

# Townhill PS News

## August 2025



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 2025-2026! We are so happy to welcome our children and families back to school, especially in the great weather. We have missed you all and are raring to go making sure that session 2025-2026 is the best yet for our young learners!

We start the session with a roll of 303, split over 12 classes. Our children have returned to school enthusiastic and ready to learn, and looking ever so smart in their school uniforms. Thanks to all parents for supporting us with this! Mrs Love, Miss Neilly and I have been visiting all of our classes this week and are pleased to report settled, happy children ready for a new school year and practically a full house! A reminder that whilst the weather is so good children should come to school having had sunscreen applied and bring a bottle of water to help ensure they stay hydrated throughout the day! Children are welcome to wear hats at break and lunch too.

We remain a parent free playground in the mornings so please drop your child at either the Luss Brae or Melfort Road gate and allow them to enter the grounds on their own. This not only supports independence but allows us to safely manage pupils having only school adults in the playground. P1 and P2 parents can enter for collection at the end of the but should stand back nearer the planters so that staff and children can see all adults slowing a safe handover of P1 and P2 pupils. A reminder please that any pupil not collected at the end of the day from their agreed spot, 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:

**Together** at Townhill  
we **nurture**,  
**encourage** and **inspire**  
the development of  
**skills** for **lifelong**  
**learning** and **success**.  
We embrace **equality**  
and **diversity** to  
promote a **happy** and  
**healthy** life.

### Our school blog:

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

Please follow us on  
**Instagram:**

@townhill\_ps\_hamilton



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

[gw18harveyshelley@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw18harveyshelley@glow.sch.uk)

Miss Harvey's email

[gw14fagangemma1@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14fagangemma1@glow.sch.uk)

Mrs Fagan'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 Kayleigh McIntosh
- Miss Eve Morris
- Mrs Gail Guthrie

Head Teacher

Mrs Ally McGovern

Depute Head Teacher 0.6

Mrs Lorna Love

Depute Head Teacher 0.4/DHT of Equity 0.6

Miss Jennifer Neilly

Acting Principal Teacher 0.4

Miss Shelley Harvey

Primary 1 (Room 1)	Miss Kayleigh McIntosh
Primary 1/2 (Room 2)	Mrs Fiona Cook
Primary 2 (Room 3)	Mrs Gemma Fagan/Mrs Gemma Crawford
Primary 2 (Room 4)	Mrs Janis Miller/Mrs Gemma Crawford
Primary 3 (Room 6)	Miss Kelsea Macdonald
Primary 3 (Room 7)	Mrs Gail Guthrie
Primary 4 (Room 8)	Miss Eve Morris/Miss Jennifer Neilly
Primary 4/5 (Room 9)	Mrs Laura Valentine
Primary 5 (Room 10)	Mrs Catherine Culbertson
Primary 6 (Room 11)	Mrs Kim McCluskie
Primary 7 (Room 13)	Mr Liam Garrett
Primary 7 (Room 14)	Miss Shelley Harvey

### Additional members of teaching staff:

Mrs Siobhan Kennedy (soon to go on maternity leave)

Mrs Maureen Henry- Science Lab covering CCC

### Support Staff:

Mrs Caroline Comer- Team Leader

Mrs Nicole Stirling

Miss Claire Salim

Mrs Fiona Lawlor

Mrs Jessie Sempie

Mrs Gaynor Sherlock

Mrs Lesley Ann Hosie

Mrs Lucy Clark- start date to be confirmed

### Janitor:

Mr John Simm



Mrs Kennedy will begin her maternity at the end of August and we will share her incredible news when baby boy Kennedy makes his arrival! We cannot wait to hear all about it and how much he will be adored by his big sisters.

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As in previous sessions, this will be the only newsletter which P1 children will bring home for you to read. From September, newsletters will be available on our blog with notifications posted on our Instagram 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 super 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 vests 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 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 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. We have already had a few missing items like blazers and shoes! A name always helps!
- PE days are attached to this Newsletter, children should wear their polo shirt on these days and have shorts under their trousers/skirts for easy dressing and undressing.

