

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
November 2019

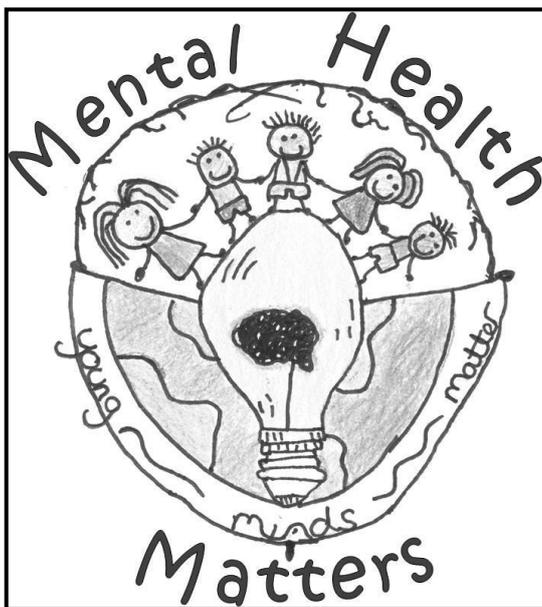


Welcome to our November edition of Newslink. Our school continues to be a busy and vibrant learning community, with all our young people engaging in many exciting learning opportunities. I hope the information included in this newsletter is helpful, and would ask that you make a note of dates and other information relevant to your child.

Forehill Feeling Good Fortnight

Following the amazing success of our feeling good fortnight last session, this year's event runs from **Monday 11th November** through to **Friday 22nd November**. As part of this, all classes will be exploring a range of learning activities across the curriculum which contribute to good wellbeing of our young people, staff and parents. As the fortnight progresses, please talk with your child about the learning, and keep up to date with photos and information on the school's Facebook page.

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing - Event for Parents - 21st November



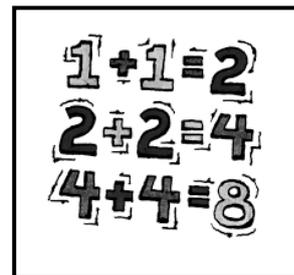
Information has already been sent out about our health evening event for parents, which is part of our Feeling Good Fortnight. This will now take place on **Thursday 21st November** and is an opportunity for parents to hear about a range of topics such as anxiety and nurture, and provide suggestions on how to deal with this at home. The evening will include input from the school psychologist, school nurse, nurture team and CAMHS, and will finish with a question and answer session. The evening kicks off at **6.30pm** with tea/coffee and bacon rolls - don't miss it! ***The booking form is at the back of this newsletter. Please return this with your choices of sessions.***

Pupil Reports - Parent Focus Group

As you know, we changed the format of pupil reports last session and received some really helpful feedback from parents. As we prepare to look at this again for this session, I am keen to involve more parents by providing the opportunity to meet to chat about this and to consider the format of the reports. If you would like to have an input and be involved, I would invite you along to an initial discussion, which will take place in the school on **Monday 2nd December at 6.30pm**.

Homework - Number Calculations

We have been looking closely at a range of ways to help improve children's confidence, speed and accuracy when undertaking number calculations. We are proposing that all children will be provided with more regular opportunities to practise these as part of set homework tasks. We will shortly upload to the school website, some parent help leaflets which I hope you will find useful as you support your child's learning at home.



Class Photos for School Calendars

Once again this session, our parent council are selling calendars as part of the Christmas Fair. Mrs Howlett will be taking class photos for these on **Wednesday 6th November**. I would ask that all children wear full uniform on that day - shirts and ties would be great! Due to timescales, please note this is the only day photos will be taken. We are unable to reschedule if children are absent. Should you wish your child not to be included in the class photograph please inform their class teacher. In relation to the Early Years Centre, there will be a photograph taken of the morning children and one of the afternoon children. Parents of children who do not normally attend on a Wednesday are welcome to bring the children in for the photograph. The morning photo will be taken at 9.15am and afternoon photo at 1.15pm. The order form for these is attached. Please return orders with full payment in an envelope marked "Parent Council Calendars"

Parent Teacher Meetings & Book Fair

Our thanks to all parents who came along to our parent/teacher meetings recently -there was an amazing buzz around the school. I am grateful to our parent council for providing refreshments and to those who assisted with and supported the book fair.

Ayrshire Hospice - Light Up A Life

Our two choirs have been invited to perform at the Ayrshire Hospice Light Up A Life Concert, which takes place on **Sunday 24th November** in Troon Town Hall at 7.00pm. This is always such a privilege, and one we are looking forward to. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along to support the children, and of course, the amazing work the hospice does. Tickets are available from the school office. One not to miss!



