August 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to session 2018-2019. A special welcome to all our new pupils, parents and staff. I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and enjoyed the fantastic weather we had this year!

We start the session with a roll of 328. Our children have returned to school enthusiastic and ready to learn, looking smart in their school uniforms. Thanks to all parents for this! Please ensure your child brings a pair of indoor shoes to wear inside. This really helps to protect our carpets and keep our school looking good. Thank you for your support with this.

Please help us by ensuring your child’s belongings are clearly labelled with their name. We do our best to reunite children with their lost property and this saves a lot of confusion! Thank you.

Townhill is a busy school! Please continue to check your child’s bag for letters and information, there’s lots going on! We try to keep our website up to date too, so please have a look at www.townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk for more news about our school. You can also follow us @townhillps to keep up to date with everything happening in school!

STAFFING

A special welcome to new staff starting with us this session.
Miss Emma Bryson (Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday)
Mr Stuart McIntosh (Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday)

Head Teacher Mrs Julie McGowan
Depute Head Teacher Mrs Lorna Love
Principal Teacher (Acting) Mrs Maureen Henry

Primary 1 (Room 1) Miss Laura Douglas
Primary 1 (Room 2) Miss Katie Ballantyne
Primary 2 (Room 4) Mrs Siobhan Kennedy
Primary 2 (Room 3) Mrs Fiona Cook
Primary 3 (Room 5)  Mrs Janis Miller
Primary 3 (Room 6)  Miss Emma Bryson /Mrs Gemma Crawford
Primary 4/5 (Room 7)  Mrs Gemma Fagan
Primary 4 (Room 8)  Miss Fiona Mackenzie
Primary 5 (Room 9)  Miss Rachel Fields
Primary 5/6 (Room 10)  Mrs Emma Kelly/Mrs Barbara Allan
Primary 6 (Room 11)  Mr Stuart McIntosh/Mrs Emma Kelly
Primary 7 (Room 13)  Mrs Claire Campbell
Primary 7 (Room 14)  Mrs Maureen Henry

Additional members of teaching staff:
Mrs Catherine Culbertson (Wed, Thurs, Fri)
Mrs Emma Kelly (Mon, Tues, Wed am, Thurs, Fri)
Mrs Gillian Morrison (Mon, Tues, Wed)
Mrs Mary Winton (Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Support Staff:
Mrs Caroline Comer  Team Leader
Mrs Linda Beaton
Mrs Nicole Stirling
Miss Stephanie Dunn
Mrs Fiona Lawlor
Mrs Jessie Sempie
Mrs Gaynor Sherlock
Mrs Lesley Ann Spence

Janitor:
Mr Jim Campbell

NEWSLETTERS
In order to save paper and money this will be the last newsletter which children bring home for you to read. From September, newsletters will be available on our website with notifications posted on our Twitter feed. However, if you would still like to receive a paper copy, please complete the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter. Thank you.

STAR OF THE WEEK
Every week, in line with the four capacities of A Curriculum for Excellence, class teachers will nominate children to be presented with a Star of the Week Award for those pupils who have worked hard to be Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors or Responsible Citizens. The children receive a Star of the Week certificate, sticker and pencil in recognition of their achievements. Award winning achievements are displayed in school and highlighted in our school newsletter. Star of the Week Awards for August and September will be included in our September newsletter.
WORKING TOGETHER...
Parental partnership is very important to us in Townhill and we work 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 with any queries or concerns. I would ask that you contact the school directly and avoid posting your concerns on social media, as in our experience, many worries can be easily resolved.

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, Mrs Love and I have a pastoral responsibility for different stages within the school.

Rooms 1-6  Mrs Lorna Love
Rooms 7-14  Mrs Julie McGowan

However, if you would prefer to speak directly with me, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment or telephone conversation.

Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

ALLERGY INFORMATION
I’d like to make you aware that 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.

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.

