November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

December is another busy month in Townhill with lots going on as we all begin the countdown to Christmas! All the important dates for the run up to Christmas are included at the end of this newsletter. Please remember to keep checking your child’s bag and our website www.townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk for more information. We can also be found online by following us @townhillps.

STAR OF THE WEEK

The following children received a Star of the Week Award in November:

Room 1  Aaron Black, Rocco Poli
Room 2  Iona Millar, Luke Allan
Room 3  Jacob Lindsay, Amy Scott
Room 4  Calum Wood, Caitlin Gabriel
Room 5  Kyle Clements, Emma Borland, Logan Stirrat
Room 6  Nathan Murray, Devyn Kerr, Charlie Watson
Room 7  Leah Killeen, Josh Ward, Layla Nicol
Room 8  Ruairidh Agnew, Logan Duris, Calan Ferguson, Aidan Allan
Room 9  Grace Aitchison, Reece Borden, Katrina Simpson, Mitchell White
Room 10 Rhys Spence, Katie Falconer, Paige Jeffcott, Rachel Cosh, Kristian Koychev
Room 11 Eva Nicol, Emma Worrall, Molly Croft
Room 13 Ryan Millar, Scott Tweedie
Room 14 Ruairi Baird, Lucas Stewart, Brooke Kean

WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMMORATION EVENT

Congratulations to Olivia Keddie and Ariella Burt who won 2nd and 3rd place in a World War One commemoration poetry competition organised by SLC Health and Social Care Partnership. I accompanied the girls to the event on Thursday, 8th November where we met staff and clients from day care centres across South Lanarkshire. We felt very privileged to have spent this time with members of the older generation remembering those in our own community who gave so much for us. We also thoroughly enjoyed the war time singalong and tea dance! Well done to all our Primary 7 children who entered this competition and received a certificate!
PRIMARY 2 SHOWCASE
Our Primary 2 children invited their friends and family to join them for their Showcase Assembly on Friday, 9th November. The children have been learning all about Firework Safety and the story of Guy Fawkes. They made sure we all knew how to stay safe around fireworks!
Well done, Mrs Cook, Mrs Kennedy and everyone in Rooms 3 and 4!

CHILDREN IN NEED
Thank to everyone for supporting Children in Need again this year, on Friday, 16th November! We were able to send off a cheque for £763.29. Well done, everyone!
A big thank you to Mrs Henry, Mrs Campbell and P7 for organising another great day!
Well done, everyone!

PRIMARY 1 FAMILY LEARNING WORKSHOPS
Our P1 pupils received their Bookbags this week during Book Week Scotland 2018 after our family learning workshop on Tuesday, 20th November.
Parents joined their children in school from 9.30am to take part in a variety of literacy and numeracy activities. Thank you for the great feedback we received from those parents who were able to join us for this morning and found it useful. You can find out more about this initiative at www.readwritecount.scot.
P2 and P3 children also took home their bags – please look out for these as they contain some fabulous resources and activities you can try at home to support your child with their learning in both literacy and numeracy.

SLC ROAD SAFETY CALENDAR COMPETITION
Congratulations to Alyssa Clegg, Paige Jeffcott, Skye Aitkenhead and Olivia Keddie whose entries to the SLC Road Safety Calendar Competition were highly commended.
The girls were presented with their certificates at assembly last week. Well done!

CHOIR NEWS
Mrs Kennedy and our fantastic P5-7 choir have qualified in the top ten choirs in the Regent Shopping Centre’s School Choir Competition. Voting opens at their website www.theregencentre.com on Friday, 30th November and runs until Friday, 14th December! Please vote for us! And tell all your friends to vote for us too! In December 2016, we almost won this competition! Will 2018 be our year? Please keep an eye on our twitter feed to see how we’re getting on!

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INTER HOUSE QUIZ

Congratulations to BURNS House who won our Inter House Quiz on Friday, 23rd November. At times the scores were very close as our teams vied to be the best!
The race is on now to see which house will win the House Treat on Wednesday, 12th December! Good Luck, everyone!

