

Townhill PS News

January 2022



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

It is hard to believe we already at the end of January! We continue to face challenges in light of COVID but are happy to report that our children are enjoying being back at school after the winter break! A reminder of the dates of the February break is at end of the Newsletter. As the weather continues to be changeable all 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!

We continue to ensure Government guidelines are being followed and mitigations outlined 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 610 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 December/January have been:



Room 1: Brody White, Annie Smart, Brooke Compton

Room 2: Hannah Gibb, Ben Oakley, Oliver Duke, Liliana Daly

Room 3: Logan Johnson, Tilly Paterson, Devyn McLean

Room 4: Myla Fleming, Harvey Todd, Ella Anderson

Room 5: Phoebe Russell, Dean Blue, Iain Clark

Room 6: Mirin Darroch, Kacie Davies, Hamish Croft, Isla Croft

Room 8: Linzi Anderson, Emily Law, Niamh Hamilton

Room 9: Toby Duncan, Ceri Orr, Marianna Campbell, Imogen Burns, Lucie Dick, Jordan McAuley, Hollie Paterson, Summer Aitkenhead

Room 10: Emma Borland, Lola Carson, Rachael Hunter, Jack Chatham

Room 11: Hannah Allan, Eliza Gingell, Mitchell Lerry, Amy Burns. Laura McQuaid, Devyn Kerr, Kyle Clements, Jay Gibson

Room 13: Caiden Hunter, Holly Sutton, Zack Hamilton, Finlay Thomson, Erika Clegg, Summer Carson

Room 14: Logan Duris, Logan Aikman, Nathan McCafferty



A huge well done to you all!

Our amazing school choir took us all the way to the top during December's School Choir Competition...and we came away victorious in the Number 1 Spot!! We are now £500 richer and cannot wait to buy in new microphones to use in our school performances!



A huge thank you also goes to Sean McDermott and Mona Keeling for their expert guidance, filming and editing of our Christmas Nativities this year! We hope you all managed to access them at home over the festive period!

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Parking.

We urge all parents/carers to ensure they embrace our safety guidelines around parking near the school and to 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 there continue to be cars parking just inside the gates- please park outwith the school grounds in a safe place.

Engine idling also remains a concern. Please familiarise yourself with the 30 Reasons campaign that South Lanarkshire publicise.



End of the Day

Please ensure that if you are collecting a P1/P2 child that you leave the playground promptly upon collection at 3pm and avoid congregating at the trim trail whilst the children play. For safety reasons the Trim Trail is out of bounds at the end of the day and a clear playground is needed in order to safely dismiss our senior children. Please support us with this.

Staffing Update

We would like to share some exciting news that Miss Ballantyne has secured a secondment with the West Partnership and will be taking on the role of Acting Principal Teacher of the 'Improving our Classrooms' practitioner programme that runs across the 8 local authorities! We are so incredibly proud of Miss Ballantyne and wish her all the best in her adventure! I am sure you will all join me in in this sentiment.

Miss Rachel Barlas has taken over as Room 14 P7 teacher and will remain the class teacher for the rest of the academic session.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Shelley Harvey back from week beginning 14th who will resume Miss Barlas' role in Room 10 and Room 3. Miss Harvey taught at Townhill PS last session and knows our school well and so will fit back in to our wonderful team seamlessly!



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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.

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

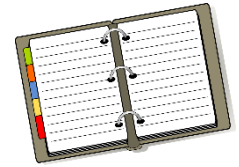
Our next meeting will be **23rd February at 7pm**. We would love to see as many faces as possible and given that it will still be online please feel free to pop on and see what we do.

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

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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

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



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