



Towerbank Primary School



NEWSLETTER

December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that it's December already. We are almost at the end of term two and there is much news to share and celebrate and as the festive season approaches many events to look forward to. All the boys and girls, staff and parent and carer volunteers at Towerbank have been working very hard and I hope the class newsletters that were issued last week gave you a flavour of what has been happening this term in the classes.

Open Day



We were very pleased at the turnout and feedback from the Open Days which were held last month. Several hundred visitors were welcomed into the school on November 4th and 5th. This is a remarkable show of support and we are very grateful to all of you who managed along to these events. Our Open Day is an ideal opportunity for you to come into school and experience first-hand a snapshot of life in Towerbank across all the stages. Once again, the Primary Seven tour guides proved very popular and their pride in their school was clear for all to see.

So many of you commented on their polite manner, confidence, enthusiasm and knowledge. We always enjoy sharing with our parents and carers the wide range of learning that goes on in Towerbank and are delighted with the extremely positive feedback we received.



You will have seen from our School Year Planner that we intend to hold our next whole school Open Day on **Thursday 12th May**. We hope that as many of you as possible will make it along on the day. Before that we will be holding a Curriculum Evening on **Wednesday 16th March** to showcase some elements of our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion which is our key focus in Health and Wellbeing this session. The Curriculum Evening will provide a perfect opportunity for us to share what the children are learning, how they are learning and how you can get involved. We will provide more information nearer the time.



It's Good to Talk

We were delighted to welcome you all last month to our Parent Consultation Meetings. We had an excellent turnout of parents and carers with many of our teachers reporting a **100%** attendance.

Overall, across the school we had a **98%** turnout. We are very proud of the support we have from our parents and carers and of the spirit of partnership which exists between home and school.

We are currently reviewing our homework policy and our recent request for pupil and staff feedback on homework has provided us with lots to think about and reflect upon.

We are grateful for the parents and carers who responded to the Homework questionnaire.

We have set up a staff working group who are looking at all of the feedback and at ways to improve homework across all the stages.

Making Music



Miss Findlay, Miss Bicheno and Miss Hawkins continue to work with the Towerbank School Choir, which is made up of P6 and P7 pupils and meets weekly after school. P7 members of the school choir will perform at the Portobello Panto – Cinderella on the 11th, 12th and 13th of December at the Wash House. The P6 members of the choir have been invited to sing carols at Edinburgh Airport and a local nursing home. This year's Primary Fives are delighted that they have been invited to go Carol Singing at Portobello Library.

Health and Wellbeing



We continue to be very impressed with the efforts of our parents and carers in providing the children with healthy snacks and lunches. At school, we also encourage the children to make healthy choices.

It is important that we make you aware that many of our children have severe food allergies and we would respectfully request that you do not send in any snacks or food containing nuts or chocolate nut spread in sandwiches.

We have noticed that very occasionally parents and carers are sending in food treats for their child's class. This could be to celebrate a birthday or a special occasion. We realise this is a kind thing to do, however due to food allergies and our commitment to health promotion throughout the school we would like you to support us by not sending whole class treats into school. The children will continue to enjoy the occasional 'sweet treat' in school as we have a regular bake sale which we all enjoy and that we are happy to continue to support. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

School Lunches

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support with the new lunch arrangements. The uptake for school lunches continues to rise and as such the associated administration is considerable. We would therefore ask you to help us by ensuring the order forms for lunches are completed and returned to school no later than the deadline dates as detailed on the forms. This would help us enormously.



Plans are well underway for an extension to the current dining room. You may have seen at the recent parent consultation meetings the proposed design plans for the new dining area. We will keep you informed as to the progress of the project.

Reminders



- o Please send all monies into school on a Monday in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name and class and what it is for. Please note we are **unable** to accept any money on a Friday for lunches, milk and trips.
- o The school is open from **8.00am** for calls informing us of your child's absence.



- o The weather has been pretty cold, wet and windy of late and we would be very grateful if you could please provide your child with a warm waterproof jacket or coat and hat, scarf and gloves. We endeavor to get the children out to play every day and this is possible if they are appropriately dressed for the weather.
- o We continue to gather large amounts of lost property. It goes without saying that if your child's clothing is clearly labelled then you are almost guaranteed to keep track of it. The lost property bucket lives outside Mr Henderson's room on the ground floor.

PSA



As ever, our hardworking PSA have been busy organising and running a variety of events since the beginning of the session. The Disco raised much needed funds and was enjoyed by all those who took part. A huge thanks to Donald Martin and the parent helpers who organise the discos. A fabulous £662 was raised. Thanks to those of you who made it along and supported the PSA Christmas Fair on Friday. What a huge turnout and great success. We are all very grateful to the PSA for their commitment and continued support. Thanks to Liz Henderson and Ruth Bowen who are chair and vice-chair respectively and their team. This year we welcomed a variety of independent stall holders who contributed to the funds and to the variety of goodies for sale. Thanks to Andrea Barlow for organising this. Watch this space for news of the total raised.