Go Purple Fundraising

Huge congratulations to our wonderful Primary 7 pupils, their teachers, Mrs Gray and all other staff for once again organising our "Go Purple" Coffee morning in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice. The amazing sum of **£2240** was raised - the most raised by any primary school. This was a wonderful effort from everyone and our thanks go to all parents and friends who came along to support the children. Thankyou!



Encouraging Reading for Pupils, Parents & Staff

As part of Forehill Primary School's aim to encourage parent-child reading and independent reading for pleasure, Mrs Rodger has set up a book loan/swap facility for pupils, parents and staff. Feel free to borrow a book, **read it with your child**, return it or even donate one you no longer require. Help yourself to these books from pupil cloakrooms. Adult books can be borrowed or swapped from the box in the main reception of the school. Happy reading!

Read, Write Count: P2 & P3 Packs

Read, Write, Count is the Scottish Government initiative which encourages parents, carers and children to share and be involved in literacy and numeracy activities together. Every child in Primary 2 and Primary 3 will be provided with a Read, Write, Count pack to keep at home and use. It has lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Children will bring these packs home during Scottish Book Week, which runs from 18th - 24th November.

Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag

All children in P1 will receive, during Scottish Book Week, a bag of books and other goodies to take home. We would encourage parents to make use of the resources to read, discuss, draw, write and count.

Planned Learning Term 2

We will soon upload to the class pages of the website, the planned learning for each class. Should you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would encourage you where possible to get involved by asking questions about the learning and building on this at home.

Sharing Learning

Our P1-3 children will bring home jotters and work to share and talk about with parents on Friday 1st November. Pupils in P4-7 will have the same chance on **Friday 29th November**. I would ask that parents take the opportunity to discuss learning with their children and together, agree next steps and targets on the feedback sheet. Staff will use this information to support learning in class.



Learning Together

Our successful learning together sessions continue this year and some have already taken place, with some great learning happening. Parents should report to the school office. A reminder of the dates for this session are as follows:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	12 th 13 th 14 th November 10 th 11 th 12 th March	See EYC	P4	30 th March	9.45am
P1	6 th December 20 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm	P5	P5M - 19 th Nov P5N - 26 th Nov 17 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm
P2	3 rd December 21 st April	9.15am 2.00pm	P6	5 th December 23 rd April	2.00pm 2.00pm
P2/3 & P3	4 th December 29 th May	9.15am 2.00pm	P7	4 th November 28 th April	P7M 9.15am P7S 10.00am 2.00pm

Expressions App - Communication with Parents

Many thanks to parents who are making use of the Expressions App to receive information from the school. We are aware a few of you are experiencing problems with this and we are working with the company at the moment to try to address these issues. It would be helpful, where you are unable to access it, if you could let the office know.

Dog Walking in Playground

For obvious reasons, we would respectfully ask that you do NOT walk dogs in the school playground and playing fields. It would be helpful should you see people doing this, to remind them!

Parking Banners

We have been working with the young people to design a range of banners to display on the railings around the school to help support our safe parking messages to parents. These are coming soon and will look great. Please support the young people by thinking about their messages.



Lost Property

We have a significant amount of lost property lying in the school - sweatshirts, cardigans, jackets etc. All clothing items will be on display at the main entrance all day on Thursday 7th November (9.00am - 5.00pm) Please feel free to have a look and take any items you may be missing! After this, the clothes will be taken to a clothes bank.

School Show - 21st and 22nd May 2020



We are delighted to confirm we have been granted performing rights for the musical "Aladdin" which will be performed in the Gaiety Theatre on **21st and 22nd May 2020**. Please keep the dates free! All children in Primaries 5, 6 & 7 are able to participate. More detailed information will be issued to the children next week.

Blysthwood Care Shoeboxes

The young people in Forehill show their care and compassion towards others in so many ways. We are once again delighted to be able, because of your support, to send off over seventy boxes to the Blysthwood Care Christmas appeal. This is an amazing effort, and will go a long way to sharing a little happiness with others who are less fortunate this Christmas time.

Incidents of Bullying

Within the school we take action where we have established any bullying has taken place. Any incidents of bullying within the school are now recorded electronically on pupil files.

Smoking in Playground

Can I please remind all parents and friends that the school, **including** the playground area is strictly a no smoking zone - this also includes electronic cigarettes. Thanks for your co-operation with this as we work to create a safe and healthy environment for all.