### 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!



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## 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

During the summer break we were very lucky to have most of the school kitted out in brand new carpets! 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. 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 and let us know if you require any support. **A reminder indoor shoes should NOT be crocs, slippers or backless shoes which offer no foot/ankle support.**

## PE.

As we have changing facilities in the school 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.

**Whilst P7 swim on Tuesdays for 12 weeks, R13 P6 children will join PE with Room 11 P6.**

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



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## Homework Consultation

In session 2023-2024 we undertook a consultation with all stakeholder groups on 'Homework'. This was in response to 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.

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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### 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.** 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.

Room 1-4 Mrs Lorna Love (DHT)/Mrs Gemma Fagan

Rooms 6-10 Miss Jennifer Neilly (DHT)

Rooms 11-14 Mrs Allyson McGovern (HT)/Miss Shelley Harvey (APT)



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.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

### 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.**

**We no longer take in and distribute birthday cakes/treats/sweets.**





## Townhill PS New House system

Last session, as part of school improvement, our staff looked at revamping our house system. In consultation with pupils and families, we asked for suggestions to name our new houses. As a lasting tribute to Mr Campbell, our much-loved janitor, who passed away last year, our school community wanted to name one house after him. The other house names were selected from the ideas submitted by staff, pupils and parents. Our final 4 house names are as follows:



Our next job is to select our P7 House Captains and to 'sort' our pupils into their houses. Each new house will then decide on their own value word and motto. Watch this space for more information about our new houses as they get up and running and learn more about all the ways to earn house points.

Mr Campbell would be proud!

## MOBILE PHONES/Smart watches

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.** 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 to 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.

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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. Not only is there a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school, we believe attendance at our school helps to nurture, support and create social skills, friendships, support networks, and the ability to learn, change and adapt.

This year again Miss Neilly, Miss Harvey and I will be working closely to ensure attendance is high at Townhill PS and there will attendance updates throughout the session.



Information on SLC's new attendance campaign Every School Day Matters can be found on <https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/attendance>

Last year our overall school attendance was 94.53%. We are looking to build on this. Please help us by continuing to support us in this matter.

As a learning community we focus on ensuring good attendance at school is a priority for all schools in order to build life long strateis that will help pupils as they transfer to high schoo.

Our learning community poster is attaced.







## CALDERSIDE LEARNING COMMUNITY ATTENDS!

Improving school attendance is a key priority for South Lanarkshire Council. In the Calderside Learning Community, excellent attendance and punctuality is essential for your child to succeed and to develop socially and emotionally.

### When children are in school every day they...

- Achieve
- Learn new skills
- Develop self-esteem
- Feel a sense of belonging
- Make friends

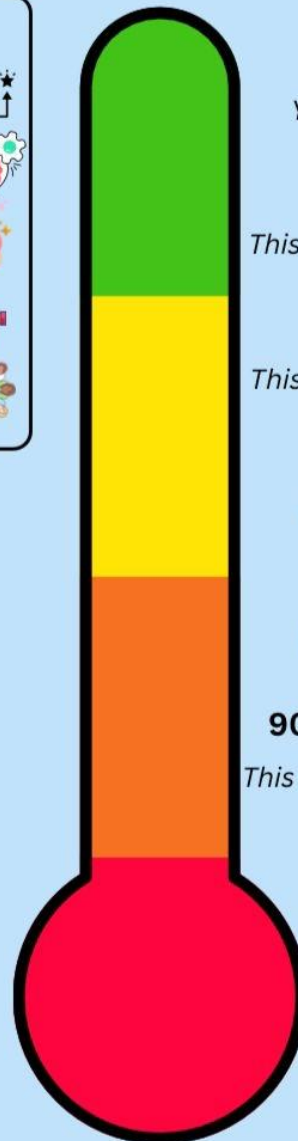


### Be an Attendance Hero!

**H**ere  
**E**very day  
**R**eady to learn  
**O**n time



Children who have an average of 90% attendance every year will have lost the equivalent of 1 year of schooling by the time they are in S3.



