

Forehill Primary School

NEWSLINK

January 2020

School News

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to our January edition of Newslink. I would ask that you make note of important dates included in the letter.

Scottish Poetry Competition



Our Scottish Poetry competition takes place in school next week. As always, I am sure the standard will be very high and I don't envy the job of judges, who this year will be Mrs Jackie McNair and Mr Scott Watson. They will identify a winner and a runner up from each class. We will come together as a whole school on the afternoon of **Friday 31st January at 1.45pm** to celebrate and hear the winners from each class. Parents of the winners are welcome to attend.

Education Scotland Visit

We were delighted to have inspectors from Education Scotland in our school this week watching our children learn, speaking with the leadership team, with staff, with children and of course with many parents. We are delighted with the outcome of this visit, and will look forward to sharing the report with you when it is published. My sincere thanks to all those who took the time to complete questionnaires and who took time to visit the school to speak with the team.

Parent Teacher Meetings - Update

Due to the success of our **additional** parents' evening last session, we are offering this again this year on **Tuesday 4th February** between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. This is an "appointment only" evening, and is aimed at providing the opportunity only for parents who have particular questions about their child's progress, to speak with the class teacher. Equally, where a teacher has a concern, it provides a time for them to speak with you to look at ways to work together to achieve the best for your child.

Our formal parents' nights for all parents will still take place in March, followed by a written report in June. Should you have particular questions about your child's learning and would like an appointment you should return the slip on the letter issued yesterday, or at the back of this newsletter by **Monday 27th January**.

Class Learning

Outlines of planned learning for each class for this term has now been uploaded to the website. A copy of this has also been displayed at the main entrance of the school. I hope you find this useful, as you support your child at home and extend the learning we are providing in school.

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 (Lifelong Learning Suite - accessed from main school entrance) on **Thursday 27th February** between **8.40am and 12.00 and then 2pm - 3.30pm**. Please note, children who attend as ante-preschool children this year are required to re-register for their pre-school year. Please share this information with friends and neighbours too.

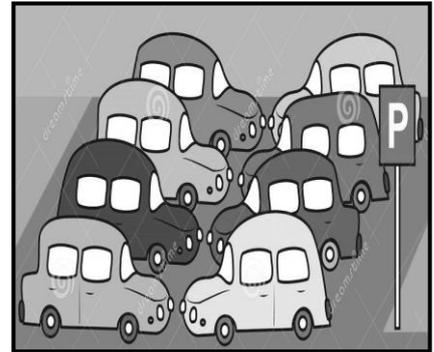
Birth certificates and proof of address must be presented.

Christmas Service

It seems such a long time ago, but my thanks to all parents and friends who came along to our Christmas service and contributed to the collection at the church. Our head pupils have chosen the charity this time round, and have decided to arrange to present a cheque for £168 to Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia. Well done and thanks everyone!

Parent Council

Our parent council are continuing to work away busily, supporting us in a whole range of ways, and in raising funds which enable us to provide a range of extras to our young people. I have asked that as a group, we discuss once again concerns and explore solutions to parking around the school. The next meeting will take place on **Monday 17th February at 7.00pm** in the school, to which I know the parent council have invited local councillors, police and other partners who may be able to assist. Please come along and offer your assistance.



P7 Family Burns Supper



Our annual P7 Family Burns Supper took place last night in the school, and was once again a superb evening of speeches, singing, poetry and music. A huge thankyou to our P7 children and teachers for their enthusiasm and hard work in planning this. I am indebted to our catering staff and school assistants who helped make the evening the success it was. In addition, four pupils from each class will represent Forehill at the Ayr Schools' Burns Supper, which will take place on the afternoon of 18th February in Ayr Town Hall.

Gaelic Language

Mr Richard Hill will be visiting our school in February and March to work with our P1 and P4 classes. He will be providing an experience of the Gaelic language through songs, and stories.