School Council

At the recent School Council meeting Ruth Jays was elected as our new School Council Chair and Andrea Barlow as Vice Chair. They succeed Emma Gieben-Gamal who has been an active member for many years and most recently as Vice Chair and Chair. We are delighted that Emma will continue on the School Council and would like to thank her for her hard work and support.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2015



We raised a whopping £942.05. A huge thanks to our Pupil Council for organising the event and for all the boys and girls and staff who 'Put on their Ears' and donated so generously.



Camp Fundraising Group



The group are well under way with their programme of events which will raise funds for Ardeonaig and Benmore camps. One of our parents Donald Martin is leading the group again this year and is working very hard raising much needed funds. The October bake sale raised £385 and proved very popular. Thanks to all our Towerbank bakers who regularly contribute yummy cakes and delicious biscuits. The group are always looking for extra help especially from P5, P6 and P7 parents and carers. We are all very grateful for the hard work and effort that goes into this good cause. Please support where you can with future events.

Car Parking



Thanks to the vast majority of you who choose to park your vehicles away from the school. However, many parents and local residents continue to raise concerns about the number of cars that are parked around the school and in particular, on the pavement outside the nursery, the new road round the playground and Wilson Park. This is a particular problem at drop off and pick up times. Some parents have even witnessed drivers reversing their vehicles while partly on the pavement and children are walking close by.

Please be considerate and park away from the school for the safety of all our children

Green Pencil Award

Every year schools in Edinburgh are invited to take part in the Green Pencil Competition. It is an annual creative writing competition for Edinburgh children in the P4 – P7 age group. This year the theme was ‘Scotland’s Food and Drink’. It attracted 1500 entries from across the city and we were delighted that our very own **Sasha Hamilton P7C** was one of the 20 finalists. Well done to everyone from Towerbank who entered and a special congratulations to Sasha.



Have yourself an Eco Christmas!

The Eco Council designed a competition to promote Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The idea was to recycle materials to make a Christmas tree or decoration. What a fantastic response we had! So many fabulous ideas. It was very difficult to choose a winner but Mrs Benson and the Eco Committee just managed it. Each class had a winner and there was some additional winners too. The winning decorations were hung on the Christmas trees around the school.

Well Done To All!

And the winners are

Class	Winner	Runner Up	Class	Winner	Runner Up
Nursery	Reuben Weighand	Olivia Wood & Dixie Dockerty	P3A	Estelle Whalen	Amelia Robb
P1A	Luke McCartney	Alice Munro	P3B	Cameron Alexander	Cameron Murray
P1B	Eva Sparkes	Lewis Perth	P3C	Eilidh Jays	Tilly Torrie
P1C	Henry Ward	Freya Pilarska	P4A	Izabella Hogarth	David Todd
P1D	Ethan Cole	Finlay Allchorne	P4B	Chelsea Ellis	Max Ogg
P2A	Aaron O'Donnell	Ava Lawson	P4C	Frankie Needham	Lily Emily Varga
P2B	Ella Millan	Lucas Ballard	P5A	James Galbraith	Rosa Molloy
P2C	Ella Coyle	Joseph Tillbrook & Brodie Annal	P5B	Kiera Hobson	Fergus Wood
P2D	Sam Thomas	Sophie Morrison	P5C	Carla Moodie	Finn McLauchlan
CONGRATULATIONS! 			P6B	Fergus Tillbrook	-
			P7C	Ray Thomas Johnstone	Ellie McLauchlan



Staffing



We would like to warmly welcome our new PSAs Miss Conway, Miss Dalrymple, Miss Downs, Miss Knox and Miss McCormick to the Towerbank Staff. They are all already proving a great addition to our team!



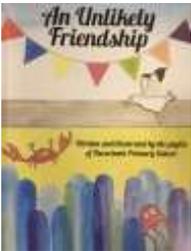
Flu Vaccination Clinic

There will be another opportunity for P1 – P7 pupils to attend a clinic for the flu vaccination if they have not already received this. The additional clinic will be held on **Thursday 10th December 2015** at **Leith YMCA, Acorn Centre, 1 Junction Place, Edinburgh EH6 5JA**. Drop in from **3.30 – 6.30pm**.



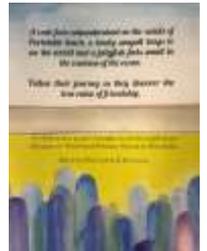
You will have received a letter detailing dates and times for the children's Christmas parties and events. We are having our annual Christmas Service in the Portobello and Joppa Parish Church on Thursday 17th December. Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot offer an open invitation to parents and carers for this event.

Finally ...



Last session all our classes from Nursery to P7 took part in a whole school project where we focused on our emotional wellbeing. Lots of great work was produced across all the stages as a result of this. We were particularly proud of a piece of work which culminated in the creation of a story to which every class in the school contributed to. We are thrilled to let you know that this story "An Unlikely Friendship" has been published as a book and is available for you to buy. The book went on sale on Friday at the

Christmas Fair and proved very popular. Please look out for an order which will be sent home next week if you wish to buy a copy.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents, carers and pupils for all their hard work and ongoing support. I hope when the time comes you all have a peaceful and restorative holiday.

Very Best Wishes

Mrs J Gilmour

Head Teacher



Term Two ends Tuesday 22nd December 2015 at 12 noon



Term Three resumes Thursday 7th January 2016