Sickness Bugs

As we approach the winter, when the number of children with colds and bugs is on the increase, can I please remind parents that children who have been sick must not return to school until 48 hours after the sickness has ended. I am aware this can cause problems re child-care, but this is advice from public health and helps prevent the spread of infection. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

Parent Council

Our parent council fundraising group are busy organising a range of events this term. The first is an opportunity for a family photo shoot, which takes place on **Monday 4th November**. Should you wish to book a slot, please contact the parent council through their facebook page. Our Christmas Fair takes place in the school on **Friday 6th December** from 6.30pm - 9.00pm. Please keep the date free!

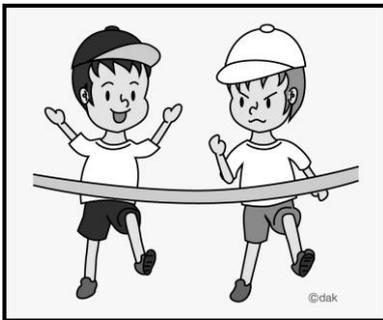


Kyle Cluster Christmas Cracker - Ayr Town Hall

It has become a tradition each year for the Kyle Cluster of schools to come together to present a Christmas Musical Celebration known as our "Christmas Cracker" in Ayr Town Hall. This year's event will take place on **Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm**. This will feature all instrumentalists, and our senior choir. Tickets for this will be on sale in the next few weeks - please keep the date free!

PE Information

Can I please remind parents of the importance of ensuring that all children have a PE kit in school. PE is not optional, and is an important part of the curriculum. As children also participate in PE outdoors, it would be helpful to ensure they have joggers and outdoors shoes on PE days. For safety reasons, can I ask that **NO** jewellery is worn on PE days - including earrings.



Sports - Change to Dates

As you know, our new Early Years facility is due to begin being built in the school grounds around Easter. This is likely to mean that we will have a limited access to the grass area in the summer term, until building is complete. We have made the decision to run our Sports Day for Early Years through to P3 on **Thursday 26th March** and for P4-7 on **Friday 27th March**.

Winter Weather

As the winter weather approaches, and mornings are becoming darker and wetter, I would ask that children, particularly on wet mornings arrive at school just in time for the bell at 9.00am. Unfortunately, supervision is limited, and will only be able to allow access to the building for pupils from **8.55am** onwards. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

South Ayrshire Parent Forum

South Ayrshire Parent Forum has organised a series of events for parents of children with additional support needs. All parents are invited to attend as follows:

Wednesday 20 th November 2019	Parent Forum	6:30-8.00pm - Girvan Academy, Girvan
Wednesday 19 th February 2020	Parent Forum	6:30-8.00pm - Marr College, Troon
Thursday 7 th May 2020	Information Hub	1.00 -8.00pm - Ayr Town Hall

Christmas Outing to Cinema

As you know, the children have opted again this year, to go the Odeon Cinema in Ayr. Children in P1-3 will visit the Odeon in Ayr on the morning of **Tuesday 17th December** to see the new "Frozen" film and P4-7 will go on the morning of **Wednesday 18th December** to see the new "Jumanji" film. The cost for this will be £6 per child. More detailed information will be issued soon.

Earl Haig

In the lead up to remembrance, our head pupils will be selling poppies in aid of the Earl Haig appeal. These will be available for all pupils, staff and visitors to buy in the week commencing **Monday 4th November**. Our head pupils have been invited to represent the school at Castlehill Church on **Sunday 10th November** to participate in a community remembrance service.



Congratulations to:

- *Our Sportshall Athletics team - who were placed first in their South Ayrshire Heat.
- *Mia Craig in P5 - who has been selected to skate in the British Figure Skating Championships. Amazing news Mia - well done!
- *Adam Hodge in P2/3 who has had his artwork selected as the Forehill Christmas Banner for Ayr Town Centre this year. Well done - we look forward to seeing your work on display in the town!
- *Our Eco Group - who have achieved another Green Flag for the school - well done!
- *P7 Pupils Sophie W & Lucy N - who have been chosen to dance in the Gaiety Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk, over the festive season. - great news!
- *Mrs Prout, one of our parents who won for the school, two days filming with Film School Scotland - we are delighted and look forward to this later in the session.

Ayr Arts Guild

Ayr Arts Guild, who run a number of classical music concerts in Ayr Town Hall have once again offered us free tickets for children and parents to attend their next classical concert in Ayr Town Hall on **Friday 22nd November**. They are keen to introduce classical music to young listeners, and did this very successfully last year. If this is something you would be keen to attend with your child, please let Mr McDowall know in the first instance, and he will arrange tickets for you. Please note school staff will not be in attendance at this event, therefore all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Keeping in Touch

Regular updates on what is happening across the school can be seen on our Facebook and twitter pages. Facebook: @forehill50 Website: www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary Nursery Twitter: @ForehillN

As always, should you wish more detail on any item included in the newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks & Best Wishes,

David Watson
Head Teacher



Diary Dates

Please find attached, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, I will keep you informed of other important dates.

