

*Forehill Primary School*  
**NEWSLINK**  
**September 2018**



Welcome back everyone and a very warm welcome to session 2018-2019. I hope you all enjoyed the amazing summer weather this year. We are delighted to see everyone back. Our new children in the Early Years Centre and Primary 1 are settling really well. Once again, we look forward to getting to know you all, through your involvement in the life of the school community.

**Staffing News**

We warmly welcome many new staff to Forehill -Miss Johnston (P7J) Mrs Goodwin (P5G), Mrs Cathcart (P3C), Mr Taylor (P4T), Mrs Quigley, Mr Nimbley and Ms Ferguson - Early Years Practitioners. We are delighted to welcome Miss Collins back to teach P1C following her maternity leave. I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Murdoch is the proud mummy of Baby Jack, born on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Mum, Dad and baby are all well.



**Child Protection**

Everyone has a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our communities. Should any parent or family member be concerned about the wellbeing of any child, this should be reported immediately to Mr Watson, our Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

**Keeping Our Children Safe**

As we start a new session, can I once again please remind **ALL** parents and carers about the importance of safe and legal parking around the school. The school car park should **NOT** be used to drop and collect children, as this is for staff only. I would ask that drivers show courtesy to residents, by ensuring driveways are clear. Police Scotland and Parking attendants will continue to make unannounced visits to the school and will impose fixed penalty charges.

**What is Your Child Learning?**

Class teachers have outlined the learning focus for all classes for Term 1. This will shortly be uploaded to the class pages of the school website. I would encourage you to have a look! This should help you to support your children and talk about what they have been learning in class.



**School Uniforms**

My thanks to the majority of parents who have ensured our young people are smartly presented, wearing the Forehill uniform with pride. Can I please remind parents that children should not wear sports hoodies or sports tops to school as this is not part of the expected uniform? We thank you in advance for your support in this area.

## Early Years Centre Inspection



The Care Inspectorate recently made a visit to the Early Years Centre to evaluate the quality of the service we provide. During the visit, they evaluate two of the national care standards. We were graded Excellent for one standard and Very Good for the other. This confirms for us the high quality of the learning and provision the team in the Early Years Centre provides for families in the community. I am delighted with the findings, and will signpost you to the official report when it is published.

## Helping Us Improve

As you know, we are constantly reflecting on what we do, to ensure we continue to provide the best we can for all our young people and families. I have included on the parental response sheet at the back of the newsletter, three short questions. I would ask you to consider these with your child, and respond, with a particular focus on their **learning**.

## Attendance at After School Clubs

We are extremely fortunate in Forehill to have the facility to be able to offer our young people an extensive range of after school activities to support their wider achievement.

Sometimes demand for places at these activities exceeds the number of places we can offer. Sadly, some children are offered places then choose not to turn up - for a variety of reasons. Where a child does not regularly attend a club or activity they have asked to be part of, their name will be removed from the list and they may not be offered a place in future activities or clubs. We would ask for the support of parents and carers in encouraging a commitment to these activities. This prevents other children losing out. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

## On-Line Payments



Information was issued to all parents prior to the summer, to encourage them to begin using the on-line system to pay for school meals and for certain school trips. School lunch money can be uploaded at any time for any amount.

We are suggesting at present, the opportunity would be made available to pay trips costing £8 or more online. For outings costing less than this, we would continue to request payment by cash. Should you be unable to access the system, and require some assistance to get this up and running, please contact the school office.

## Drinking Water at School

Forehill Primary fully supports the Scottish Government's guidance around Healthy eating in schools. Many parents provide a water bottle and all children have access to drinking water throughout the school day. Some children choose not to drink during class time and that is a personal choice and will not be monitored by class teachers.



### Out of School Visits

We are delighted to be able to offer our young people the opportunity to participate in out of school visits, which enhance the learning we can provide in school. However, we would ask that parents ensure the relevant paperwork is returned to school giving permission for trips. Children who do not return the relevant paperwork will be unable to participate in any outing. Insurance is in place for all outings, and the cost is included in the overall price. The full policy is available at the school office should you wish to see this.

