

Forehill Primary School

# NEWSLINK

June 2019



Welcome to the final "Newslink" for this session. As always, I am indebted to the many people who contribute their time and talents to the school throughout the year, making the school the busy vibrant place it is for our young people. My sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, parents and many others who contribute in any way.

## Update on Staffing & Classes

Interviews for our vacant teaching posts have now been completed, and I look forward to welcoming Mrs Cathcart (P3) and Miss Hawkshaw (P3) to the school on a permanent basis. Mrs McDonald and Miss Cree will join us as temporary teaching staff and we welcome back Mrs Murray to our pupil support team. Within our Early Years Centre, I am delighted to let you know Miss Maitland was appointed to a senior early years practitioner role. In addition, Mrs Quigley and Miss Pawlicka have been appointed to permanent early years worker posts within the centre and Miss Rodger joins us as a Modern Apprentice. We still have two further early years posts to fill prior to the summer. A letter, informing P1-6 parents of their child's class and teacher for next session will be issued this week.

## Retirement of Mrs McNair



It is with great sadness I inform you that Mrs McNair, one of our teaching staff will retire from Forehill at the end of term. Mrs McNair has worked in Forehill for over 25 years, and has taught, inspired and nurtured hundreds of young people in that time.

I have had the privilege of working with Mrs McNair since I took up post as Head Teacher in 2011, and will remember her for her great enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism and of course, her sense of humour. She is a highly regarded member of staff who will be sorely missed by the whole Forehill community. I know many of you will also have fond memories of her as a teacher and join me in wishing her all the very best for a healthy, happy and long retirement. I know she will not be a stranger to us!

## School Improvement Visit

As you know, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, the school had a visit from a team of senior officers from South Ayrshire council, who spent the day speaking with the leadership team, staff and pupils, and visiting classrooms. The focus was to evaluate, using national guidance, how well the school was performing. As a staff, we are absolutely delighted with the report, which is testimony to the hard work and time invested by all staff, pupils and parents. I have attached at the back of this newsletter, a copy of the letter for parents from Lynn Crossan, Quality Improvement Officer. I am extremely proud to be headteacher of such a vibrant and highly regarded school community. Well done everyone!

## **Bump Up Morning**

Our bump-up morning will take place this **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**. Children will have the opportunity to meet and work with their new teacher from 9.15 - 10.45. This is always an exciting day!

## **Parent Council News**



Our summer Fair takes place on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June** from 6.30pm in the school grounds. Our parent council invest a lot of time and effort into organising this event, so would encourage you as you always do, to give them your support. Later this week, each family will be issued with a book of raffle tickets which we would ask you to try to sell to family, friends and work colleagues. Should you be able to sell more books, please contact the school office or any member of the parent council. Many thanks for your support!

## **Infant Trim Trail**

As mentioned earlier in the term, our Infant Trim Trail has now been ordered and will be installed in the infant playground prior to the schools returning in August. My thanks to our parent council for their work in raising and identifying funds to have this installed for the young people.

## **Forehill's Got Talent Primaries 1-4**

FGT will take place again in the school on the evening of **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** at 6.30pm. Auditions were held in the school last week, and you are in for a treat. My thanks to Mrs Howlett and the other staff who have organised what I am confident will be a great evening. Tickets are on sale now from the school office.

## **Vandalism**



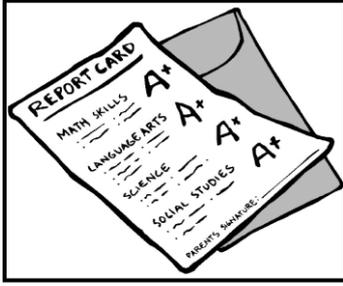
I am indebted to the parents and neighbours in our local community, who keep an eye on the school in the evenings and at weekends. We have had a few episodes of vandalism over the past couple of months, but these have been captured on our CCTV and reported to Police Scotland. I would encourage parents over the summer period, to report anything suspicious by dialling 101. Many thanks for your support and assistance.

