas Movie! We cannot wait!

A reminder of our Christmas Gift stance is attached with the Newsletter too.

Please ensure you top up funds regularly if your child pays for their school meal. This will stop debts being incurred. Over the last few weeks we have sent out letters regarding dinner debts that have continued to grow. Please ensure that if your children pays for their meals that their account is up to date in order to ensure they can continue to order food. If there is anything we can do to help then please contact us.



Please ensure that milk is ordered via ParentPay should your child wish to have this with their lunch. Milk is ordered as a separate item which needs to be selected in the drop down menu. Please note that only children in receipt of a free meal do not need to pay for milk. This is not extended to free meals given to all children in P1-4. A reminder that free meals will be rolled out to all P5 children from January 2022.

98% of parents have activated their ParentPay account! Wow! Thank you for supporting this. There are still some accounts across the school not yet activated. We'd love to get it to 100% as this will be the way we will communicate letters, Newsletters etc. so even if your child doesn't pay for meals or milk please activate it to register the email address. If you are having difficulty with this then please call the school office and we can talk you through this process.

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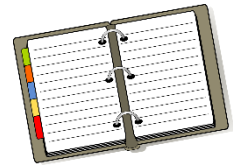


Upcoming Diary Dates

Inset Days

4- Wednesday 16th February 2022

5- Thursday 5th May 2022



There has been a change in holiday due to the Queen's Jubilee as highlighted below.

Holidays

Christmas Close on Wed, 22nd December – re-open on Wed, 5th January '22

February Break Mon, 14th and Tue, 15th February '22

Spring Break Close on Fri, 1st April – Reopen on Tue, 19th April '22

May Holiday Mon, 2nd May '22

Local Holiday Fri, 27th May 22, Thursday 2nd June 22 and Friday 3rd June 22.

Summer School closes at 1pm on Fri, 24th June 2022

Diary Dates

Christmas Lunch Tuesday 14th December



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