

# Townhill PS News

## August 2022



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

A huge welcome back to school for session 2022-2023! We are so very excited to welcome our children and families back. Whilst it has been a great summer to enjoy with our families we have missed you all and are raring to go!

We start the session with a roll of 306, split over 12 classes. Our children have returned to school enthusiastic and ready to learn, looking smart in their school uniforms. Thanks to all parents for supporting us with this! Mrs Love, Miss Neilly and I have been visiting all classes this week and are pleased to report settled, happy children that are 'ready to learn'.

In line with Government guidance we have kept many of our mitigations in place at school to ensure the safety and well-being of the staff and children. We hope you have found the information about procedures helpful and that it made the first week of term as straight forward as possible for you and your family.

We will continue to update our Risk Assessments/procedures and will keep you informed of any changes via our blog and Twitter. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Mrs Ally McGovern  
Head Teacher



### Our school vision:

**T**ogether 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 blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/townhillps/>

Please follow us on

Twitter:



**@townhillps**

We now have 723 followers!

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](mailto:office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

[headteacher@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

[gw20townhilldht@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20townhilldht@glow.sch.uk)

[gw07neillyjennifer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07neillyjennifer@glow.sch.uk)

Office email



Mrs McGovern's email

Mrs Love's email

Miss Neilly's email

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## Staffing and classes update

Please see below staff details for the upcoming academic session:



A special welcome to new staff starting with us in August.

- Miss Demi Glen
- Miss Rachael Welsh
- Mrs Gail Guthrie

Head Teacher	Mrs Ally McGovern
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs Lorna Love
Depute Head Teacher of Equity (Acting)	Miss Jennifer Neilly

Primary 1 (Room 1)	Mrs Laura Valentine
Primary 1 (Room 2)	Mrs Emma Kelly
Primary 2 (Room 3)	Miss Demi Glen/Mrs Gail Guthrie
Primary 2/3 (Room 4)	Mrs Catherine Culbertson
Primary 3 (Room 6)	Mrs Fiona Cook
Primary 4 (Room 7)	Mrs Janis Miller/Mrs Gemma Crawford
Primary 4/5 (Room 8)	Miss Shelley Harvey
Primary 5 (Room 9)	Miss Rachael Welsh/Vacancy
Primary 5/6 (Room 10)	Miss Kelsea MacDonald
Primary 6 (Room 11)	Mrs Maureen Henry
Primary 7 (Room 13)	Miss Fiona Mackenzie (Principal Teacher, Acting)
Primary 7 (Room 14)	Mrs Gemma Fagan

### Additional members of teaching staff:

Vacancy (Mon, Tue, Wed)  
Mrs Gillian Morrison (Mon, Tues, Wed am)  
Mrs Barbara Allan (Tues-Fri)  
Mrs Gail Guthrie (Wed-Fri)  
Mrs Gemma Crawford (Wed-Fri)

### Support Staff:

Mrs Caroline Comer- Team Leader  
Mrs Linda Beaton  
Mrs Nicole Stirling  
Mrs Karen Fleming  
Mrs Fiona Lawlor  
Mrs Jessie Sempie  
Mrs Gaynor Sherlock  
Mrs Lesley Ann Spence

### Janitor:

Mr Jim Campbell



Mrs Kennedy will begin her maternity at the end of August and we will share her incredible news when baby Kennedy makes her arrival!

Unfortunately, Mrs Stewart will leave us on 7<sup>th</sup> September to take up her new post at Keir Campus! We wish Mrs Stewart lots of luck and will be in touch with who will replace her when we have word! Miss Maclean has also left to take up a place on the Post Graduate course for Primary Teaching- well done Miss Maclean! Again, we hope to have news of a replacement in the coming weeks.

