

# Townhill PS News

## August 2023



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 2023-2024! We are so very excited to welcome our children and families back. Whilst it has been a great summer to enjoy with our families (well maybe not the constant rain!) we have missed you all and are raring to go!

We start the session with a roll of 302, 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, Mrs Kennedy and I have been visiting all of our classes this week and are pleased to report settled, happy children that are 'ready to learn' and ready for a new school year.

In line with government and local authority advice we will continue to update our Risk Assessments/procedures and will keep you informed of any changes via our blog and Twitter. Currently we will still ensure a hand washing routine is in place not only in light of Covid 19 but to help minimise other bugs and germs doing the rounds.

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 861 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)

Office email

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

Mrs McGovern's email

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

Mrs Love's email

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

Miss Neilly's email

[gw10kennedysiobhan@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw10kennedysiobhan@glow.sch.uk)

Mrs Kennedy'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 Jessica Kerr
- Miss Megan Carbery
- Ms Rachel Crawford

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

Primary 1 (Room 1)	Miss Jessica Kerr/Mrs Siobhan Kennedy
Primary 1 (Room 2)	Mrs Fiona Cook
Primary 2 (Room 3)	Ms Rachel Crawford
Primary 2/3 (Room 4)	Mrs Catherine Culbertson
Primary 3 (Room 6)	Mrs Emma Kelly
Primary 4 (Room 7)	Mrs Janis Miller/Mrs Gemma Crawford
Primary 4/5 (Room 8)	Miss Megan Carbery/Mrs Siobhan Kennedy
Primary 5 (Room 9)	Miss Shelley Harvey
Primary 5/6 (Room 10)	Miss Kelsea MacDonald
Primary 6 (Room 11)	Mrs Maureen Henry
Primary 7 (Room 13)	Mr Liam Garrett
Primary 7 (Room 14)	Mrs Gemma Fagan

### Additional members of teaching staff:

Mrs Laura Valentine (soon to go on maternity leave)  
Mrs Gillian Morrison (Tues, Wed)  
Mrs Barbara Allan (Tues-Fri)  
Mrs Gail Guthrie (Tue-Fri)  
Mrs Gemma Crawford (Wed-Fri)

### Support Staff:

Mrs Caroline Comer- Team Leader  
Mrs Nicole Stirling  
Miss Claire Salim (starting in September)  
Mrs Fiona Lawlor  
Mrs Jessie Sempie  
Mrs Gaynor Sherlock  
Mrs Lesley Ann Spence  
Miss Elizabeth Broadhurst  
Miss Alyssa McCusker

### Janitor:

Mr Archie Arbuckle will cover for Jim Campbell



Mrs Valentine will begin her maternity at the start of September and we will share her incredible news when baby Valentine makes her arrival!

Mrs Arnott gave birth to a beautiful baby girl called Remi in July! We cannot wait to meet her, congratulations to Mrs Arnott and family, especially proud big brother Reagan!

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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. What a confident and settled bunch! 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 new friends, teachers and Big Buddies! All P1 children will wear a High-vis vest when out in the playground. This is a safety measurement allowing all staff to easily identify our youngest pupils in a big and busy playground. They feel very important in their special vests!



A few reminders-

- Our parent free playground will resume from Monday 28<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 and buddies
- 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 been getting to know each other. The children had a wonderful time reading and playing together this week. Our Big buddies have also been helping our children at snack time and lunchtime, showing them the ropes in our lunch hall! 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

Last session we were very lucky to have some new carpets and fresh paint work! This is very exciting and is making our school look brand 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. These shoes need to be suitable for your child to take part in drama and indoor PE so slippers and other such like footwear is not appropriate. A change of shoes also helps to maintain our clean carpets and to minimise germs from the grass and dirt, 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. Highlighted slots are intended outdoor PE slots. Please ensure your child has a warm jumper, a waterproof jacket, and sensible shoes. PE days for each class are listed below.

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





## Homework

This session we are undertaking a 'Homework' consultation with pupils, staff and families. Over the last few school sessions there have been a number of enquiries regarding homework, and we feel it is a good time to reassess what we do and why. Family lives are much busier these days with clubs and extra-curricular activities as well as working patterns and so we need to ensure we are supporting children and families to enjoy and relax together after school but also keep everyone informed on what learning is taking place in school. Until this process has been undertaken there will no homework issued. In the absence of set tasks please encourage your child to read, to practise their times tables/addition and subtraction/counting etc. Our consultation will likely be in the form of an online questionnaire- look out for a link coming your way!

## 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 1-2	Mrs Siobhan Kennedy (PT)
Room 3-7	Mrs Lorna Love (DHT)
Rooms 8-11	Miss Jennifer Neilly (DHT)
Rooms 13-14	Mrs Allyson McGovern (HT)



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

**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.

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.

