

**FOREHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLINK**

**DECEMBER 2019**



Welcome to our Christmas 2019 edition of Newslink. All that is happening in the school at this busy time reminds us of the excitement ahead. I hope you find the information included helpful. As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school.

**Feeling Good Fortnight**

Our recent Feeling Good Fortnight was once again, a huge success, providing really amazing opportunities for our children and parents to reflect on their wellbeing. The feedback has been very positive. My thanks to the parents who came along to the Parents' Evening on 21<sup>st</sup> November, taking the opportunity to hear from a range of professionals - psychologist, CAMHS, School Nurse, Speech & Language, and Nurture team. It was a shame a significant number of parents had booked places but did not attend. This is disappointing, given the time invested in organising this, and from presenters who came along on the night.

**Cluster Christmas Cracker - Ayr Town Hall**

Once again, our cluster of schools - Forehill Primary, Grammar Primary and Kyle Academy are pleased to present our "Christmas Cracker" in Ayr Town Hall on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm**. This will feature all instrumentalists, and our senior choir. Tickets priced £3 are now on sale from the school office.

**Christmas Service**

Our Nursery and Primary 1 children will present "Higgledy Piggledy Nativity" at our end of term Christmas Celebration, which will take place in Castlehill Church on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.45am**. Our choirs will also be singing at this service. All pupils will walk with staff and parent helpers to and from the church. I would ask that you ensure your child has a suitable jacket on that day.

I look forward to welcoming family and friends to this special Christmas Celebration, at which a collection will be taken for a charity, which will be decided by our head pupils.



### Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair took place in the school on Friday evening. My sincere thanks to our wonderful parent council for organising this for us and to all parents, staff and friends who supported the event. Well done everyone!

I am indebted to the parent council for the superb work they do in raising funds for the school, which are used to benefit all pupils. It would be great to have more parents involved. Watch this space!

### Christmas Parties



The dates for all Christmas Parties are noted on the diary dates at the back of the newsletter. Parties are free to all children, with goodies supplied through the generosity and support from our parent council donations. All parties take place during the school day, with the exception of our P7 party. Please note, at the end of their party, our young people in P7 **MUST** be collected at 9.00pm by an adult.

### Senior Citizens' Concert

Once again, we look forward to welcoming our senior citizens to the school on the morning of **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** for their Christmas Treat. A number of our children will perform for them. Please note this event is for **senior citizens only**. Due to large numbers, we would ask that parents do NOT attend this event as unfortunately, due to space, we would need to turn you away.

### School Phones

Can I please remind all parents that the school phone number is **01292 612461** and that calls to the old number may not connect to the school office. The number was changed approximately three years ago, but some parents are still using the old number. I would ask that all parents change stored numbers on mobiles to the new number above. Thanks for your co-operation.



### Late Coming & Attendance

Good attendance and arrival at school on time are good habits which impact in a positive way on the quality of achievement in school. As you may know, we track and monitor this across the school and follow up children who arrive late on a regular basis, or who have attendance levels which are causing concern. Letters are sent to parents and carers to alert them to our concerns around this. I would ask for your support by ensuring children attend school and arrive at school on time to join their class line at 9.00am.

## Uniforms

My thanks to all parents who support us by ensuring the young people continue to wear school uniform each day. A number of pupils are beginning to wear "alternative" uniforms. Can I please ask for the co-operation of parents in ensuring that leggings, baggy tea-shirts, designer trainers or hoodies are not worn to school. We are proud of our uniform and would ask that children wear school shirts, ties, grey/black trousers or skirts. This helps supports the positive school ethos we enjoy and are proud of.



## Outings to Cinema



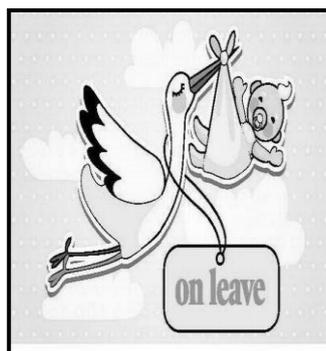
Information has been issued to all parents about our outings to the cinema on **17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December**. P1-3 children will visit the Odeon on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> to see "Frozen 2", and our P4-7 children will go on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> December to see a showing of "Jumanji 2" Previous information has informed parents of the classification of both films. We look forward once again to a great morning with the children. If you are able to assist as a parent helper with P1-3 classes, I would ask that you inform your child's teacher, and we will then be in touch.