READING CHAMPIONS – FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

A huge thank you to all our pupils, parents and friends of Townhill who collected almost 17,000 tokens for the Sun’s Free Books for Schools campaign!
I’m so impressed by your enthusiasm and the huge effort everyone put into reaching the 3500 total and you’ve absolutely smashed it! Our Senior Reading Champions, a group of dedicated readers from P4-7, along with Mrs Fagan and Miss Mackenzie have been kept very busy sorting and counting all the tokens.
We have been active on Twitter and Facebook and have sent tokens all over the country to help out schools in our Learning Community, across South Lanarkshire and also as far afield as Highland Council, North Ayrshire Council, Clackmannanshire Council, East Lothian Council and West Dunbartonshire Council!
We love reading in Townhill and are delighted that we have been able to help out so many other schools right across Scotland! We can’t wait to receive our free books and get reading!
THANK YOU!

FOOD ALLERGIES (NUT ALLERGIES)

I’d like to remind you 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 once again urge all parents/carers to bear this in mind when providing your child with snacks and/or packed lunches. Thank you for your support with this.

PARENT GROUP UPDATE

As you will be aware, we held the AGMs of both our Parent Council and PTA on Wednesday, 14th November at which the school received £5536.40. This is an outstanding amount which we will be able to use to further enhance learning experiences and opportunities for the children! A huge thank you to Fraser Cosh, Parent Council Chairperson and Evelyn Williamson, PTA Chairperson who both stood down from their positions at the AGMs, for their tireless support of the school.
Thank you too, to Louise Savage and Sarah Monie who gave up their positions as PTA Secretary and Treasurer. Following the AGM and taking into account the responses to the letter sent to all parents, the decision has been taken that the groups will combine. There are still formalities to be finalised, however, in the meantime, a small, dedicated group of parents are working hard behind the scenes to organise some fundraising activities in the run up to Christmas.

As a result, **Trading Thursday** took place on **Thursday, 29th November** and in return for dressing down, the children were asked to donate a gift for one of our **Christmas Hampers** which will be raffled in school, at the Carol Concert on **Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th December** and at both P1-3 Nativity performances on **Thursday, 13th and Friday, 14th December**. **The draw** will take place after the P1-3 Nativity on **Friday, 14th December**.

**A Christmas Fun Day** is also being planned for **Friday, 21st December** - the last day of term, **More information will follow soon**.

Any new volunteers will be made most welcome. We really appreciate and value your support and input, so if you feel you have time to help out and support us, please contact the school office who will be able to put you in touch with this group of parents. Thank you so much for your support.

**ENROLMENT**

Enrolment week for children starting school in August 2019 is week beginning Monday, 14th January.

We will be holding three sessions: **Monday, 14th January - 1.45-3.00pm**
**Tuesday, 15th January - 10.00-12noon**
**Thursday, 17th January - 1.45-3.00pm**.

Parents should bring a copy of their child’s full birth certificate and 2 proofs of residency in order to enrol their child.

**PARKING**

As we approach a really busy time in school with concerts, nativities and parties, please can I remind all parents to drive and park carefully and considerately around the school, in order to ensure the safety of all our pupils. Thank you for your support with this.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Monday, 3rd December**
Lunchtime: Lunchtime Funtime for P3, R6
3.00pm: P5-7 Choir
3.00pm: Judo Club

**Thursday, 6th December**
AM: P5 to Bubblegum and Fluff, Hillhouse Parish Church

**Monday, 10th December**
Lunchtime: Lunchtime Funtime for P3, R6
3.00pm: Judo Club

**Wednesday, 12th December**
PM: House Treat!
Monday, 17th December
Mobile Military Museum to Primary 7
3.00pm: Judo Club

CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 6th December
7.00pm: Carol Concert (P4-7 pupils to arrive for 6.30pm)

Friday, 7th December
9.30am: Carol Concert

Tuesday, 11th December
AM: M&M Productions - Pinocchio

Thursday, 13th December
9.30am: P1-3 Nativity
Lunchtime: Christmas Lunch in the Dinner Hall

Friday, 14th December
Christmas Jumper Day
9.30am: P1-3 Nativity, followed by Parent Group Hamper Draw

Wednesday, 19th December
10.00am: P4-7 Christmas Service, Hillhouse Parish Church

PARTIES

Monday, 10th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 6

Wednesday, 11th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 5

Friday, 14th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 4

Monday, 17th December
7.00pm: P7 Christmas Dance

Tuesday, 18th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 3

Wednesday, 19th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 2

Thursday, 20th December
1.15-3.00pm: Primary 1

HOLIDAYS

School closes for Christmas on Friday, 21st December at 2.30pm and re-opens on Monday, 7th January 2018 at 8.55am.

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

Julie McGowan
Julie McGowan,
Head Teacher