BIKES IN SCHOOL
Many of our children cycle or scoot to school and we encourage this. Any bringing a bike to school should make sure they wear a suitable helmet and reflective clothing and must get off their bike in the playground and push it to the bike shelter. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to
bikes/scooters while on school property.

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 bistro 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.

Running alongside our Golden Rules, each class also operates a system to reward good behaviour, using ‘Golden Time’. Good behaviour in school directly affects the amount of Golden Time each child receives. While most children enjoy participating fully, a few may have lost minutes and are on ‘Time Out’ until that time has passed. This session, Golden Time will take the form of a 15 minute Golden Playtime outdoors, if the weather is fine or in classrooms if we are unable to play outside.

ANNUAL DATA CHECK
All pupils are required to complete their annual data checks. Forms have been distributed and it is very important that all parts of all forms are completed and returned as soon as possible. You should contact the office, throughout the year, if there are any changes to the information on the forms, in particular medical information or contact details, especially mobile telephone numbers. Contact numbers given should be able to accept calls from school. Please make sure these forms are signed and dated. We will be sending some incomplete forms home again for signatures. Please look out for these and return to the school as
soon as possible.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
In line with the Scottish Government's commitment all Townhill pupils will benefit from 2 hours quality PE, including a 30 minute outdoor PE session. Some of our classes are also taking part in the Daily Mile too.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for both indoor and outdoor PE.
Indoor training shoes, shorts and a plain tee shirt is best for indoor PE.
Pupils should bring outdoor trainers, tracksuit bottoms and a waterproof jacket for outdoor PE.
From a health and safety point of view, I also request that children leave their jewellery at home on gym days. Thank you for your support with this.
Please can I remind you that football colours are not suitable for gym days? This policy is in place across South Lanarkshire Council.
A note of your child's PE days/Daily Mile will be communicated by the class teacher.

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 leads a few assemblies in school throughout the year for all pupils and P4-7 visit the church at Christmas and Easter for religious services. Should you wish any more information, please contact me at school.

BREAKFAST CLUB
Just a brief reminder that the Breakfast Club is open to all pupils from 8.25 a.m. to 8.50 a.m. – Monday to Friday. There is no need for pupils to pre book and anyone wishing breakfast should enter by the bistro doors.
The cost of a breakfast is 60 pence and 20 pence for those pupils entitled to a free school meal.
The children will be offered: Fruit juice or Milk
Cereal or Toast with low fat spread
Fresh Fruit

ROAD SAFETY
Thank you to the majority of parents who drive responsibly and park

Melfort Road, Hamilton, ML3 9UR Phone: 01698 284776 Fax: 01698 458978
Email: office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk
considerately around our school at the start and end of the day, in order to ensure the safety of all our pupils. Unfortunately, I have received some complaints already from residents in the streets around the school, in particular, Melfort Road and Luss Brae. When parking, please avoid blocking residents’ driveways and be aware that children may be trying to cross at these very busy times. Please remember that it is illegal to park on the zig-zag lines outside the school. Irresponsible and dangerous parking in now a police matter and you can call 101 to report this.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION
Our playground is supervised by the janitor and members of our support staff from 8.40am-8.55am. There is also an adult presence in the playground at interval and lunchtime.
We have operated a parent-free playground for many years. From, Monday, 3rd September, P1 parents should drop off their children at the school gates, leaving them to come into the playground with P7 monitors who will bring the children to their lines. Thank you for your support with this.
At the end of the school day, the gates will be opened at 2.50pm to allow access to P1 and P2 parents/carers who wish to meet their child in the playground. Please wait in the designated area (near the picnic benches) to allow the P1 and 2 staff space to dismiss the children safely into the care of an adult.
Parents/carers of pupils in P3-7 should drop off and meet their child at the school gates.

WATER IN SCHOOL
As is standard procedure in schools, we encourage the children to drink plain still water throughout the day to remain hydrated and alert. Water is the healthiest choice for quenching thirst at any time and contains no sugars that can damage young teeth. As a Gold Health Promoting School, it is important to us in Townhill that we encourage our children to lead a healthy lifestyle and we work hard to adhere to the guidelines contained in Healthy Eating in Schools: A guide to implementing the Nutritional Requirements in Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2008. Please support us by providing your child with plain water for drinking throughout the day. This can be re-filled during the day, if required. Please keep juice for break and lunchtimes. Thank you for your cooperation.