### 100% Perfect

*You haven't missed a day.*

### 98% Excellent

*This is about 4 days off per year.*

### 96% Very good

*This is about 7 days off per year.*

### 95% Nearly there

*This is about 2 weeks off.*

### 93% Keep an eye

*This is about 3 weeks off.*

### 90% A lot of school missed

*This is one month a year or 4 weeks.*

### 85% Concerning!

*This is 2 months or 8 weeks in one year - missing large sections of learning. This creates room for gaps and risk of underachievement.*

UNCRC

Article 28

I have the right to an education.



SCAN ME

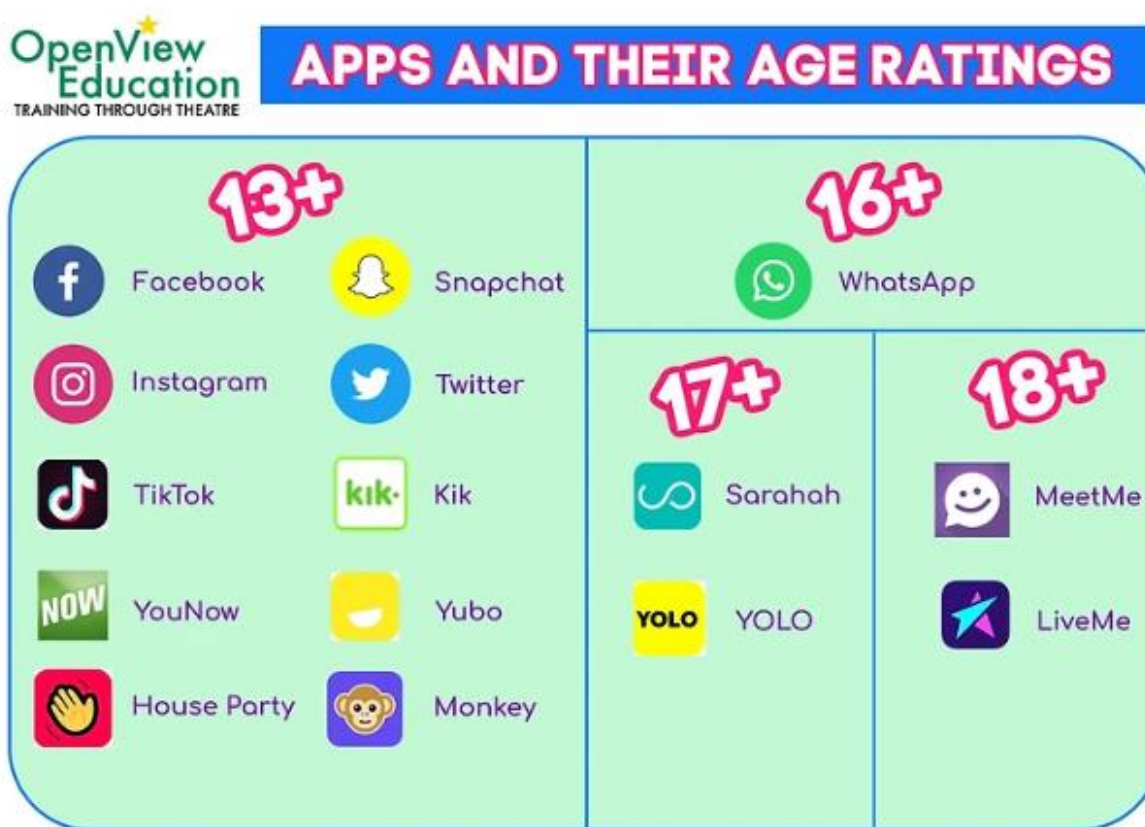


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## Social media

As always, we ask **all parents** to be vigilant about the use of social media and communication apps. We have already been made aware of images of an inappropriate manner being shared within a P6 WhatsApp and ask that parents remind children about the rules and responsibilities surrounding the use of apps. We also draw your attention to the image showing age recommendations as a guide. Over the past few years it seems that children are accessing these apps younger and younger and so we ask for your support to monitor this and ensure your child is not exposed to inappropriate content for their age and stage.