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As in previous sessions, this will be the only newsletter which children will bring home for you to read. From September, newsletters will be available on our blog with notifications posted on our Twitter feed and emailed via ParentPay contacts. If you would like to receive paper copies of all Newsletters then please email the school office on [office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

### Primary 1

We are so proud to see our Primary 1 children in their school uniforms and they are enjoying getting to know the routines for each day. A reminder that indoor shoes are required for the children to change in to each day. They have had a lovely few days getting to know their teachers! Our P1 children will play in the MUGA pitch where it is easiest to ensure their safety until they are visible within the larger playground with their High Vis vests. These should arrive within the next week or two and will be labelled with each child's name.



A few reminders-

- Our parent free playground will resume from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August- from this day all children should be dropped off at the **first gate** at either Luss Brae or Melfort Road where they will be supported to enter the playground by school staff and/or our Senior Playground Pals
- Children should know if they are a school lunch or a packed lunch, please go over the menu with your child each day to ensure they are choosing a meal that they will eat
- **Snacks for playtime should be separate from the packed lunch to avoid any confusion for the child**
- Please ensure **ALL** items are labelled with your child's name.

### BUDDIES

Our P1 and P7 buddies have already taken part in their first Buddy Afternoon. The children had a wonderful time reading and playing together. Our Big buddies have also been helping our children at snack time and getting ready for home! What a fantastic job they are doing!

We have so many great Buddy events planned for coming session.... Watch this space!



## Uniform.

Uniform, as outlined in previous communication is expected for **all** Townhill pupils. Our uniform is plain **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.



## Indoor shoes

We have returned to a freshly painted school this session and some of our carpets have begun to be replaced! This is very exciting and is making our school look fresh and new again! This is something we want to keep so we are asking all children to bring a pair of soft shoes to change into once they have entered the building in the morning and after any breaks. This helps maintain our clean carpets, please support us with this.

## 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.** All classes have both indoor and outdoor sessions and in the case of inclement weather all will be indoor. Please ensure your child has a warm jumper, a waterproof jacket, and sensible shoes. PE days for each class are listed below. **Please note some classes have 3 slots as they have 2 short blocks and 1 longer block. This is purely timetabling.**

<b><u>Room 1</u></b>	Thursday	Friday	
<b><u>Room 2</u></b>	Tuesday	Friday	
<b><u>Room 3</u></b>	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
<b><u>Room 4</u></b>	Tuesday	Thursday	
<b><u>Room 6</u></b>	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b><u>Room 7</u></b>	Wednesday	Friday	
<b><u>Room 8</u></b>	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
<b><u>Room 9</u></b>	Monday	Thursday	Friday
<b><u>Room 10</u></b>	Monday	Wednesday	
<b><u>Room 11</u></b>	Monday	Thursday	Friday
<b><u>Room 13</u></b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	
<b><u>Room 14</u></b>	Tuesday	Wednesday	





## Google Classroom

Your child's teacher will add them to their new Google Classroom for session 2022-2023 and will use some class time familiarising the children again with the various features and functions to ensure best use. This session all classes in the school will use Google Classroom for a number of purposes including to issue homework tasks. This will support confidence in using the platform and also ensure children know how to access it and navigate it. This session we will endeavour to use Guardian emails so that one parent/carer will receive an email with the overview of the assigned activities for that week. Children will be given their log in details in the coming weeks and will have time in school to explore Google Classroom.

Our new P1 children will receive their log in details in due course.

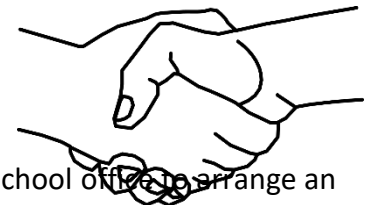
## WORKING TOGETHER...

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 6-9	Miss Jennifer Neilly
Rooms 10-14	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.

**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.**

**A reminder we will no longer be able to take in and distribute birthday cakes/treats.**

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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 or scooter to school should make sure they wear a suitable helmet and reflective clothing and must get off their bike/scooter 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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## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Positive behaviour is actively promoted in Townhill Primary School. We do this in class, through our Health and Wellbeing Programme, House system, circle time, point charts, regular use of stickers and stampers, class jobs etc and through assemblies via talks and Star of the Week awards.