### Parents' Night - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Our Parents' Open Day will be held in the school on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** between **3.30pm and 5.00pm** and then again from **6.30pm - 8.00pm**. This is an open day and no formal appointments will be issued for this round of meetings. You are invited to drop in at some point over the two sessions. You will still have the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher, see the work your child is doing and to ask any questions you may have. You are encouraged to bring your children along. Parents' nights should not bring surprises to either parent or teacher. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, you should make contact with the school immediately, and not feel you have to wait to raise these at planned parent/teacher meetings.

### Head Teacher Drop-In Sessions



As you may know, I operate an open door policy in the school, and where possible, will happily meet with parents to discuss their ideas, celebrate achievements and to hear suggestions about how we could further strengthen home/school partnerships. I have arranged a couple of informal drop in sessions, which will take place on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm - 3.15pm and then again at 5.30pm - 6.00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**. It would be helpful if you could let the school office know if you would like to attend any of these. There is no

agenda, but tea/coffee, and a warm welcome are on offer!

### School Development Worker

Mr Daily continues with his role this session as our school development worker. This role looks for opportunities to engage with parents and families to offer support and opportunities to you. Mr Daily is seeking your views on how he can assist you and your children, and will issue shortly, a short survey, which I would ask you complete and return. This will allow us to consider the kinds of supports you would find most useful.

### Go Purple Event

Once again, our P7 classes with a great deal of help from Mrs Gray, will be organising our fundraising Coffee Morning in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice "Go Purple" appeal. This will take place on the morning of **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. I would encourage everyone to attend and look forward to welcoming you to the school. Please put the date in your diary.

### Health & Safety - Medication

Please note that children should **NOT** be sent to school with medication in schoolbags. Any requests for children to take medication at school should be discussed with myself or Mrs Hartley via the school office. The necessary paperwork must be completed.

### Making Good Behaviour Choices

We continue to have high expectations in relation to pupil behaviour across the school and work a very structured and clear behaviour system of reminders, rewards and sanctions. The main aim is to encourage children, no matter the age, to take responsibility for the choices they make in relation to the way they behave. As you will appreciate, some young people's perception of situations doesn't always match that of others! The behaviour policy is available on the school website for you to read. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries about this.



### Parents' Evening - Good Mental Health and Positive Mindset

This year again, following extremely positive feedback from parents, our learning evening will be centred round good mental health, positive mindset and building resilience. All pupils in the school will be involved in workshops in the school on **12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November**, and parents are invited to attend a workshop and information session for parents in the school on the evening of **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.00pm. Please keep the date free. More detailed information will be issued nearer the time.

### Parent Council

Our parent council undertake amazing work across the school to support me and the staff in a range of different ways - consultation about whole school issues, fundraising, assistance at school events etc. The group are always looking for new members, and would make you very welcome. Should you be interested in becoming involved, please do get in touch. Meetings are held monthly, and are extremely informal - all with the same aim of working to make a difference to the opportunities we can provide for the young people in Forehill. Please find attached, information about their first fundraising activity this session - "The Smartie Challenge"

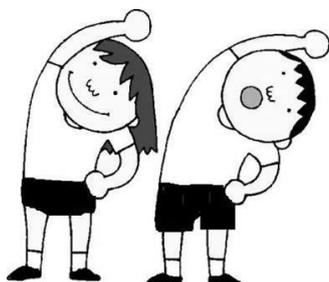
### School Photographs

The tempest photographer will be in the school on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** to take individual photographs of our P1 children and also class groups from Nursery through to P7.

