

Townhill PS News

September 2021



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

My first Newsletter as substantive Head Teacher! I am delighted to have been appointed permanently to the school and very much look forward to our continued journey together to ensure the very best outcomes for our pupils. Thank you for all the supportive messages and emails and for your continued partnership. #teamtownhill

We are fast approaching October and cooler, wetter weather so please ensure your child is coming to school with sensible footwear and a warm, waterproof jacket.

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. A recent change to protocol from NHS Scotland is the identification of 'low risk' contacts in school. If your child is deemed to have been a low risk contact to someone who has tested positive for Covid 19 then a separate letter will be issued to your email. All other guidelines remain as are. In line with this change we will continue to update our Risk Assessments/procedures and will keep you informed of any changes via our website and Twitter.

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 557 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



Thank you so much to each and every parent that took the time to complete our Star of the Week consultation Google Form. Your input is always greatly appreciated and we will use this to ensure our celebration of achievement and attainment is equitable and appropriate.

Analysis of returns from parents, staff and children gave the following results:

- Parents- 75% of parents feel our current 'Star of the Week' programme is a good fair way to celebrate achievement.
- P1-5- 91.2% of children in P1-3 like Star of the week and felt it was a good way to celebrate their hard work.
- P6-7- 97.3% of children in P4-7 like Star of the Week and recognise it is an important part of assembly that they enjoy.
- Staff- 100% of staff feel that Star of the Week is an equitable way to recognise achievement for each and every child over the course of the session.

All stakeholder groups recognised the many positives of Star of the Week-

- It's good for your confidence
- Makes you proud
- It's very exciting for me and my friends
- I like that the whole school knows I have worked hard
- I like congratulating people that get it
- Everyone claps for you
- It's a well-rounded approach
- As all children get a turn it is clear individual achievement is looked for and it is given not just because it is their turn but because it is deserved at that time
- It helps children learn to celebrate the success of others
- It is something to strive for each and every child, regardless of their academic abilities as very often achievement is recognised in terms of actions/behaviours
- No one is left out

Some helpful comments on 'Star of the Week'-

- This is a great system that works well and fits with the great school ethos
- Laminate the certificates- then we can keep them forever
- Design a new certificate
- Allowing pupils a voice when choosing Star of the Week- a pupil nominated Star
- Sharing our 'Stars' on Twitter for all to see
- No improvement required- it works well and ensures all children get an opportunity to be a 'Star'
- Gold stickers would be good!

Star of the Week will therefore resume from 1st October and we will send out a more detailed overview of stakeholder feedback and also of what other ways achievement is celebrated in each class. Our newly appointed House Captains and vice Captains are in the process of designing a new and improved certificate and so when this is ready all children who have already been rewarded will get a new certificate too. We are also trialling QR codes on our new certificate so that when scanned at home you will hear the reason why your child has been awarded Star of the Week.



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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 have been some parental concerns raised about parking for drop off and collection, at times 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. Please be mindful of this and 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.

We also fully support the SLC engine idling campaign. Please ensure if you are parked that your car engine is off. I thank you for your continued support in this area.



A gentle reminder that the school carpark is for staff and visiting specialists only, please make alternative arrangements when dropping off and collecting your child.

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.

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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 joggers and a t-shirt 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.

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.**



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 had a very successful year in 2020-2021. In order to continue moving the development of the school grounds on we are seeking some labour support, possibly over the October holiday to start the removal of the sandpit. If this is something you could lend some muscle to then please contact either Helen above or speak with Lyndsey Chatham.

This session we hope to continue with our fundraising events but as always these will be Covid-19 dependent. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday 20th October 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.



As you will be aware we are a cashless school and we are in to our 3rd successful year of using ParentPay. **All children should already have their profile set up and** be able to access this. If you require help with this then please contact the school office.

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 pay 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.

95 % of parents have activated their ParentPay account! 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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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.

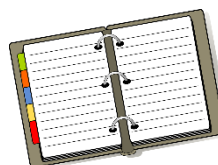
There is no charge for this and children will be offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk.

Upcoming Diary Dates



Inset Days

- 3- Monday 15th November 2021
- 4- Wednesday 16th February 2022
- 5- Thursday 5th May 2022



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, 27 th and Mon, 30 th May '22
Summer	School closes at 1pm on Fri, 24 th June 2022

Parents' Evenings

As you will have seen we are moving ahead with phone calls for our first Parents' Evening of the session. Once staff have collated returns you will be given a date and appointment time.



Diary Dates

Christmas Lunch TBC

All Christmas party dates will be confirmed if we receive updated guidance advising these can go ahead.



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