ATTENDANCE
Please notify the school office first thing in the morning if your child is going to be absent from school. Please follow this up with a letter to the class teacher when he/she returns to school. Thank you for your cooperation with this. The safety and well being of our children is everyone’s prime concern. By working together and sharing absence information we can minimise risk and keep our children safe. If we have not heard from you, the school office will call you to ensure your child is safe.

If your child has an appointment during school hours, please let us know and send the appointment card or letter into school or bring it with you when
you collect your child in order that we can record this accurately on our system.

REPORTING TO PARENTS
Following feedback from parents/carers, we have made some improvements to our ‘reporting to parents’ procedures. We will hold our first Parents’ Evening before the October Week and this will take the form of an individual 10 minute Parent/Teacher consultation. These will take place on Wednesday, 10th and Thursday, 11th October from 3.30-6.00pm. More information will follow nearer to the time. Snapshot jotters will be sent home in Term 3 and our pupil reports and final Parents’ Evening will take place in May. Class Showcases and Assemblies will also take place and are another way you can find out more about what your child has been learning in school.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS
Children in Primary 1-7 are once again being offered Flu Immunisation in school. Information and consent forms have been sent home – please return them as soon as possible. In Townhill, eligible pupils in Primary 1-7 will be given the vaccine on Tuesday, 30th October 2018.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-2019
The priorities for school improvement this year are:

Strategic Priority 1: Improve approaches to assessment, including tracking and monitoring of children’s progress in literacy and numeracy, to raise attainment further

Strategic Priority 2: Refresh the curriculum with a particular focus on approaches to further develop children’s health and wellbeing

Strategic Priority 3: Develop programmes to allow learners to demonstrate their skills for learning, life and work in a range of contexts.

If you would like to find out more about our School Improvement Plan, you will be able to find the whole document on our school website.

BABY NEWS
I’m delighted to let you know that Louis William Ross arrived safely on 30th June 2018. Miss Neilly is doing really well and enjoying being a mummy! She and her partner David are having lots of fun getting to know their baby son!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
I have attached our school calendar for this session. You are also able to access these on the home page of our website. I hope you will find this early indication of important school events useful. Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list and that these dates can be subject to change. However, we will let you know of any changes as soon as we can.

Here’s a note of the main events happening in school over the next month. We will, of course,
be in touch with more details and information.

Monday, 3rd September
3.00pm: Judo Club

Tuesday, 4th September
AM: House Captain Speeches
PM: P2 Kerbcraft
3.00pm: P6/7 Boys Football Training

Wednesday, 5th September
3.00pm: P6/7 Girls Football Training

Thursday, 6th September
Lunchtime: P5 Tae Kwon Do Club
3.00pm: P7 Netball Club

Friday, 7th September
P1 and P7 Buddy Lunch

Monday, 10th September
3.00pm: Judo Club

Tuesday, 11th September
PM: P2 Kerbcraft
3.00pm: P6/7 Boys Football Training

Wednesday, 12th September
P7 Visit to the Emirates Arena, Glasgow - more information to follow
3.00pm: P6/7 Girls Football Training

Thursday, 13th September
Lunchtime: P5 Tae Kwon Do Club
3.00pm: P7 Netball Club

Monday, 17th September
3.00pm: Judo Club

Tuesday, 18th September
PM: P2 Kerbcraft
3.00pm: P6/7 Boys Football Training

Wednesday, 19th September
3.00pm: P6/7 Girls Football Training

Thursday, 20th September
Lunchtime: P5 Tae Kwon Do Club
PM: P1 and P7 Buddy Afternoon

Tuesday, 25th September
PM: P2 Kerbcraft
3.00pm: P6/7 Boys Football Training

Wednesday, 26th September
3.00pm: P6/7 Girls Football Training

Thursday, 27th September
Lunchtime: P5 Tae Kwon Do Club
3.00pm: P7 Netball Club
HOLIDAYS
Friday, 21st September
Monday, 24th September
Monday, 15th - Friday, 19th October

As always, please contact me at school should you have any questions or queries.