### Photography & Recordings

From time to time throughout the year, photographs and video recordings of children are taken and used in the local press, media, on our website, in displays across the school and on the school facebook and twitter pages. If for any reason you do not wish your child to be included, I would ask that you put this in writing to me as soon as possible. **Please note, where no response has been received, we will presume parents/carers give full permission.**

### PE Kits & Learning Outdoors



In order to participate fully and safely, all pupils must have the correct PE kit. This should include indoor gym shoes or trainers, shorts and a t-shirt. We are moving this session, to some PE taking place outdoors. We would ask that a pair of jogging trousers, warm jacket and outdoor trainers and brought to school for this purpose on PE days. For health & safety reasons, all jewellery should be removed for gym and long hair tied back.

## Communication

Communication is key to an effective partnership between school and home, and I am grateful to the large number of parents who support this. To ensure your query is dealt with appropriately, office staff will attempt to direct your requirements to the relevant promoted member of staff who has responsibility for your child's class. Where you have a query about your child's learning or behaviour, in the first instance the link would be with the class teacher. However, should you wish to speak to a promoted staff member, we each have departmental responsibility as follows:

Early Years Centre:	Mrs Carswell	P5:	Mr McDowall
P1:	Mrs Carswell	P6:	Mr Watson
P2 & P3:	Mrs Hartley	P7:	Mrs Baines
P4:	Mrs Hartley		

## School Meals

Prices for school lunch for the academic year 2018/19 will be £2.15 in primary schools for a two course lunch or meal deal. School meals are freshly prepared each day and provide customers with value, quality and choice. In schools there is a three week menu cycle. Special diets are available on request and can be provided in all schools. Selection can be made from a range of hot and cold meals which include starter, main meal, vegetarian option, baked potatoes, sandwiches, panini, salad pot, dessert, fresh fruit pot, yogurt, home baking and a selection of drinks including water, milk and 'Fairtrade' juice. All P1 to P3 pupils are entitled to a free lunch and can select items to the value of £2.15. Menus are available on the south Ayrshire website and the school website.

## Wet Mornings & Supervision in Playground

Can I please remind parents that children will not have access to the building before 8.55am on wet mornings. I would ask that children remain at home as long as possible on mornings where weather is inclement. Please note, there is no adult supervision in the playground prior to the bell at 9.00am.

## Learning Together Sessions

Each session, we invite you as parents into classes to take part in learning activities alongside your children. These have been very successful in the past and allow you to see the range of learning your child is involved in. At parental request, we are able to provide dates well in advance for the learning together sessions. Parents should report to the reception area. The dates for this session are as follows:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	20,21,22 November	Various	EYC	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Various
P1	4 <sup>th</sup> December 12 <sup>th</sup> March	2.15pm 2.15pm	P4	6 <sup>th</sup> November 7 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm 1.45pm
P2	4 <sup>th</sup> December 16 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am 9.15am	P5	7 <sup>th</sup> December 17 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm 2.00pm
P2/3	14 <sup>th</sup> December 16 <sup>th</sup> April	2.15pm 9.15am	P6	6 <sup>th</sup> December 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm 2.00pm
P3	14 <sup>th</sup> December 16 <sup>th</sup> April	2.15pm 9.15am	P7	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 18 <sup>th</sup> April	1.30/2.15 2.00pm

