



Towerbank Primary School

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that December is fast approaching. Everyone in the Towerbank School community has been working very hard and we are all looking forward to the festive season and the many events that we have planned.

Staffing

We would like to warmly welcome our new PSAs Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Walker and Mrs Zaman to the Towerbank Staff team. They are all already proving a great addition to our team!

Music Events

Miss Bicheno and Miss Hawkins continue to work with the P6 and P7 Towerbank School Choir. We are excited to share with you that the P7 members of the school choir will perform at the Portobello Panto – Jack and the Beanstalk between the 9th and 11th of December at the Wash House. The school choir have been invited to sing carols at Edinburgh Airport and a local nursing home. This year P5C 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 extremely 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 all need to be extra vigilant in school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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 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. We are delighted with our new dining space and are working hard to make the best use of this space during lunch time and to ensure the children have the best possible dining experience that we can provide. We will continue to work in partnership with the Parent Council School Dinners Group and are looking forward to welcoming them to join us in the new term to sample our meals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their huge effort and support.

Head Lice

We are aware of an increase in the number of families reporting head lice. Please ensure that you regularly check your child's hair for head lice. It is essential that any outbreak is treated immediately and appropriately. Here is the most up to date link from NHS Health Scotland which will provide you with further information should you require it.

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/25-Head%20Lice%20-%20Information%20for%20Parents.pdf>

Please note that Towerbank follows the City of Edinburgh Council guidelines which ask us **not** to send letters home regarding class outbreaks of head lice. We would strongly encourage you to continue to alert your child's teacher if you discover your child has head lice.



Flu Vaccination Clinic

As you are aware, if you have completed and returned the documentation issued at the beginning of this school session, there will be an opportunity for P1 – P7 pupils to attend a clinic in school for the flu vaccination if they have not already received this. This clinic will be held on **Wednesday 7th December 2016 during the school day**. Please note that parents are **unable to attend**. If you **no longer** wish your child to be vaccinated, please contact the school office. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Reminders

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The school is open from 8.00am for calls informing us of your child's absence.
- ❖ The weather has been pretty icy and cold 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.
- ❖ 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. As agreed at the last Parent Council Meeting held on 27th October, any unclaimed, unnamed school uniform will be collected and given to the second hand uniform collection. All other items will be recycled. Please take the time to check the lost property bucket which is located outside the janitor's room on the ground floor.

Children in Need – Friday 18th November 2016

We raised a whopping **£1,020.47**. A huge thanks to our Pupil Council for organising the event and for all the boys and girls and staff who 'Put on their Spots' and donated so generously.



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.

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



Community Police

We are really happy to tell you that we are working closely with our designated community police. They popped in twice last week for a cup of tea and a chat on how they can support our school. They are keen to get to know Towerbank School community and will be around in the playground and the surrounding area and will also be working with the children in school.



Dogs

We have received a number of complaints from parents and carers about dogs being tied to the school gates and left unsupervised. Some of our children are **very** frightened to walk past the dogs and this is not a good start to the beginning and end of the day. **Dogs should not be brought into the school grounds**. However, as a compromise can we suggest that if you find that you need to leave your dog, could it be left at the East gate which is not used by the children. The pedestrian gate is always open and would provide a safe access.



Bikes in the Playground

Towerbank is very proud of its long standing reputation of children choosing healthy ways to travel to and from school. We have an enormous number of children who cycle and scoot to school every day. We are concerned however, about the number of bikes and scooters that are not secured at the racks provided. We would urge you to make sure your child brings a good quality padlock/chain each day. If they forget then it is an idea that they share with a friend. We are trying to be vigilant as a school and keep an eye on property, but even well secured bikes and scooters have gone missing. We would always encourage you to let us know if this happens to your child's property but also please inform the local police as they take any theft or vandalism at the school seriously. Also, could we remind you that **all** cyclists should dismount and secure their bikes when they enter the playground.

No child should be cycling or scooting in the playground before or after the school bell. We are aware of a number of accidents where children have been knocked over by children cycling and scooting. We have a significant number of toddlers and babies in buggies and we are keen that everyone is safe in our playground.



Christmas Events

You will receive a letter detailing dates and times for the children's Christmas parties and events tomorrow. We are having our annual Christmas Service in the Portobello and Joppa Parish Church on Wednesday 21st December. Unfortunately, due to lack of space, we cannot offer an open invitation to parents and carers for this event.



Read, Write, Count Event

We are delighted to let you know that the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney joined us here at Towerbank for a very special event on the 10th November 2016.

Read, Write, Count is a new Scottish Government campaign to encourage families of children in Primary One, Two and Three to engage with their children's learning by providing advice, support and resources. For many years, Bookbug has gifted a bag of books to all Primary One students throughout Scotland. Now, through the Read, Write, Count Campaign, all Primary Two and Three children will receive a free bag with books, counting games and writing materials.

All of our P2 and P3 children were involved and showcased many exciting activities they had learned in class. The children were very excited to have lots of visitors to talk to about their learning including many of their parents and carers. The children's artwork, stories, poems and numeracy games were of a very high standard. Mr John Swinney and all of our visitors were very impressed. There was a real buzz around the school that day and the children are still talking about the event. Well done to all and thank you for all your hard work!

For more information about Read, Write, Count and for simple, fun ideas to help build reading, writing and counting into everyday life, visit www.readwritecount.scot and www.scottishbooktrust.com/readwritecount.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions or would like any further information.

Happy December!

Mrs P Morrison
Acting Head Teacher

Term Two ends Thursday 22nd December 2016 at 12 noon



Term Three resumes Tuesday 10th January 2017