There are some excellent web sites for us as adults to learn about the importance of keeping our young folk safe online and how to do this for different age groups. We recommend a browse on the following sites:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



## Social media for Townhill PS

Following the decision by South Lanarkshire Council to move away from X/Twitter, we have been exploring an alternative way of sharing learning and the life of our school. As a result, we will be launching our new Instagram feed which will be used to share news and photographs with you. This will be a **private** account so, if you would like to, you will need to find us and request to join. We are '**townhill\_ps\_hamilton**' and our school badge has been linked to make it easy to locate the correct school. Other schools within the Calderside Learning Community and local authority will also be using this platform.



**Should you wish to join our page please email the school office and provide your own name, username and child's name and we will approve the request to join. Please note we need to be able to verify all accounts and monitor comments/likes etc and accounts linked with pupils/former pupils under the age of 14 will not be accepted.**

We will begin to share photographs and information in the coming weeks and request that you complete your child's photo permissions as soon as they become available on Parentsportal. These permissions will be used throughout the year.

We hope the introduction of this feed will allow us to continue to share the day-to-day events within the school and build networks with our neighbouring schools and other educational platforms.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office email if you require any further information.

## Breakfast Club

A reminder that Breakfast Club restarted on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

- Breakfast Club starts at 8:15am with children being dismissed at 8:45am/when there is playground supervision in place.

There is no charge for this currently 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.



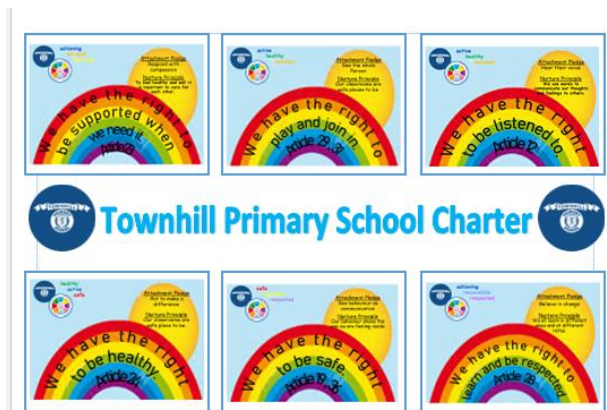
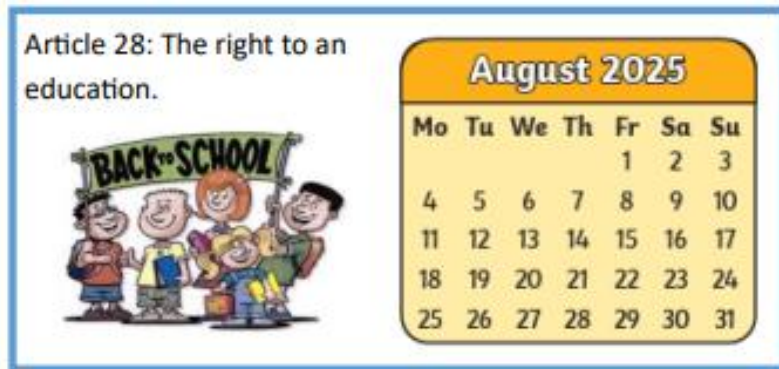
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## Rights Education at Townhill

As we start the new term, we will be continuing to work towards SLC's Rights Made Real accreditation. Our new School Charter is now ready. This incorporates the rights which our pupils chose as the ones which are most important to them. We chose a rainbow theme to link to our attachment rainbow and our charter also shows the links to Health and Wellbeing and Nurture Principles. Our Children's Rights Pupil groups worked hard last term on ideas for our new Playground and Dining Hall Charters and these will be ready soon. We also have a new Rights Calendar, showing our chosen Right of the Month. The Right of the Month for August will be the focus for our first assembly.