Julie McGowan
Head Teacher

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NEWSLETTERS

I would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter.

Name of Child _____________________  Class_________

Signed _______________________________  Date _________
**Inset Days**

1. Tues, 14th Aug '18  
   Teachers return (Pupils return Thurs, 16th Aug 2018)
2. Wed, 15th Aug '18  
3. Mon, 19th Nov '18  
4. Wed, 13th Feb '19  
5. Tues, 7th May '19

**Holidays**

- **September Weekend**: Fri, 21st and Mon, 24th September '18
- **October Week**: Mon, 15th - Fri, 19th October '18
- **Christmas**: Mon, 24th December - Fri, 4th January '19
- **February Break**: Mon, 11th and Tue, 12th February '19
- **Spring Break**: Mon, 1st April - Fri, 12th April '19
- **Easter Weekend**: Fri, 19th April and Monday, 22nd April '19
- **May Holiday**: Mon, 6th May '19
- **Local Holiday**: Fri, 24th and Mon, 27th May '19
- **Summer**: School closes at 1pm on Fri, 28th June 2019

**Parents' Evenings**

- Parent's Evening (Book Fair): Wednesday, 10th October '18 ~ 3.30-6.00pm  
  Thursday, 11th October '18 ~ 3.30-6.00pm
- Parent's Evening (Book Fair): Wed, 15th May '19 ~ 3.15-9.15pm

**Diary Dates**

- **Assemblies**: Fridays ~ 9.20am (R1-6)  
  9.50am (R7-14)  
  Whole school Assemblies last Friday of the month or as required
- **Harvest Service**: Wed, 3rd October '18 ~ 9.30am
- **School Photographer**: Fri, 26th October '18
- **Flu Immunisations (P1-7)**: Tuesday, 30th October '18
- **Christmas**: TBC
- **Christmas Lunch**: TBC
- **Parties (bistro/hall)**:  
  - P6: Mon, 10th December '18 ~ 1.30pm  
  - P5: Tues, 11th December '18 ~ 1.30pm  
  - P4: Mon, 17th December '18 ~ 1.30pm

Melfort Road, Hamilton, ML3 9UR  
Phone: 01698 284776  
Fax: 01698 458978  
Email: office@townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk
P7: Mon, 17th December '18 ~ 7.00pm
P3: Tues, 18th December '18 ~ 1.30pm
P2: Wed, 19th December '18 ~ 1.30pm
P1: Thurs, 20th December '18 ~ 1.30pm

Carol Concert (P4-7) Thurs, 6th December '18 ~ 7.00pm
Christmas Nativity (P1-3) Dress Rehearsal: TBC
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Fri, 14th December '18 ~ 9.30am
Fri, 14th December '18 or nearest suitable date

M&M Productions: Pinocchio (P1-7) Tues, 11th December '18 ~ 9.30am
Christmas Service at Hillhouse Parish Church (P4-7) TBC
Easter ~
Easter Service at Hillhouse Parish Church (P4-7) TBC

Easter Assembly (P1-3) Thursday, 28th March '19 ~ 9.30am
Health Day Friday, 17th May '19
Inter-House Quiz Friday, 16th November '18
Primary 7 Prom Thurs, 20th June '19 ~ 7.00pm
House Talent Show Friday, 8th February '19
Informal Awards Mon, 17th June '19 ~ 9.30am
End of Term Service Tues, 25th June '19 ~ 9.30am
(P7 Showcase)

Residential Visits/Activity Weeks

P7 Lockerbie Manor Residential Visit/Activity Week Mon, 18th - Fri, 22nd March '19

Sports

Tues, 4th June '19 (or next available dry day)