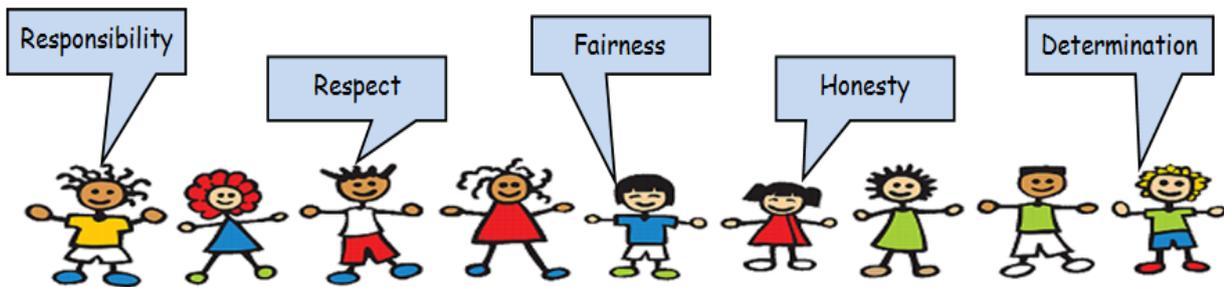
## Forehill Aims, Vision and Values

Our school aims, values and vision underpin all we do within Forehill. The young people are reminded of these through assemblies and as part of learning in class. A copy of these are attached below as a reminder for you. Our aims show we ALL have a shared responsibility, and I would ask that you work with us to fulfil your part of this:

### Our Aims

Successful Learners	Confident Individuals
<p><u>Children</u> To participate fully in all learning opportunities on offer in and out of school, continuing to improve and develop skills and knowledge in all areas.</p> <p><u>Parents</u> To take an interest in what my child is learning, offering support to build on their learning at home.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> To provide broad, meaningful learning experiences, which enable all young people to become successful, confident, responsible and effective, equipped with skills for work and lifelong learning.</p> <p><u>Community</u> Work in partnership with pupils and parents to support positive learning opportunities and relationships within a caring and inclusive local community.</p>	<p><u>Children</u> To believe that anything is possible through hard work, effort and determination.</p> <p><u>Parents</u> To celebrate and nurture success at home, and to provide a solid, secure emotional foundation which promotes self-belief.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> To provide active, challenging and stimulating learning opportunities and promote positive relationships within a safe, nurturing environment.</p> <p><u>Community</u> Through the sharing of mutual values, help and support the school community by promoting mutual respect.</p>
Responsible Citizens	Effective Contributors
<p><u>Children</u> To take responsibility for their own learning, behaviour and respect shown to everyone in the school community.</p> <p><u>Parents</u> To support parents in encouraging them and their children to take responsibility for aspects of learning and achievement in and out of school.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> To provide flexible learning experiences which offer personalisation and choice through a progressive and broad curriculum. To support and inspire children through their learning journey, ready to play their role in an ever changing world.</p> <p><u>Community</u> To recognise the positive impact children can make on the community and act as positive role models to them.</p>	<p><u>Children</u> To participate fully in the opportunities made available in the school, working alongside all pupils, not just friends - showing respect to everyone in the school community.</p> <p><u>Parents</u> To continue to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the social and educational life of the school.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> To recognise and celebrate the achievements of all learners within and beyond school. To support and develop a team approach to improve learning</p> <p><u>Community</u> To enhance our links with the community to extend the learning we undertake in school.</p>

## Our Values.....



## Our Vision .....

In Forehill, we believe that every child should be inspired and challenged by the opportunities we offer. We do this, by working in partnership with parents and children, building a learning community in which we:

- ✓ Provide a broad, balanced curriculum, relevant to our learners, which prepares them to be successful in a changing world.
- ✓ Promote a culture of high expectations and achievement
- ✓ Encourage independence, confidence, resilience, curiosity and enthusiasm
- ✓ Promote a nurturing and inclusive ethos, which recognises and celebrates individual skills and achievements

As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school. One newsletter will be issued per family, and will also be available on the school website.

I look forward to another busy, successful year working with you all.

Many thanks &  
Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Watson'.

David Watson  
Head Teacher



Please find below, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, this will be added to, and I will keep you informed of other important dates as they emerge.



