

# Townhill PS News

## November 2023



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

We are firmly in to winter weather now and continue to ask that all children come to school in a warm jacket and sensible footwear. Our weather is very often changeable and so being prepared is always good! 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 South Lanarkshire Council continue to set the budget for 2024-2025 we are asking all parents to access a survey at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation) in order to give your views and help protect the services that mean the most to you. Unfortunately, with budget cuts we are already facing the strain at school end and are facing difficult decisions on what we can afford to provide and buy.

A reminder please that any pupil not collected should return to the school building in order for school staff to ensure safe collection. Whilst we understand the kindness that goes in to other parents offering to take a child and drop them off this goes against our school procedures. All children P3-P7 know to return to the school should their grown up not be at the agreed meeting point or gate. Please support us with this.

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 907 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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## Snapshot- Numeracy



Our recent Snapshot covered Numeracy and children brought home their work to date. As always we collate our returns and this showed the following:

School Roll	Number Returned	% Returned	Number Returned with Comment	% Returned with Comment
300	271	90%	260	96%

We also received some really positive comments about Numeracy at Townhill:

...talks about 'Ten Town' all the time and is really enthusiastic about Numeracy!

...we are so happy to see the improvement since starting school! We have noticed a massive difference in confidence!

It is so lovely to see our wee one progress! We will continue to encourage him to work hard with all tasks!

I really enjoyed looking through my child's jotter and reading the teacher's comments!

I am delighted in the learning activities undertaken and also the pride my son is taking in his work!

I can see how far my child has come, even just since August!

My teacher is the bomb!

I just get it this year!

My teacher explains things really well!

Our next Snapshot is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and will focus on Literacy work. Please ensure that you take time to look over your child's folder with them and comment on their learning.

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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.**

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## 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



Please continue to make sensible choices when parking for drop off and pick up and respect the local residents' spaces. Unfortunately, in recent weeks there has been an increase again in unsafe parking on Lomond View. AS you drive along Lomond view towards the school, please avoid parking on the left-hand side near the corner. This forces cars on to the opposite side of the road to turn the corner and will result in an accident. Please also avoid parking directly on the t junction at the end of Lomond View as again it forces moving cars to be on the wrong side of the road and is dangerous for all. Community Police will hopefully be starting their drop ins and will politely move folk on that are causing an obstruction. Please think carefully before pulling in, it is **everyone's** job to ensure the safety of our young people as they travel in and out of school and we are relying on all adults that drop off and pick up to make the right choice.

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.



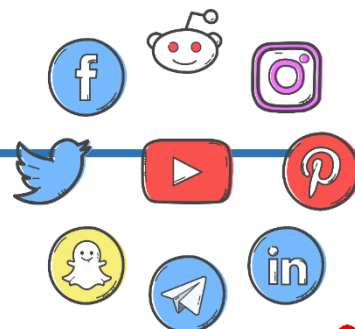
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## Social Media

Following on from our last Newsletter where we shared concerns over social media use, we have arranged for PC Ross Leggate to come in to school and hold a CEOP information evening for parents. This session will take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6:30-8pm. We ask that only 1 parent attends and the evening is open for all parents P1-P7. Due to the content of the evening, we ask that no children attend. Please use the link below to state your attendance if you haven't done so already.

<https://forms.gle/pvhkWjFVeA42Nk9U7>



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



One of our pupils is receiving ongoing 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.

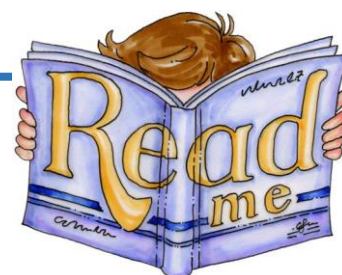
Your child is not at any risk from this situation; however, the health of our pupil does depend on your cooperation in this matter.

## P1-P3 Book Bag events

We are delighted to welcome our P1, P2 and P3 parents/carers into school over the next few weeks to enjoy our Book Bag events! Mrs Fagan will present on each of the bags and then children and parents/carers can enjoy activities and story reading in our library and open areas! Last year these events created such a fabulous buzz about the school and allowed our P2 and P3 grown ups to see inside our school for the first time! We had lots of fabulous feedback on not only the arranged activities but our beautiful library areas! Fingers crossed we have a good turnout this year and everyone enjoys the planned activities!

- Primary 1 Book Bag session: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 1:30pm
- Primary 2 Book Bag session: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am
- Primary 3 Book Bag session: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am

**Please give us a follow @readingatTPS This account is central to help us showcase just how committed we are to continually developing our reading culture!**



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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 next meeting will be **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 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.

Our annual Christmas Hamper fundraiser will go ahead this year and the theme for all hampers will be colour! This means that every class will be given a colour and their donation should be that colour! This is very exciting and gives lots of scope when selecting your donation! We are always very excited to see what people come up with! The Hamper donation day **'Fling it in Friday' will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. We will send out a letter in the coming weeks detailing the colour for each class! We will then sell raffle tickets for the Hampers and these will be drawn at our infant Nativity on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December! Hamper raffles will also be on sale at each of our Carol concerts and infant Nativity. It is always very exciting!

**Christmas Party Dates**

Staff have met and organised the dates below for cohort parties.

Children can come to school dressed in their party gear or alternatively be taken for a home lunch to get changed. Any child going home should be collected from the school office at 12:25pm and return to school for 1:15pm.

- Primary 1: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 2: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 3: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 4: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 5: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 6: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December pm
- Primary 7: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm



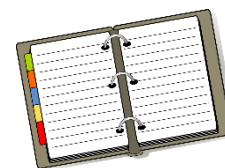
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## Upcoming Diary Dates

### 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

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

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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