## 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, current 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 another very successful year in 2024-2025 and finished the session with an amazing Summer Fayre! It was a fabulous event and raised lots of money for the school and pupils!

Our first meeting of the session will be **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm** where we will also hold our Annual General Meeting. This meeting will be in person at the school. We need to appoint a new chair so please do come along and support. 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 Miss Harvey 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.

### Dogs



In line with SLC policy there should no dogs present on the school grounds, unless a certified guide dog. This includes beyond the first gate at the Luss Brae entrance. I would also ask that parents/carers are mindful of crowding the gate exits when with a dog on a lead as we do have some pupils, and adults, with a genuine fear of dogs and they can and have been finding leaving the school grounds at the end of the day a very frightening experience.

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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, 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.

## Outdoor Learning at Townhill PS.

Again this session at Townhill we are working to improve and build upon the outdoor learning experiences we are offering our pupils. We have secured Craig from Operation Play Outdoors which will give us instructor led sessions for all classes for the entire year. Please note the dates for your child's class to ensure they come to school dressed appropriately to take part. Sessions have been planned on a 4-week rolling timetable as detailed below:

### Week 1 timetable

· P7 R14, P6/7 R13, P6 R11: 20.8, 17.9, 22.10, 19.11, 17.12, 28.1, 25.2, 25.3, 6.5, 3.6

### Week 2 timetable

· P5 R10, P4/5 R9, P4 R8: 27.8, 24.9, 29.10, 26.11, 7.1, 4.2, 4.3, 1.4, 13.5, 10.6

### Week 3 timetable

· P3 R7, P3 R6, P2 R4: 3.9, 1.10, 5.11, 3.12, 14.1, 11.2, 11.3, 22.4, 20.5, 17.6

### Week 4 timetable

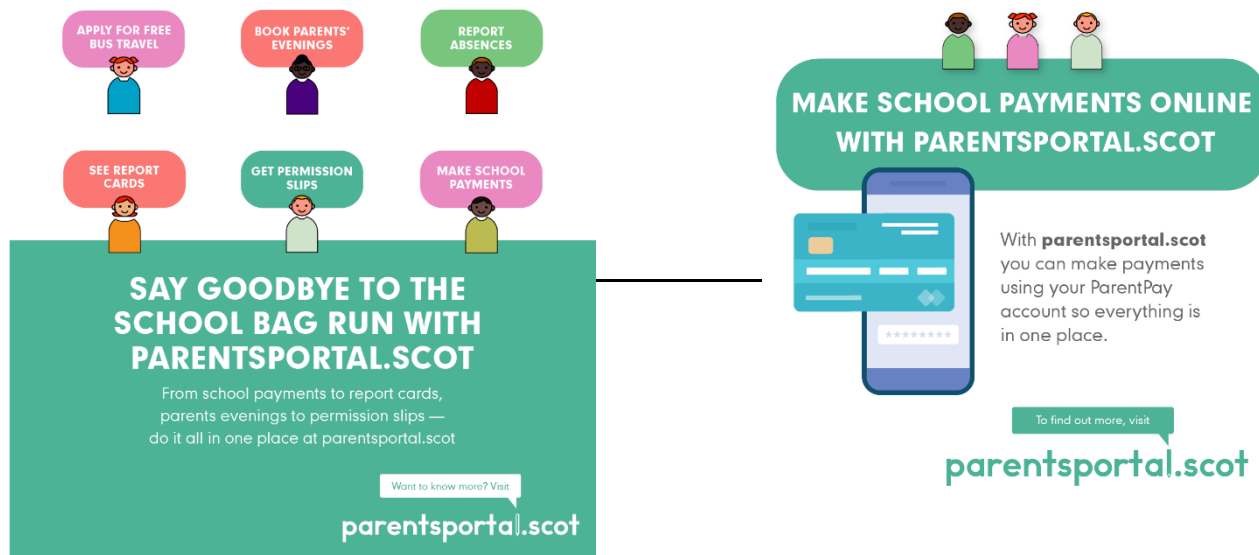
· P2 R3, P1/2 R2, P1 R1: 10.9, 8.10, 12.11, 10.12, 21.1, 19.2 (Thur), 18.3.29.4, 27.5, 24.6