## **Assessments**

Children in Primaries 1, 4 and 7 have now completed the Scottish Standardised National Assessments in numeracy, reading and spelling. The data gathered from these provides additional information for us to make accurate evaluations of pupil progress and attainment across the school. I am pleased with the outcomes of these for all classes.



## Reporting to Parents



Many thanks for the feedback on our temporary new style reports this session. Whilst many of you really liked them, there was also a good number of not so positive comments which gave constructive and helpful suggestions - thankyou. It was disappointing a few others returned comments which were quite offensive and verging on rude and slanderous. I will of course follow these up with individual parents to gather their more detailed suggestions on how we could move forward. I am keen to engage more parents directly in conversations about their children's learning, as this, along with high quality teaching in school, is what makes the biggest difference to attainment and achievement.

## Active Schools Awards 2019

Many congratulations to Mr Daily, our school development worker, who has been nominated as a finalist in the "School Volunteer" category of the Active Schools Team Awards 2019. The presentation ceremony takes place this week. Watch this space!

## Kilt Walk - Whiteleys Retreat

I am extremely proud of the staff from the school who took part in the Glasgow Kilt Walk on 28<sup>th</sup> April in aid of Whiteleys Retreat. Through their hard work, the amazing total of £1188 was raised. Well done!

## Celebration Afternoon

To celebrate the successes of many of our pupils, we will be holding a celebration afternoon in the school on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. At this event, children who have worked to complete Award of Ambition, Heartstart, Bike-ability etc will be recognised. Unfortunately, we are unable, due to lack of space, to invite parents to this event. Well done to everyone involved.

## School Book Fair

My thanks to Mrs Carswell and her team of volunteers for running our Book Fair during our recent parents' nights. The amazing total of £1443 was raised. Well done everyone, as we work together to reinforce to children and parents, the importance and value of reading.



## Dogs in School Grounds

Can I please remind parents that dogs should NOT be brought into the playground at the start or end of the school day. I would also ask that dogs are not exercised in the playground or grass areas in the evenings - for obvious reasons. Many thanks for your support with this.

## End of Term Celebration



We would like to extend an invitation to parents and friends to join us at our end of term Celebration, which will be presented by our Primary 7 children at **9.45am** on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, in **Castlehill Parish Church**. Each year we take a collection at our closing service and donate this to a worthy charity. This year, we would like to do the same. I would appreciate if all pupils could bring a collection to school on the last day. All children will walk to and from the church on this day and we would ask parents to ensure children are suitably dressed.

## Eco- Group Green Flag

Many congratulations to Miss Kerr and our Eco-Group, in being awarded a further Green Flag in recognition of their work across the school in relation to eco-friendly issues. The young people do a great job and are about to undertake some work with our catering team and the local authority in September to try to reduce the amount of food waste. Well done to them all.

## Gardening - Mr Mrs Campbell

Our thanks to Mr & Mrs Campbell and our gardening group who are working so hard to grow a huge range of vegetables in our eco-garden. We have onions, carrots, leeks, lettuce, potatoes to name a few! It is great to see these things begin to grow, and we look forward to our harvest, at the start of next session.

## Sports 2019

Well done to everyone in the Red Team, who worked so hard to win the 2019 Sports Shield. Congratulations to our 2019 Primary 7 Sports Champions: Eilidh, Harris, Ava, Rhys, Jessica and Logan. Well done - a great achievement!

## Congratulations to:



- \*Mia, in P4 who has been selected to be part of the British Skating Squad.
- \*The Forehill Swimming Team, who have qualified for the Scottish Schools Championships, which take place in the Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh.
- \*Ellie, P6 who had her poster selected for inclusion in the South Ayrshire Energy Calendar 2020.
- \*Nicole, P3 - Who represented Forehill at the "Just for Schools" Show-jumping competition and was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 8-16 year old category.
- \*Lucy, P7 - who is going to Austria with team GB to compete in the World Gymnaestrada 2019.
- \*Ellie, P7 and Isla P3 who have had their work selected to be on show at the Scottish Engineering Leaders Event at Strathclyde University.