Date	Times	Who	Details
4 th - 8 th November	All Day	All	Dyslexia Awareness Week
Fri 8 th November	All Day	All	Flu Immunisations
Sun 10 th November	Am	P7	Head Pupils at Armistice Service
Mon 11 - 22 November	All	N-P7	Forehill Feeling Good Fortnight
Thu 21 st November	6.30pm	Parents	Feeling Good Workshop - Parents
Sun 24 th November	7.00pm	Choirs	Hospice Light Up a Life - Troon
Mon 25 th November	6.30pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 29 th November	All Day	P3	Outing to Science Centre
Mon 2 nd December	6.30pm	Parents	Focus Group - Reporting
Fri 6 th December	6.00 - 9.00	All	Christmas Fair
Tue 10 th December	2.00pm	Choirs	Castlehill Seniors Party
Wed 11 th December	12.30 - 1.30pm	All	Christmas Lunch
Thu 12 th December	7.00-9.00pm	P7	Christmas Party
Fri 13 th December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Mon 16 th December	10.00am	Seniors	Christmas Concert
Mon 16 th December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Tue 17 th December	9.45am	P1-3	Visit to Odeon Cinema
Tue 17 th December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Wed 18 th December	9.45am	P4-7	Visit to Odeon Cinema
Wed 18 th December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Wed 18 th December	am & pm	EYC	Christmas Parties
Wed 18 th December	7.00pm	Choirs	Kyle Concert - Ayr Town Hall
Thu 19 th December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Fri 20 th December	9.45am	All	Christmas Service Castlehill
Fri 20 th December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 6 th January	9.00am	All	School Re-Opens
Thu 23 rd January	7.00pm	P7	Family Burns Supper
Tue 4 th February	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Invited	Parent/ Teacher Meetings
Fri 7 th & Mon 10 th Feb	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 11 th February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Thu 20 th February	6.30pm	All	Parent Learning - French
Thu 26 th March	1.30pm	EYC - P3	Sports Afternoon
Fri 27 th March	1.30pm	P4-7	Sports Afternoon
Tue 31 st March	6.00pm -9.00pm	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings

Wed 1 st April	4.00pm-7.00pm	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Fri 3 rd April	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Mon 6 th - Fri 17 th April	All Day	All	Holiday
Wed 28 th April	7.30pm	P7	Parent Meeting - Inverclyde
Tue 5 th - Fri 8 th May	Residential	P7	Inverclyde
Mon 18 th -Thu 21 st May	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Mon 25 th May	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 26 th May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Wed 27 th May	6.30pm 7.30pm	EYC / P1	Meeting for new Parents
Thu 4 th Fri 5 th June	All Day	P7	Kyle Academy Visits
Fri 19 th June	6.30pm	All	Summer Fair
Fri 26 th June	1.00pm	All	School Closes

Forehill Primary School – Health & Wellbeing Evening for Parents
Thursday 21st November 2019

Parent's Name(s): _____

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

I would be interested in attending the wellbeing information evening for parents.

Please tick the **TWO** sessions you would like to attend:

Session	Details	✓
Nurture	What is Nurture and how do we organise this in Forehill Primary?	
Someone's Always Listening	Strategies to support our children when they are feeling vulnerable. Taking time to listen.	
Anxiety	Presented by our Educational Psychologist, suggestions on how parents can support children showing signs of anxiety.	
Speech & Language Therapy	Colleagues from the Speech & Language service provide advice on parents can help improve the language and communication skills of young children	
School Nursing Service	An opportunity to meet our school nurse and hear how she can support you to support your child's wellbeing?	
CAMHS	Delivered by colleagues from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) - How we can support children's mental health - what can help?	

Other Ideas for Workshops in the future would be:

Signed: _____

Date: _____



FOREHILL PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL & FUNDRAISING GROUP

Every year at our Christmas Fayre we sell high quality glossy calendars of our children in their class room groups from Nursery through to P7. The demand for these are high and many folks are disappointed.

This year we are offering you the chance to order these and have them sent home with your child ahead of the Christmas break. These are great momentos, family planners or presents! Thank you for supporting FHPS.

If you'd like a calendar for £3 each,

**Please take a moment to complete the following and return with payment
by 22nd November ;**

Name of Child; _____

Childs Class; _____

Quantity; _____

Tel No; _____