Parent & Child Treasure Hunt Evening

All our young people in the school learn French, and our children in P5-7 have experience of Spanish too. We are planning a fun evening for parents and children which will take place on **Thursday 20th February from 6.30 - 8.30pm.**

Pupils and parents can rotate around a series of 12 challenge stations in family teams. At each station, the participants have to work as a team and learn key French or Spanish vocabulary. After completing the challenge successfully, they receive a 'key' token that can be brought to the Challenge Master station who will ask a vocabulary question. If correct, the family receive a 'coin' and a prize given to the family with the most at the end of the evening! Please come along - a great fun way to learn languages with your child. It would be helpful, for catering purposes, if you could please complete the slip at the back of the newsletter and return it to school by the end of next week.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments

Our P4 and P7 children will begin working on these assessments in the next couple of weeks. They 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/>

Attendance



As part of the school's approach to monitoring, we track carefully the attendance of all children. To keep you fully informed, letters will be sent next week to the parents of children where attendance is causing a concern.

Learning Together

Our learning together dates for 2020 are noted below. These are planned opportunities for parents to come into class and take part in a learning activity with the children. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along - they are great fun!



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

STEM Electives



This term, all young people in the school will have the opportunity to learn through a number of activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The children will be given options, and can choose an area of interest or enjoyment.

EYC & P1:	25 th February to 6 th March (one block per week)
P2 & P3:	9 th - 13 th March
P4 & P5:	20 th - 24 th April
P6 & P7:	27 th April to 1 st May

Health Information

From time to time, children are absent from school or are sent home from school due to sickness bugs. Can I please remind parents that children should **not** return to school unless they have been **free of sickness for at least 48 hours**. We have a few children in the school who have medical conditions, which are made worse through spread of infections. I would ask that you consider this before sending children back to school following illness.

Pupil Safety in Forehill

As you know, we take the safety of all pupils, staff and parents seriously in Forehill. I would reassure all parents that any incident or situation which puts that at risk is treated seriously, fully investigated, recorded and where appropriate, necessary action taken.

Collection of Children in Primary 1-3



As you know, it has always been the policy of the school that children in Primaries 1-3 are collected at the end of the day by a responsible adult, as we are keen to ensure all our young people - particularly our youngest, arrive home safely. Given the challenges around the school with parking, this is even more important to us.

I am grateful for the support the majority of you give the school with this.

As a result of a conversation with a parent recently, we recognise there may be times where parents need to send an older sibling to collect a child from school. In such cases, I would ask that parents call the school to ensure the teacher is made aware of this. However, I would remind parents, should they choose to send an older sibling to collect the child, the school cannot be held responsible for the care of children once they leave school grounds and that parents should make that decision fully aware of the potential risks and dangers on the journey home.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Congratulations to two of our senior pupils - Sophie W and Lucy N who danced in the Gaiety Panto "Jack and the Beanstalk" over Christmas. A lot of hard work, but lots of great fun. Well done girls!

Sports Days - Change of Dates

All going to plan, the building of our new Early Years Centre will begin after Easter, meaning we will be unable to access parts of the grass areas to run sports in the summer term. For this session, we have brought forward our dates for Sports. Our Nursery-P3 sports will take place on Thursday 26th March at 1.30pm and our P4-7 Sports will take place on Friday 27th March. Sometimes the weather at that time of year can be really pleasant - so fingers crossed!

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
Facebook: @Forehill50
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary
Nursery Twitter: @ForehillN



Holidays

Please note that the school will closed to pupils on **Friday 7th, Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th February.**

Should you wish more information on anything within the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. We look forward to working with you all this term. Please take the opportunity to get involved where you can.

Many thanks &
Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Watson".

David Watson
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Tue 28 th January	Am	Eco Group	Visit to Food Recycling Plant
Fri 31 st January	1.45pm	Winners	Poetry Winners Celebration
Tue 4 th February	6.30pm	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
Mon 17 th February	7.00pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Thu 20 th February	6.30pm	All	Parent Learning - French
Wed 26 th February	All Day	EYC - am	Visit to Transport Museum
Thu 27 th February	8.40am -12.00 2pm - 3.30pm	All	Nursery Registration
Wed 4 th March	All Day	EYC - pm	Visit to Transport Museum
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	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Wed 1 st April	4.00pm	All	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Thu 2 nd April	9.45am	All	Easter Assembly in School
Fri 3 rd April	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Mon 6 th - Fri 17 th April	All Day	All	Holiday
Tues 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



PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Parent's Name: _____

I would / would not like an appointment for the additional parent/teacher meetings on **Tuesday 4th February**.

I would like to discuss...

I would / would not like to attend the "French & Spanish" parent and child evening on **Thursday 20th February**

(This information is needed for catering purposes)

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