## Additional In-Service Days Session 2019-20

You may have heard in the media, that two additional in-service days have been announced for all Scottish Schools for next session. In addition to the planned days, the further two in-service days in South Ayrshire will take place on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019** and **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

## Moving On

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our young people moving to P1 or to secondary school every success for the future. As always, we will continue to follow their progress and journeys with great interest. In addition, a few staff are also off on new adventures. We say farewell to Mrs Ferguson, who leaves us to undertake training in mental health nursing, and to Mrs Hamrouni and Mr Taylor who move to take up new posts within the authority. I know you join me in sending our best wishes to our young people and staff as they move to pastures new.



## Active Schools

A special thanks to all the active schools volunteers (staff and sports leaders) for their continued support in running a wide range of activities throughout the year. The opportunities made available to the young people is due to the high number of adults who volunteer and willingly give of their time. My sincere thanks to them all.

## Summer Programmes

Summer Sports for our new P1 children will run in the school on **29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July** from 10.30am -12noon The Multi Sport Camp for P1-7 children will take place on **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July** in Kyle Academy. To book a place at this, please visit - [www.ActiveSchoolsSA.co.uk](http://www.ActiveSchoolsSA.co.uk) please note that booking closes on **21<sup>st</sup> June**.

## Holidays

The school will close at **1.00pm** on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Please note there will be **NO afternoon nursery session** on that day. School re-opens to pupils on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August** at **9.00am**.

On behalf of everyone in our school, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Wherever your travels take you - stay safe and have a great break. Fingers crossed for lots of sunny, dry weather!

Many thanks &  
Best Wishes,

David Watson  
Head Teacher

**People Directorate**

**Quality Improvement Officer: Lynn Crossan**

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Our Ref: LC Your Ref:

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019, a team of education staff from South Ayrshire Council visited Forehill Primary and Early Years Centre. During our visit we talked to children and staff and worked closely with the leadership team. We gathered evidence to evaluate the learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Children in the school and Early Years Centre (EYC) are respectful, friendly and articulate. They are extremely proud of their school. They talk confidently about their achievements and contributions to the life of the school. Children interact very well with each other, staff and visitors. They are kind, considerate and their behaviour across the school is exemplary.
- The inspirational leadership of the head teacher who is supported by a strong leadership team and staff team has resulted in creating an ambitious, nurturing ethos and consistent high quality learning and teaching.
- The quality of learning and teaching is a major strength across the school. Children benefit from very well planned lessons and teachers consistently interact very well to support and extend learning. Almost all children engage enthusiastically in their tasks and are motivated to succeed.
- Wellbeing is at the heart of the school's ethos, in this nurturing environment the head teacher and all staff demonstrate an outstanding and sector leading commitment to creating a learning environment where all children feel safe and valued.

The following areas of improvement were identified and discussed with the head teacher:

- Continue the high aspirations for attainment for all learners in literacy and numeracy.
- Further involve children in planning learning and contributing to improvements.
- As identified by the head teacher work with all staff, children and parents to further embed Rights Respecting School (RRS) across the school community and to empower children to lead a joint Wellbeing and RRS Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Crossan".