The school's promoting positive behaviour strategy centres around the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and our School Charter. At the start of the session each class creates their own Class Charter, which is agreed by both staff and pupils. The charters contain the rights to which all pupils are entitled and also detail the responsibilities of pupils and adults within the classroom. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on how their behaviour and actions affect the rights of those around them. By doing so positive behaviours are encouraged.



The whole school also follows playground and lunch hall charters, which ensure that all are clear on the expectations for behaviour in all areas of the school. The charters aim to foster an ethos of respect and responsibility and create a safe and happy learning environment for all.

To support our charter system in promoting positive behaviour, we have five **Golden Rules** which are consistent across the school.

1. Follow instructions.
2. Work hard and always try your best.
3. Keep hands, feet and unkind words and actions to yourself.
4. Listen to the person who is meant to be talking.
5. Take care of your own, others and school property.



## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE/RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents / carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and / or religious and moral education. If you have any concern about religious observance, please contact me to discuss your concerns. If a child is withdrawn we will make suitable arrangements, in consultation with parents/carers, for them to participate in a worthwhile activity. Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.

### SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Our chaplain is Rev Christopher Rankine, minister at Hillhouse Parish Church. Christopher usually leads a few assemblies in school throughout the year for all pupils and P4-7 would visit the church at Christmas and Easter for religious services. This session Christopher will be back in school supporting us with religious observance and we are very much looking forward to seeing him. Should you wish any more information, please contact me at school.

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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:



Thank you.

**Townhill.ptt.chair@gmail.com**

Our Townhill Parent and Team had a very successful year in 2020-2021. Not only did they support the ongoing work of the school but helped raised an incredible amount of money to be used on playground improvements. Work has already started with the repairs on the senior Trim Trail and exciting plans are taking place for the removal of the sandpit and some playground games to be painted! It is a very exciting time for us all.

Our first meeting will be **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm** where we will also hold our Annual General Meeting. We would love to see as many faces as possible and given that this will be our first in person meeting since 2019 we would love to see as many faces as possible! There will also be tea and coffee!

If you are interested in coming along to the meeting then please drop Helen an email.

### Period Poverty



South Lanarkshire Council in line with government policy have issued guidance to all schools, both primary and secondary, in supporting Period Poverty.

Stark figures show that as many as 140,000 girls can miss school annually due to not having access to the appropriate sanitary wear during their period. All schools in South Lanarkshire provide sanitary products to pupils and in Townhill Primary we have set up a specific toilet where girls can go to to access/use these products. The toilet will be known as the **'Rest Room'** and will only be accessed by senior girls when they have their period. We hope to make it a calm and inviting place where girls can access what they need without the embarrassment of knowing there are other children in a cubicle next door. Please encourage your child to tell their teacher, a member of the office staff or Mrs McGovern, Mrs Love or Miss Neilly if they need to access the 'Rest Room'.

We also have packs of sanitary products that can come home for use at weekends and on holidays so please let us know if this is something you need.

### 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. We also fully support the SLC engine idling campaign. Please ensure if you are parked your 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.



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## The school day at Townhill PS.

- ✓ **Room 1 to Room 14**
- ✓ Start: 8:55am    Break: 10:40-10:55am    Lunch: 12:20-1:15pm  
End: 3pm



### Wet Weather Plans

In the event of inclement weather we would bring the children into school before their morning bell. As always this is dependent on staff supervision. Children will now go straight to their classes in the event of a wet morning where they will be expected to change their shoes, wash their hands and then sit at their desk with a private reading book or chatting quietly until their teacher arrives. Each floor will be supervised. We ask that on these days where weather is an issue then please bring your child to school as close to their start time as possible and refrain from dangerous parking for drop off. We also ask that unless a child is late for school that they are not brought to or dropped off at the main office. A waterproof jacket and sensible footwear is advised in the event of any delay to the wet weather bell.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be restarting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

- 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. Until our mobile library is up and running it may be helpful for children to have a small book/magazine in their bag to read during breakfast until they are dismissed.