During their sessions children will be exploring the school grounds and are asked to come to school dressed in clothes they are ok to get wet/muddy in. Operation Play Outdoors have a strict clothing and weather policy, they will only cancel outdoor sessions on Red weather warning days or in the event of thunder and lightning. Sessions will continue in snow, wind and rain therefore all children MUST be suitably dressed to take part and have a jacket and sensible footwear or else the instructor may say they aren't suitably dressed to take part. We advise that on outdoor days your child brings a change of clothes for after their activities.

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As previously shared, Parentsportal is a one stop shop for **all** school communication and streamlines 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 22,000 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 are a cashless school and we are in to our 6<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.

All data forms and permissions will now come via Parentsportal and so it is vital that accounts are set up, linked for siblings and used to communicate changes etc. Please call the office if you have any difficulties in doing this and we will be happy to help.

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

One of our pupils has been 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.

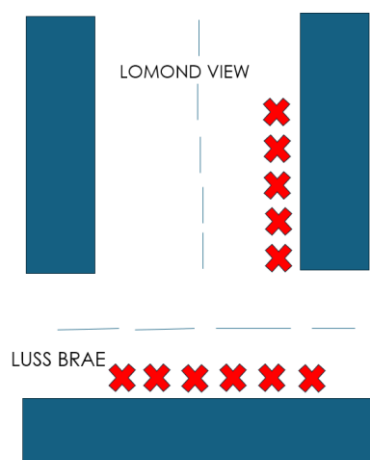
Your child is not at any risk from this situation; however, the health of our pupil does depend on your cooperation in this matter.



## Parking



We are continually frustrated with the amount of inconsiderate parking around the Luss Brae entrance and on Lomond View. We continue to report our concerns to Police Scotland regarding these issues. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE AREA HIGHLIGHTED BELOW AS THEY CAUSE CONGESTION AND FORCE ONCOMING TRAFFIC ON TO THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD.**



**Please DO NOT park on the zig zag lines! This is selfish and unsafe for our pupils trying to get safely in and out of school.**

A reminder that the school carpark is for staff and visiting specialists only, please make alternative arrangements when dropping off and collecting your child. We have noticed that a few cars have been parking at the end of the carpark and also in the emergency vehicle corridor- **this is not permitted.** Please park outwith the grounds and in a sensible space, then walk to collect your child/ren.

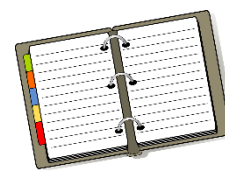
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## Upcoming Diary Dates

### Inset Days

1. Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025
2. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025
3. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025
4. Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026
5. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026



### Holidays

September Weekend	Fri, 26 <sup>th</sup> and Mon, 29 <sup>th</sup> September '25
October Week	Mon, 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri, 17 <sup>th</sup> October '25
Christmas	Close on Fri, 19 <sup>th</sup> December – re-open on Mon, 5 <sup>th</sup> January '26
February Break	Mon, 16 <sup>th</sup> and Tue, 17 <sup>th</sup> February '26
Spring Break	Close on Fri, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Reopen on Mon, 20 <sup>th</sup> April '26
May Holiday	Mon, 4 <sup>th</sup> May '26
Local Holiday	Fri, 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Mon, 25 <sup>th</sup> May '26
Summer	School closes at 1pm on Thur, 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Parents' Evenings

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Diary Dates

P7 Swimming	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August until Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Meet the Teacher	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September- <u>P2-P7 only</u>
Sponsored event/Health week	Week beginning 29 <sup>th</sup> September
Loose Parts Play Month	Week beginning 17 <sup>th</sup> September- more info to follow
P1 Stay and Play Session 1	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.