Lynn Crossan  
Quality Improvement Officer

# DIARY DATES

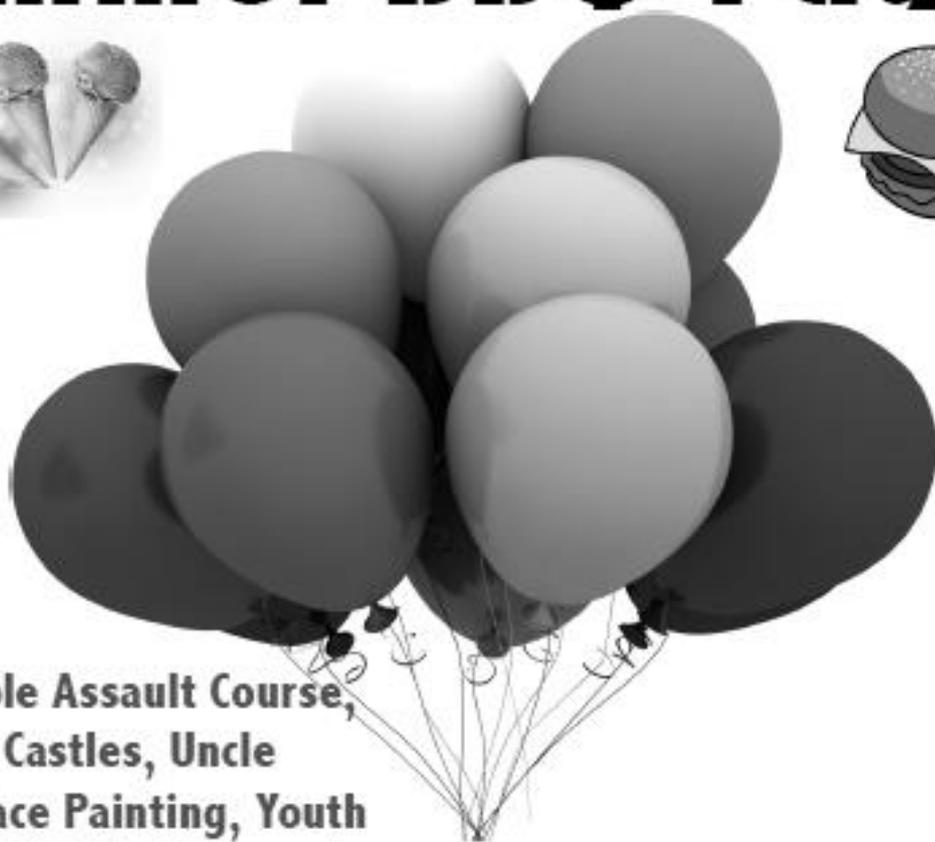


Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
5 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	Swim	Swim Team at Scottish Championships
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	P7 Visits to Kyle Academy
7 <sup>th</sup> June	am	All	Bump Up Morning
12 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	EYC(am)	Visit to Culzean
12 <sup>th</sup> June	am	P4	Farm visit
12 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm	All	Forehill's Got Talent
19 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	EYC(pm)	Visit to Culzean
21 <sup>st</sup> June	6.30pm	All	Summer Fair
24 <sup>th</sup> June	am	P4	Visit from SSPCA
24 <sup>th</sup> June	pm	P4	Drama Workshops - Firecrest Films
25 <sup>th</sup> June	All day	P4/P5	Drama Workshops - Firecrest Films
26 <sup>th</sup> June	am/pm	EYC	Fun Sports
26 <sup>th</sup> June	pm	All	Celebration Afternoon
26 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00pm	P7	P7 Leavers' Disco
27 <sup>th</sup> June	am	All	Winning House - Reward Morning
28 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	All	Summer Service - Castlehill Church
28 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	All	School Closes
25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am	P1-7	Multi Sport Camp - Kyle Academy
29 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am	New P1	Summer Sports
31 <sup>st</sup> July	10.30am	New P1	Summer Sports
20 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00am	All	School Re-Opens to Pupils

**Forehill Primary**  
*Fundraising Group*

Tickets On  
Sale In Class

# Summer BBQ faire



**Inflatable Assault Course,  
Bouncy Castles, Uncle  
Billy, Face Painting, Youth  
Bus ALL FREE! Plus much  
more fun....**

**Friday 21st June**

**Gates Open 6:30 – 9pm**

**Forehill Primary School**

**Tickets £1.50**