### 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	<b>10 days absence</b> 180 days of education	<b>4 weeks absence</b> 171 days of education	<b>5 1/2 weeks absence</b> 161 days of education	<b>7 1/2 weeks absence</b> 152 days of education	<b>9 1/2 weeks absence</b> 141 days of education
<b>100%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Good</b>		<b>Worrying</b>		<b>Serious Concern</b>	

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.**

### Smart Watches

This session more children are coming to school with smart watches. Unfortunately, these have not always been put in to 'School Mode' and have disturbed lessons. Please ensure that all smart watches are on school mode or equivalent for the duration of the day and encourage your child not access messages etc during playtimes and lunchtimes.

### Fake nails

We have noticed a rise in pupils wearing false/acrylic nails to school. We must **actively discourage** this as it is a hazard in the gym hall when using PE equipment. We view this the same way as we do jewellery and children will not be permitted to take part in lessons where they could potentially hurt themselves.

Please support us with this.



## 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:



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



Our Townhill Parent and Team had a very successful year in 2022-2023 with the development of the playground, including our wonderful new markings and our outdoor story telling area! The children are loving exploring their new spaces!

Our first meeting will be **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm** where we will also hold our Annual General Meeting. This meeting will be in person at the school. We would love to see as many faces as possible and 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 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, Miss Neilly or Mrs Kennedy 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

You will see that our parking buddies have been proudly displayed outside the gates on Luss Brae to encourage safer parking for our children. Please continue to make sensible choices when parking for drop off and pick up and respect the local residents' spaces. 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 21<sup>st</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. Gates will open at 8:10am and children should make their way to the lunch hall doors. 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.

### Reading schools

As you will be aware we have been awarded our GOLD reading School status just at the end of term! We are so incredibly proud of Mrs Fagan and the Reading Schools team! We also have named our amazing Reading Mascot.... Say hello to Booky Brian! We are hoping to have him made into a graphic on our library wall! We have so many more exciting plans for this session- watch this space or better still **please give us a follow @readingatTPS** This account is central to further developing our reading culture!



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APPLY FOR FREE BUS TRAVEL

BOOK PARENTS' EVENINGS

REPORT ABSENCES

SEE REPORT CARDS

GET PERMISSION SLIPS

MAKE SCHOOL PAYMENTS

**SAY GOODBYE TO THE SCHOOL BAG RUN WITH PARENTSPORTAL.SCOT**

From school payments to report cards, parents evenings to permission slips — do it all in one place at [parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot)

Want to know more? Visit [parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot)

**MAKE SCHOOL PAYMENTS ONLINE WITH PARENTSPORTAL.SCOT**

With [parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot) you can make payments using your ParentPay account so everything is in one place.

To find out more, visit [parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot)

As previously shared, Parentsportal will be a one stop shop for all school communication and help streamline processes in the school office (parents can electronically submit annual data checks & consent forms, view school calendars, timetables, school reports and more). This also helps us cut down on paper use further supporting our Eco school focus. Over 14,000 accounts have already been created authority wide, join today!

URL: <https://parentsportal.scot> and not [www.parentsportal.scot](http://www.parentsportal.scot).



There is now a handy app available on apple and android too!

As you will be aware we a cashless school and we are in to our 4<sup>th</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 in the coming weeks. If you require help with this then please contact the school office. ParentPay can be accessed directly via Parentsportal.

**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.



**Childhood infectious diseases, especially measles, chicken pox, shingles**



One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment that puts them at risk from measles, chicken pox and shingles. If they come in to contact with anyone suffering from these conditions the pupil requires in-patient treatment/medication in order to be given some protection against them.

We would therefore ask that if your child develops measles, chicken pox or shingles that you inform the school immediately so that the appropriate action can be taken.

Your child is not at any risk from this situation; however, the health of our pupil does depend on your cooperation in this matter.

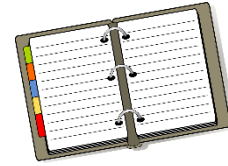
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## Upcoming Diary Dates

### Inset Days

1. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023
2. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023
3. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023
4. Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024
5. Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024



### Holidays

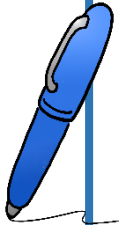
September Weekend	Fri, 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Mon, 25 <sup>th</sup> September '23
October Week	Mon, 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri, 20 <sup>th</sup> October '23
Christmas	Close on Fri, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – re-open on Mon, 8 <sup>th</sup> January '24
February Break	Mon, 12 <sup>th</sup> and Tue, 13 <sup>th</sup> February '24
Spring Break	Close on Thur, 28 <sup>th</sup> March – Reopen on Mon, 15 <sup>th</sup> April '24
May Holiday	Mon, 1 <sup>st</sup> May '23
Local Holiday	Fri, 24 <sup>th</sup> and Mon, 27 <sup>th</sup> May '24
Summer	School closes at 1pm on Wed, 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Parents' Evenings

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Diary Dates

Sponsored event                      September TBC



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