**Please see our School Improvement Plan on a  
Page below!**

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# Townhill Primary School

## School Improvement Plan 2025/26



### Our Priorities for 2025-2026

#### Priority 1:

Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy

#### Priority 2:

Empower learners to shape and influence actions on sustainability and climate change

#### Priority 3:

Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy

#### Priority 4:

Ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do

### What do we want to achieve? (Outcomes)

To train all staff on SLC's VCPA (visual, concrete, pictorial, abstract) approaches to Numeracy and Mathematics.

To embed concept teaching and fluid groupings in numeracy throughout the school.

To embed the use of Numicon resources across all aspects of Numeracy and Mathematics to support teaching and learning.

To develop a school calendar including Learning for Sustainability events taking place over the course of the session.

To further develop the use of outdoor learning across the school in order to positively impact on the wellbeing of all, children's engagement and enthusiasm for learning across the curriculum.

All classes will engage in practical-based STEM activities in the Science Lab led by Maureen Henry (CCC teacher) via participating in the SSERC programme 'Developing a sustainable approach to STEM'.

To actively engage in internal, collegiate and self-directed CLPL in Science and STEM across early, first and second level.

Through in-house collegiate led training all staff will have CLPL opportunities to power up their pedagogy to increase knowledge and understanding of:

- Learning intentions and success criteria
- Effective questioning
- Effective feedback
- Effective differentiation
- Metacognition
- Creativity

All staff will have the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue in review and evaluation of pedagogical changes,

To further develop a consistent Learning Community approach to the teaching and learning of equalities and diversity.

To continue to increase staff, pupil and parent knowledge and understanding of equalities and diversity.

To maintain and implement an Equalities and Diversity Calendar with events to celebrate equalities and diversity across the school.

To continue to link SLC skills framework to equalities and diversity as part of Learning Community moderation with a focus in RME or IDL.

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## How will we know? (Measures)



By June 2026, all classes/stages will have fully adopted a concept teaching/fluid groupings approach to Numeracy and Mathematics.

By June 2026, all classes/stages will consistently be using Number Talks and VCPA pedagogy to underpin learning and teaching in Numeracy and Mathematics.

By June 2026, all classes will consistently use Numicon resources across all aspects of Numeracy and Mathematics to support learning and teaching

By August 2025, the school calendar will be populated to include Learning for Sustainability Events taking place over the course of the session.

By June 2026, a Learning for Sustainability topic will have been completed for each class linked to Global goals and will form part of IDL planning.

Staff will identify an aspect of an IDL topic where STEM can be included and explored.

All P1-P7 pupils will engage in at least one outdoor learning experience every week and there will be a consistent approach to outdoor learning across all stages and classes.

All classes will continue to develop pedagogical and assessment skills through practical-based STEM activities

By June 2026, all staff will have been given the opportunity to power up their pedagogy through the above outlined collegiate sessions and the opportunity to engage in professional dialogue to review and evaluate pedagogical changes.

By June 2026, there will be a consistent Learning Community approach to the teaching and learning of equalities and diversity.

By June 2026, all staff, pupils and parents will have an increased knowledge and understanding of equalities and diversity.

By June 2026, an Equalities and Diversity Calendar will have been implemented celebrating equalities and diversity across the school through identified events and themed weeks.

By April 2026 staff will have the opportunity to link SLC skills framework to equalities and diversity as part of Learning Community moderation with a focus in RME or IDL.

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

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