## Learning Together

Very many thanks to the huge number of parents who manage along to our learning together sessions. These are really valuable, and provide an opportunity for you to participate in a learning activity alongside your child. Dates and times for future sessions are noted below:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> March	See EYC	P4	30 <sup>th</sup> March	9.45am
P1	20 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm	P5	17 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm
P2	21 <sup>st</sup> April	2.00pm	P6	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	2.00pm
P2/3 & P3	29 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00pm	P7	28 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm

## Staffing



Mrs Zorget, one of our P4 teachers will leave us at the end of term to begin her maternity leave. I know you join me in wishing her all the very best for the forthcoming happy event and look forward to meeting the new member of the family in the New Year! We are delighted to welcome Miss A Reid, who will take responsibility for the P4 class till June. We are also pleased to welcome Miss K Yeo, a new school assistant to the staff team. I know you will make these new staff welcome to our community.

### Infant Registration

Registration for children due to start Primary 1 in August 2020 will take place in Forehill Primary on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January between 8.40am- 12 noon and 2.00pm - 3.40pm** (Birth Certificates **and** proof of address **must** be presented) I would be grateful if you could pass this information to anyone you know who has a child ready to begin school in August 2020.



### New Early Years Centre

Plans are moving forward in relation to the new Early Years Centre which is to be built within the school grounds. The purpose-built nursery will have the capacity to accommodate up to 120 children. Plans for this were on display at the recent parents' night and look amazing. This is a really exciting development for the community. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

### Registration for the Early Years Centre - Session 2020-2021

Registration for children requiring pre-school or ante-preschool places in Forehill Early Years Centre beginning in August 2020, will take place in the school in February. Dates and times will be issued soon.

### Family Burns Supper

Our very successful P7 Family Burns Supper will take place again in the school on the evening of **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. More details will follow. P7 parents - please keep the date free. This is always a really entertaining evening.

### Flasks - Hot Soup



As the weather becomes colder, a few children have been bringing flasks of hot soup to school as part of their packed lunches. For health and safety reasons, the temperature of the soup needs to be carefully controlled as there is always a risk of spillages or accidents. I would ask that children **do not** bring flasks to school. This approach is taken in all South Ayrshire schools, following a child being quite badly burned some years ago. I thank you for your co-operation with this as we work together to ensure everyone is kept safe.

### Parking Banners

Our pupils have been talking about keeping safe around the school and as part of this, designed banners, which are now on display around the school. Whilst this alone will not solve the problem, we hope that it will perhaps remind drivers of the importance of considerate parking around the school.

### Congratulations to:

- \*Ava B - P6, who has won the South Ayrshire Road Safety Calendar competition, and will have her art work used in the road-safety calendar for 2020.
- \*Sophie W & Lucy N - who are dancing as part of the junior chorus in the Gaiety Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk.
- \*Our Sportshall Athletics Team, who will now represent South Ayrshire Council at the regional finals in the new year.

### Pupil Reports - Parent Focus Group

Many thanks to the parents who came along to the meeting recently to provide input and ideas on the school's new reporting format. This was really helpful, and the thoughts and ideas will be reflected in the way forward for us all. Should you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we provide information to you about your child's learning, but were unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to send this to me prior to the Christmas break.



### Sickness Bugs

As you will be aware the number of children and adults with colds and bugs is quite significant. 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.

### Scottish Poetry Competition

Our annual Scottish Poetry competition will take place in the school **in the week beginning Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January**. Children across the school will begin preparing for this early in the New Year and winners from each class will participate in a winners' celebration concert on the afternoon of **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**, to which the parents of the class winners will be invited.

### South Ayrshire Outstanding People Awards



I am delighted to inform you that the whole staff team were nominated in the 2019 South Ayrshire Outstanding People Awards, in the "Outstanding Staff Team" category. Whilst we didn't win, we are delighted and privileged to have been nominated. This is testimony to how hard the staff work and recognises their commitment, which is well above and beyond, to ensure our young people are able to get the most amazing opportunities and experiences possible. Well done to the team and well deserved.

