September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge thank you for the lovely welcome I have had since joining the team at Townhill Primary School. It really is a pleasure getting to know all of the staff and children and I look forward to an exciting and busy term ahead!

Please remember to keep checking your child’s bag and our website www.townhill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk for more information on dates, activities etc. We now have 292 followers on Twitter - great! Please follow us @townhillps to keep up to date with everything happening in school!

**STAR OF THE WEEK**

The following children received a Star of the Week Award in August and September:

- Room 1: Lewyn Ferguson, Olivia McDermott, Mirin Darroch, Eva MacFarlane, Savannah Reilly
- Room 2: Ella Grant, Sophie Seymour, Ryan Stevenson, Fraser McGowan, Nairn Millar
- Room 3: Boyan Belchev, Chloe Savage, Caden Shaw, Erin McCafferty, Jayden Gardiner
- Room 4: Nathan Culverhouse, Jack Nelson, Antonia Cunningham, Chloe Christou, Rory Inkster
- Room 5: Jordan McAuley, Logan Drummond, Lily Sands, Kaiden Johnstone, Ruairidh Munro, Hana Javed
- Room 6: Finlay Thompson, Harlee Wilkie, Caiden Hunter, Rory McDowall, Cooper Orr
- Room 8: Mitchell Lerry, Isabella Tennant, Devyn Kerr, Amy Burns, Olivia Newberry, Kyle Clements, Mya Ramsay, Andrew Campbell, Blair McIntosh
- Room 9: Lucy Morison, Logan Aikman, Nathan McCafferty, Willow Jamieson, Nathan Black, Jessica Hogg, Calan Ferguson
- Room 10: Freya Williamson, Evie Magilton, Nathan Robertson, Ava Wood, Cameron Lees
- Room 11: Skye Aitkenhead, Grace Aitchison, Lexi Calder, Jordan Hendry, Rory Thomson
- Room 13: Kirsten Campbell, Dylan Hunter, Emma Worral, Lewis Carney, Finlay Keddie
- Room 14: Morgan Manship, Jenna-Louise Davidson, Scott Forrest, Luis Kelly, Katie Falconer, Taylor McNab, Erin Kelly

**BUDDIES**

Our P1 and P7 buddies have been enjoying getting to know each other and have taken part in Buddy Lunch and Buddy Afternoon. The next Buddy Lunch will be on Friday, 11th October.
The next Buddy Afternoon will have a Hallowe’en theme and will be held on Thursday, 31st October.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

We are delighted that our Breakfast Club is up and running! A reminder our Breakfast Club is free and will run EVERYDAY from 8:15am until 8:45am. Children have been enjoying a choice of cereal or toast and benefiting from social time with their peers before transitioning to class. We are looking for donations of table top games, playing cards, jigsaws, dominoes etc. that we can use with the children once they are finished eating. Please hand in any donations to our school office.

**PE CLOTHING**

For health and safety reasons it is really important that the pupils are properly dressed for P.E. Whilst it is not school policy to insist on specialised clothing on P.E. for sporting activities, children should be dressed appropriately. Outdoor trainers must not be worn in the gym hall. Gym shoes must be in good condition to ensure safety, with soles intact and Velcro straps securely fastened. Trainers must be laced up for PE. A school polo shirt or plain tee-shirt should also be worn. Cropped tops etc are not appropriate for school.

The wearing of jewellery, including pierced earrings, during P.E. sessions is also prohibited for safety reasons. Although it is preferable and safer for earrings to be removed during PE those which cannot be removed can be taped over to prevent any unfortunate accidents. It would be very helpful, and save a lot of time, if you could help your child to do this at home. Thank you.

Every child also has an outdoor PE slot each week. Pupils should bring tracksuit bottoms, trainers and a warm, waterproof jacket for this activity as they will go outside unless the weather is particularly bad.

P.E. is an important part of the curriculum and all children must take part unless there are physical or medical reasons, which prevent them from participating. If your child is unable to take part, please inform the class teacher in writing.

We work hard in Townhill to meet the government’s expectation that we will provide two hours of quality PE for our pupils each week and thank you for your support to ensure we do this safely.

**HOUSES**

Our Primary one children have all been sorted into their houses! The children are now all busy earning points for their houses, with the results announced at our weekly assemblies. We wonder who will win this term’s special treat! Our House Captains have been voted for by the children and are:
• **BAIRD** (red): Adam Monie and Carly McAulay
• **BURNS** (blue): Evan McDermott and Katie Falconer
• **LAUDER** (green): Anna Lowe and Charlie Morrison
• **LIVINGSTONE** (yellow): David McLean and Ryan McEwan

We were so very proud of each and every child that delivered a speech, and although only some children will move forward as House Captains, there will be lots of opportunities for leadership in other areas throughout the year!

**Good Luck to all of our houses and a very well done to our newly elected Captains!**

**NURTURE UPDATE**

We are continuing our journey towards the Nurturing Schools Award this session and have already been working hard to organise our Garden Room groups and P1 Sunshine circles! These will start in October and will be led by Mrs Love. Look out for more information about Nurture at Townhill PS coming soon. If any parents or carers are interested in finding our more information about our nurturing approaches please contact Mrs Love at the school.

**PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUPS**

All of our pupils will now have had the chance to think about the various Pupil Leadership groups on offer this session! We will now start to collate these and organise our groups. Each group will have a staff lead and a clear action plan for the group to work to throughout the year. As always we cannot guarantee that children will get their top choice as we also take the group size and composition into account when organising. We are looking forward to a successful year for Pupil Voice with our first session running on Tuesday 29th October. Groups will then run every fortnight from this date.

**JRSO**

Mrs Kelly and two representatives from P7 attended the Junior Road Safety Event at Chatelherault Country Park this week and found out lots of ways to ensure Road Safety is a top priority at Townhill PS. They all had a wonderful time and enjoyed trying out some of the equipment on show! Well done!

**CAKES**

Whilst we are happy to celebrate our children's birthdays in school, we are noticing an ever growing number of birthday cakes being sent in. Please bear in mind that we now have children in school who suffer from severe allergies and are therefore unable to eat any cake sent in. Organising slices etc. for classes is also very time consuming for our office staff so we ask that anything that is sent in to be portioned and organised to hand out. Thank you for your help with this.
PARENTS AS PARTNERS: PTA/PARENT COUNCIL

After our very successful Parent meeting in May we are keen to build on the enthusiasm and ensure we have a Parent Body organised to help the school organise events for the children and raise money for the children. We will hold an AGM (Annual General Meeting) on Wednesday 6th November in school at 7pm and can discuss key roles etc. to support the constitution of a Parent Council. Please come along and join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a good discussion about supporting our children and working as one. At this meeting we can plan ahead for fundraising throughout the session! All ideas welcomed!

HALLOWEEN DISCOS

A meeting has also been arranged for Tuesday 22nd October in school at 6:15pm for anyone able and willing to help out with our Halloween Discos, which are planned for Wednesday October 30th. This meeting will help coordinate support, disco supervision etc. Please come along and lend a hand. More information on the Discos will follow.

PARKING

Unfortunately, parking continues to be a serious issue outside our school. Our school is situated in a highly populated residential area and this can make it difficult to find a space as near to the school as you would like, however, the safety of all our pupils must be paramount. Our Junior Road Safety Officers will be in contact with our community police officers to find out how to keep us safe coming to and from school. 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.

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.

As always, please contact me at school should you have any questions or queries. Have a lovely September weekend break!

A. McGovern
Mrs Ally McGovern
Head Teacher (Acting)