

Townhill PS News

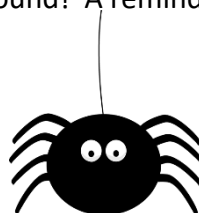
October 2021



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

We end a very busy October with our 'Halloween Day' and look forward to seeing our youngsters dressed up and hopefully, weather permitting, we can have a socially distanced parade in the playground! A reminder that we are **actively discouraging** the following:

- Masks
- Face paint
- Costume props
- Any outfit associated with Squid Game



We continue to ensure Government guidelines are being followed and mitigations outlined in August 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 571 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

Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



Star of the Week



Enjoying Star of the Week in October have been:

Room 1: Charlie Sim, Blaire Pitt

Room 8: Zoe Sim, Chloe Savage

Room 2: Owen Igbinoia, Addison Hughes

Room 9: Alex Beebe, Logan Drummond



Room 3: Ben Calderwood, Allan Wilkie

Room 10: Melissa Quigley, Sebastian Trainer

Room 4: Callie Bialoglowski- Mark, Erin Borden

Room 11: Devyn Kerr, Nathan Murray, Katie Ferguson
Alexis Robertson

Room 5: Ella Grant, Erica Robertson

Room 13: Liam Edwards, Billie Dick, Finlay Nicolson

Room 6: Fraser Read, Bethany Carlyle

Room 14: Jessica Hogg, Payton O'Donnell, Evie Magilton

Our House Captains and Vice Captains have been busy creating a new Star of the Week certificate which is in the final stages of preparation! It will also include a QR code to scan at home which will take you to a recording of the announcement! As soon as the certificates are ready we will back date to ensure all children this session get the new one!

From Monday 1st November the P7 Captains will be selling the Remembrance Poppies. A reminder the suggested donation per poppy is 20p.



Following on from the great success of our in person and virtual Breakfast Blethers we will be holding another one! On Friday 19th November at 9:30am Mrs Love and Mrs Carrigan (Educational Psychologist) will run a repeat of our Blether on Anxiety. The last session was well attended and greatly received so please come along and join us, more information will come out nearer the time with joining instructions etc.

We also plan to offer different Breakfast Blethers for parents in to the New Year and hopefully some interactive sessions with our senior pupils.

Watch this space!



Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



Parking

Unfortunately, parking continues to be a serious issue outside our school. Our school is situated in a highly populated residential area and this can make it difficult to find a space as near to the school as you would like, however, the safety of all our pupils must be paramount.

There continues to be a high level of parental concern raised about parking around the school for drop off and collection. This week there has been a particularly distressing incident where a child and car were very nearly hit. We would encourage anyone facing these types of incidents to report their concerns to 101. There continues to be concern regarding parking on the opposite side of the road from the direction the car is facing. This means that children are crossing roads with cars moving in opposite directions and at times between vehicles. 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.

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.

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.



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.**



Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



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.

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.**

Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



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



Our Townhill Parent and Teacher Team have been busy being creative in ways we can fund raise whilst being mindful of the financial pressures on families and the cost of the school day. Currently the TPTT plan to have a 'Guess the Sloth's Birthday' raffle, £1 per guess where the winner (x2) will win a large Sloth to take home! This will start on Monday 1st November and our Vic Captains will go around the classes each day of the week with their diaries filling in the guesses and collecting the £1 fee. Make sure the children come with a few days in mind incase the day they want to guess is already taken!

Our annual Hamper raffle will also go ahead this session with 'Fling it in Friday' being organised for Friday 26th November. More details will come soon.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday 17th November 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.



ParentPay

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.

97 % 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.



Breakfast Club



Breakfast club has continued to run starting at 8:15am every morning. We are pleased to report healthy attendance and our children seem to be enjoying their Bookie breakfast with our mobile library unit!

- **Breakfast Club will start at 8:15am with children being dismissed at 8:45am/when there is playground supervision in place.**

There is no charge for this and children will be offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk.

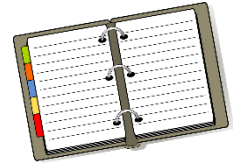
Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



Upcoming Diary Dates

Inset Days

- 3- Monday 15th November 2021
- 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

October Week	Mon, 11 th – Fri, 15 th October '21
Christmas	Close on Wed, 22 nd December – re-open on Wed, 5 th January '22
February Break	Mon, 14 th and Tue, 15 th February '22
Spring Break	Close on Fri, 1 st April – Reopen on Tue, 19 th April '22
May Holiday	Mon, 2 nd May '22
Local Holiday	Fri, 27th May 22, Thursday 2nd June 22 and Friday 3rd June 22.
Summer	School closes at 1pm on Fri, 24 th June 2022

Parents' Evenings

Our first Parents' Evenings of the session are underway and going really well! Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding these.

Diary Dates

Christmas Lunch TBC

All Christmas party dates will be confirmed if we receive updated guidance advising on whether these need to be in classes or cohorts.



Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient



Responsible Respectful Ambitious Independent Resilient