## Groupcall - Communication App

Within Forehill, we are always keen to ensure our communication with parents is effective. We are conscious that the majority of parents use mobile phones / Tablets and a range of Apps to get information, so our school is now beginning to use a new communications App which allows us to send a message to groups of parents quickly and easily, whilst also being able to see that these messages have been correctly delivered to you.

Examples of when this may be used include absence notification, emergency closure, changes to school meetings or events, cancellation of after school activities, parent Council Messages, class trip reminders, Parent/Teacher Meeting Appointments etc. Newsletters will continue to be published on the school website each month.

To allow us to make the best use of this facility, it is important that you keep us updated with any changes to mobile numbers and e-mail addresses.

We would encourage you to download the "Groupcall Xpressions" App which is free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices. If you download the Xpressions app this also means that you will be able to send and respond to any of our messages, free of charge.

Information on how to install the app can be found at <http://parents.groupcall.com> You will require to register using the same e-mail address and mobile number you have provided to the school.

Once installed and set up you will be able to see information sent by the school in the app. It would be helpful if you could switch on the app alert, to ensure that you are alerted to incoming information.

Unfortunately the Groupcall system is currently not available for use within our early years centre therefore we will continue to communicate via established methods.

Should any parent be unable to access this method of communication, I would invite you to contact the school office for assistance.



### Scottish National Standardised Assessments

In P1, P4 & P7 classes, all schools in Scotland make use of the computerised assessments to confirm children's progress in learning, alongside the information gathered by class teachers on a day to day basis. Normally, these assessments are undertaken in May each year, but we have taken the decision to work with our P4 and P7 children to undertake these assessments in January. These will be done as part of their on-going classwork, supported by members of the leadership team. Should you wish further information on these assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Further information can be found online at:

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/>

### School Show: Aladdin

School show rehearsals have now started, and we are working towards auditions, which will take place on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** within school. Tickets for the show are now on sale directly from the Gaiety Theatre Box Office. We look forward to what I am sure will be another amazing show by our talented young people.

### Keeping in Touch

In addition to the monthly "Newslink" for all parents, we are always looking for other ways to ensure effective communication between school and home. We would encourage you to make use of our website, twitter and our facebook page. Please follow us on these:

Website: [www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk)  
Facebook: @Forehill50  
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary  
Nursery Twitter: @ForehillN



### HOLIDAYS

Please note the school will close at **2.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, and will reopen to pupils on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 9.00am**. Please note, children who normally attend our early years centre in the afternoon should be collected by **2.15pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**.

On behalf of all my staff and my own family, I would like to extend to you and your family, every good wish and many blessings for a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

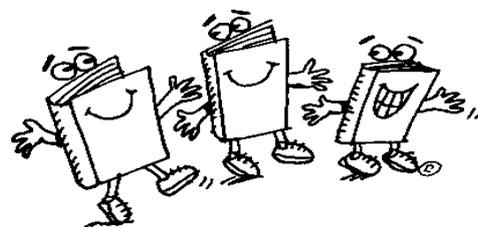
Many thanks &  
Best Wishes,

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

David Watson  
Head Teacher



# DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Class	Details
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30 - 1.30pm	All	Christmas Lunch
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00-9.00pm	P7	Christmas Party
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Seniors	Christmas Concert
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am	P1-3	Visit to Odeon Cinema
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am	P4-7	Visit to Odeon Cinema
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December	am & pm	EYC	Christmas Parties
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	Choirs	Kyle Concert - Ayr Town Hall
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.45am	All	Christmas Service Castlehill
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am	All	School Re-Opens
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> January		P1	Primary 1 Registration
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	7.00pm	P7	Family Burns Supper
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm	Invited	Parent/ Teacher Meetings
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm	All	Parent Learning - French
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> March	1.30pm	EYC - P3	Sports Afternoon
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	1.30pm	P4-7	Sports Afternoon
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> March	6.00pm	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	4.00pm-7.00pm	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	P7	Parent Meeting - Inverclyde
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Residential	P7	Inverclyde
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> -Thu 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30pm 7.30pm	EYC P1	Meeting for new Parents
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Kyle Academy Visits
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm	All	Summer Fair
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	All	School Closes