

# Townhill PS News

## October 2023



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

Who can believe that Autumn has hit, and we seem to already be on the countdown to Christmas! EEK! The children are settled and our Townhill routines are all up and running, there is such a great buzz around the school!

We are noticing that the weather is certainly starting to change and we ask that children come to school prepared for changeable weather with a warm jacket and sensible footwear. The children will still be outdoors for break and lunch, unless the rain is heavy so ensuring they are covered for all eventualities really does help! This is another reason why we place a large emphasis on all children having a pair of indoor shoes to change into- wet feet do not contribute to happy pupils!

As the weather continues to change and the dark mornings set in, please remember our Breakfast Club is open from 8:15am and there is no need to book! We are hoping to recruit some P7 Breakfast Club leaders in the coming weeks to support larger numbers.

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 896 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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## Homework Consultation



As you will be aware over the past few weeks we have been undertaking a consultation with all stakeholder groups on 'Homework'. Over the past few years at Townhill PS there have been many concerns and queries regarding homework, how much is given, when it is given, when it is returned, the stress it causes families, the planning time for teachers etc. We felt that in order to truly understand the impact of homework on stakeholders and how to create a universal picture of homework it was important to seek views.

The survey showed that whilst all stakeholders recognised the various barriers to homework that overall, homework is a valuable tool which creates a connection between home and school. It has highlighted it can help create good habits for later in life and also allows the consolidation of key skills. Staff have worked together to create a policy on homework which will be issued in due course. A summary is below.

Using all of the survey information we propose the following guidelines.

### Our Intention:

- To provide opportunities to reinforce and deepen learning which has taken place in school.
- To promote an effective partnership between home and school.
- To encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to work on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.
- To ensure that all children and parents have a clear understanding about what is expected of them • To ensure the needs of the individual children are considered.

### Our Implementation:

- The creation of opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- The provision of homework tasks designed to consolidate classroom learning without the burden of formal written responses/returns, unless specified e.g., preparation for solo talks.
- The provision of homework designed to promote independent learning in the older children.

### Types of homework:

**All stakeholders agreed that reading, spelling and numeracy and maths were the most important types of homework. Homework for all stages will therefore be under these three subjects.**

- **Reading**- either an allocated reading book/word wall with set pages to read for the week/night or reading for pleasure targets given, e.g., 10 minutes of reading per night.
- **Spelling**- a list of the spelling words/rules being used in class that week with an overview of activities that can be undertaken at home. In P1-3 this may take the form of phonological awareness (phonics) activities.
- **Numeracy and maths**- links to games/online activities that will consolidate the key learning in class. This may change weekly, fortnightly etc. depending on the length of the unit.

How much time should be spent on homework?

- **P1**- 15 minutes per night maximum
- **P2-4**- 20 minutes per night maximum
- **P5-7**- 20-30 minutes per night maximum



**In line with stakeholder views there will be no formal written homework given out. All tasks are designed to be active, fun and completed orally. There is no expectation of tasks being handed in, and no tasks need marked.**

**All homework will be communicated via the usual ways- Google Classroom/homework diary/homework folder.**

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### Indoor shoes

Recently we have had an increase in the variation and suitability of indoor shoes being worn by pupils. Whilst we recognise the comfort and ease that footwear like crocs can provide, we must stress that these shoes are not suitable for any form of PE either indoor or out. They have no grip for the varying surfaces we have PE on and provide no foot/ankle support to the wearer. Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear in order to take part in PE activities at school.

### 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 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.**



## 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.



## 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.**

## 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 **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**. 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.



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**APPLY FOR FREE BUS TRAVEL**

**BOOK PARENTS' EVENINGS**

**REPORT ABSENCES**

**SEE REPORT CARDS**

**GET PERMISSION SLIPS**

**MAKE SCHOOL PAYMENTS**

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

With **parentsportal.scot** you can make payments using your ParentPay account so everything is in one place.

To find out more, visit **parentsportal.scot**

Want to know more? Visit **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.

### **Parents' Evening**

Our upcoming appointments for Parents' Evening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November will be bookable via ParentsPortal, similar to school cloud that we used last year. Please note this will rely on parents creating an account and linking with their child. If you require support with this then please contact the school office. Appointments will be bookable from early November.



Important

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### 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.

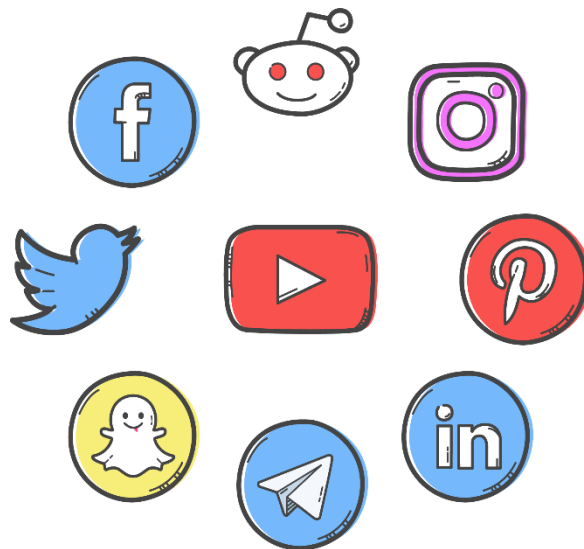
We would therefore ask that if your child develops measles, chicken pox or shingles that you inform the school immediately so that the appropriate action can be taken.

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

### Social Media

Over the years our concerns around the use of Social Media, particularly at primary school age, has grown. Many apps and sites being used by our children are for age 14 and over and from time to time these sites and apps are used in ways not intended. It has come to our attention that photographs of our pupils, are being screen shot from Twitter/Glow blog and then used on other platforms to mock, ridicule and draw attention to certain individuals etc. There have been altered images circulating via

Snapchat and slideshows created, all without the permission of the photographer (school) and individuals within the photographs (pupils). We ask parental permission to take photographs and share them on social media in order to share success and celebrate our learning and when photos are screen shot and used for other purposes it goes against our safe use of the internet. Can we ask that all parents discuss this very important message with their child and ensure that they understand the internet safety rules and that using images of others in videos and stories is not acceptable. Please support us with this.



## Captains and Vice Captains 2023-2024

WE are pleased to announce our new Captains and Vice Captains for 2023-2024!



### Baird House

Captain: Alex Beebe

Vice Captains: Jordan McAuley and Niamh Smith



### Burns House

Captain: Jacob Lindsay

Vice Captains: Amy Scott and Lauren Gray



### Lauder House

Captain: Georgia Orr

Vice Captains: Lily Sands and Callum Richardson



### Livingstone House

Captain: Lola Carson

Vice Captains: Nathan Pitt and Jack Nelson



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## Upcoming Diary Dates

### Inset Days

- 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

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 '24
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

Halloween Discos	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October- more info to follow
School Photographer	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October/Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Snapshot 2- Literacy	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December
Flu immunisations	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December
Carol Concert	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December at 7pm
Carol Concert	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am
Infant Nativity	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am



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