### School Improvement Planning

In the coming weeks we will share our School Improvement Plan for session 2022-2023 and our Standards and Quality report from 2021-2022. We have added a condensed version of the Improvement Plan, Plan on a Page, at the end of the newsletter.



2021 - 2024

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As you will be aware we are a cashless school and we are in to our 3<sup>rd</sup> successful year of using ParentPay. All children P2-P7 should already have their profile set up and information on how to set this up and use it is coming home with P1 this week. 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. Please also 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 P1-5.

98 % 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.

### Upcoming Diary Dates

#### Inset Days

1. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022
2. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022
3. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022
4. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023
5. Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

#### Holidays

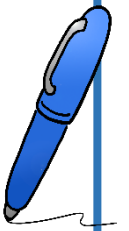
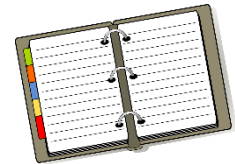
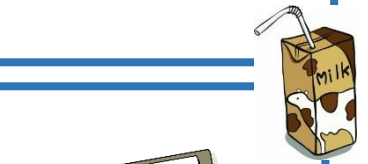
September Weekend	Fri, 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Mon, 26 <sup>th</sup> September '22
October Week	Mon, 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri, 21 <sup>st</sup> October '22
Christmas	Close on Fri, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – re-open on Mon, 9 <sup>th</sup> January '23
February Break	Mon, 13 <sup>th</sup> and Tue, 14 <sup>th</sup> February '23
Spring Break	Close on Fri, 31 <sup>st</sup> March – Reopen on Mon, 17 <sup>th</sup> April '23
May Holiday	Mon, 1 <sup>st</sup> May '23
Local Holiday	Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> and Mon, 29 <sup>th</sup> May '23
Summer	School closes at 1pm on Tues, 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### Parents' Evenings

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

#### Diary Dates

- Flu Immunisations (P1-7) Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September '22





# Townhill Primary School

## School Improvement Plan 2022/23



Our Priorities for 2022/23	<b>Priority 1:</b> <b>Raise Attainment in Literacy</b>	<b>Priority 2:</b> <b>Raise Attainment in Numeracy</b>	<b>Priority 3:</b> <b>Raise Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy</b>	<b>Priority 4:</b> <b>Promote Health &amp; Wellbeing in children, parents, carers and staff</b>
<b>What do we want to achieve? (Outcomes)</b>	<p>Further develop pupil engagement in Reading for Pleasure.</p> <p>Increase the number of children achieving expected level in Reading and Writing in P4 and P7.</p>	<p>Further embed the use of Big Maths approach, across P1-7 and introduce termly maths challenges.</p> <p>Increase the number of children achieving expected level in Maths in P1, P4 and P7.</p>	<p>Further develop our approaches to Play in P1 and P2.</p> <p>Further embed outdoor learning opportunities for all children to raise engagement and enthusiasm for learning.</p>	<p>All children will attend at least 1 extra-curricular club during session 2022-2023.</p> <p>Further embed the 6 principles of Nurture, SLC Attachment Strategy to support attendance and punctuality.</p>
<b>How will we know? (Measures)</b>	<p>Achieve 'GOLD' status as a Reading School</p> <p>Reading and writing attainment will increase by 5%.</p>	<p>Agreed expectations for high quality Numeracy lessons outlined within a Numeracy Policy.</p> <p>Numeracy and Mathematics attainment will increase by 5%.</p>	<p>Creation of a Play policy.</p> <p>Leuven scale of engagement will show a 5% increase for HWb and pupil questionnaires will highlight pupil enjoyment.</p>	<p>Participation at clubs will show all children attended at least 1 over the course of the session.</p> <p>Whole school attendance will be above 96%. The number of late comings will decrease by 25%.</p>

**Townhill Primary School: Where Every child matters, and EVERY moment counts.**  
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