Date	Times	Who	Details
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> September	All Day	All	HOLIDAY
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> September	All Day	All	HOLIDAY
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> October	All Day	All	Tempest Photographer
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30 - 5.00	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
	6.30 - 8.00	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00 - 12.00	All	Go Purple Coffee Morning
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	All Day	All	HOLIDAY
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	All Day	All	In-Service Day for Staff
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Tbc	P1-7	Hallowe'en Discos - PC
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> November	All Day	P1-7	Flu Immunisations
Mon 12 - 23 November	All	N-P7	Forehill Feeling Good Fortnight
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> November	7.00pm	Parents	Feeling Good Workshop - Parents
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Choirs	Sing Out for Hansel
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00 - 9.00	All	Christmas Fair
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30 - 1.30pm	All	Christmas Lunch
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00-9.00pm	P7	Christmas Party
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	P6-7	Cluster Concert - Town Hall
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> December	All Day	EYC	Christmas Parties
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.45am	All	Christmas Service Castlehill
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am	All	School Re-Opens
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm	P7	Family Burns Supper
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Invited	Parent/ Teacher Meetings
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	In-Service Day for Staff
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Residential	P7	Inverclyde
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> May	6.00pm - 8.30pm	All	Parent /Teacher Meetings
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	3.45pm - 6.15pm	All	Parent /Teacher Meetings
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	1.30pm	N-P3	Sports Day
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm	P4-7	Sports Day
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	All	School Closes

## South Ayrshire Council : School Holidays - Session 2018-19

Teachers (Inservice)	Thurs	16 Aug 2018
Teachers (Inservice)	Fri	17 Aug 2018
Pupils return	Mon	20 Aug 2018
local holiday	Fri	21 Sept 2018
local holiday	Mon	24 Sept 2018
Close	Fri	12 Oct 2018
Teachers (Inservice)	Mon	22 Oct 2018
Re-open (Pupils)	Tues	23 Oct 2018
Close	Fri	21 Dec 2018
Re-open	Mon	7 Jan 2019
Close	Fri	8 Feb 2019
local holiday	Mon	11 Feb 2019
Teachers (Inservice)	Tues	12 Feb 2019
Re-open (Pupils)	Wed	13 Feb 2019
Close	Fri	29 Mar 2019
Re-open	Mon	15 Apr 2019
Close	Thurs	18 April 2019
Re-open	Tues	23 April 2019
May Day Holiday	Mon	6 May 2019
local holiday	Mon	27 May 2019
Teachers (Inservice)	Tues	28 May 2019
Re-open (Pupils)	Wed	29 May 2019
Close	Fri	28 Jun 2019
<b>Session 2019-2020</b>		
Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Fri	16 Aug 2019
Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	19 Aug 2019
Pupils return	Tues	20 Aug 2019
<b>NB Good Friday: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>		



## Calling All 'Smartie' Pants

Dear Pupil,

We're not sure how much you know about the Fundraising Group at the school. We are a bunch of parents, who organise events at the school to raise money. All the money we raise goes back to the school so that you can enjoy things like:

- Digital Piano
- Book Bags for Primary 1's
- Secondary School Ties for Primary 7's
- Valentine's Disco
- New PA system
- End of Term Family BBQ
- New Books for the Library
- Halloween Disco
- Disco for Primary 7's
- Buses for School Trips to make the costs cheaper for your Parents/Carers

The next thing we have planned involves you, the pupils who benefit. We would like to set you all a task. We're calling for you all to do chores and help around the house for friends and family for 20p a chore. We then ask that you fill a 'Smartie' Tube with these 20p's and return to the School. This money will be counted and presented to the School and the PUPILS will decide on how this money is spent.

You can of course fill more than one tube if you wish. Please ensure you seal both ends with sellotape and write your Class number on it. This is really important, as we have managed to persuade Mr Watson to reward the Class who hands in the most Tubes.

So, get thinking about what you can do to help out family and friends. All tubes to be returned to the School by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018**.

Many thanks  
Forehill Parent Council – Fundraising Group





## PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET - September 2018

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In relation to **learning**, what are the things that are important to you and your child when at school?

What are the things you would like your child to achieve this session?

When your child has a good day at school, what makes it good?

As a parent, how do you feel home and school can best work together to ensure the best outcomes for your child?

Any other feedback or suggestions you would like to provide on any aspect of our school: