

Forehill Primary School

Information for Parents
Re-Opening of Early Years Centre
August 2020



Welcome back everyone!

I'm sure you will be aware, the Scottish Government announced on 30th July that Early Years Centres will re-open for all children from the start of the new term in August 2020. We are looking forward to seeing all our young people again, and we are busy at the moment ensuring all plans are in place to welcome everyone back safely. We do not expect the return to school in August to be a return to normality. We must remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks of COVID-19.

We have tried to include all information in this letter, and hope we have covered all questions you may have. I would ask that you disregard previous letters and use **THIS** as current, up to date guidance. As you know, guidance from the Scottish Government can change at any point, and we will of course keep you up to date.

Wellbeing of Young People & Staff

Some children and parents may be slightly apprehensive about returning to Nursery and many of the children will have enjoyed the experience of spending more time at home. Others I know, are desperate to get back to school to see friends and staff. A few may need additional time and support to re-adjust to the school environment. Staff are fully aware of the importance of the wellbeing of all, which will be a central focus when we re-open. Balancing efforts to address lost learning with children and young people's social and emotional needs will be a priority.

Keeping the Children and Staff Safe

Our highest priority is to ensure we have in place, all possible measures to keep our young people and staff safe. We are currently undertaking a full risk assessment, which when complete, will be uploaded to the school website for reference. This will continually be updated and reviewed to ensure we are following all guidance issued by Scottish Government, NHS, Care Inspectorate and the local authority.

Returning to Nursery - Week 1 - From Wednesday 12th August

In the letter recently issued to parents, the attendance pattern and times were identified, along with a date and time for a short visit. During the visits physical distancing measures will be in place at the beginning and end of the session and staff will be available to familiarise you with routines. Parents are required to stay in school during the short visits, and will meet with Mrs Carswell, Depute Head Teacher.

Returning to Nursery - Week 2 - From Monday 17th August

As from **Monday 17th August**, children will return to Nursery and will attend in line with their allocated pattern and times. Please note, some children may take slightly longer to settle, therefore staff will work in partnership with parents to confirm start and collection times for individual children. Parents may also wish to collect children earlier on certain days, and this also can be arranged with staff.

Staggered Start and Finish Times



We have put in place staggered starting and finishing times for all children to allow us to limit the flow of children and adults coming and going from the Early Years Centre and to prevent high numbers of adults around the entrance. Members of staff will be in the playground at the start and end of each session to assist and support where needed. We would ask that **ALL** parents ensure they stick to the times which will be issued when you attend for your visit. **All children arriving and being collected from the Early Years Centre should use Gate 2, which beside the infant Trim Trail, and on Caledonia Road**

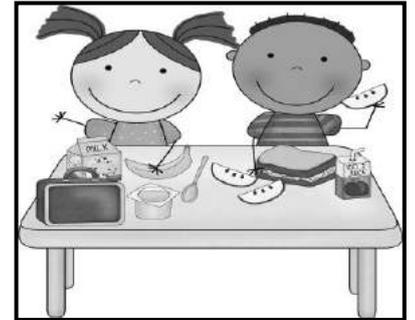
Social Distancing

There is now **no requirement** for social distancing between children or children and key workers in Early Years Settings. However, where possible, 2m social distancing will remain in place between adults. Any staff member or child wishing to wear a face covering in school is able to do so. Evidence suggests that face coverings do not provide significant protection for the wearer, rather they primarily reduce the risk of transmission and help suppress the virus.

Snacks and Lunches

Children attending the centre all day, will be provided with a light breakfast between 8.00am and 8.45am, a mid-morning snack, lunch and a snack late afternoon. Children attending half days will receive a morning or afternoon snack. Where children are bringing a lunch from home, we would ask that these are sent in **DISPOSABLE** containers, which would be binned after lunch.

We would ask that parents contribute £2 per week where possible, to cover costs of additional snacks and treats.



Attendance at Nursery

We recognise that some parents and carers may be concerned about their child returning to school. We are more than happy to engage with you, to discuss any concerns and provide reassurance on any concerns, overcome any barriers to learning, and support attendance.

It is important that children and young people are able to benefit from their right to education; are able to see their friends and have social contact and benefit from the learning, care and support that we provide. The need to reconnect to normal patterns and routines in children's lives will be important and reassuring to them.

Parents in the Early Years Centre

We normally welcome parents into the early years centre at any time. However, at the moment, we would respectfully remind you that **NO** parent or adult is able to enter the early years centre. We would also ask there is a **ONE child, ONE adult** approach at all times when dropping off and collecting children. Staff will be in the nursery playground at the arrival and departure times to meet you and assist.

Children's Views & Suggestions

It is important that all children feel comfortable coming back into nursery, therefore staff will spend time on the first day back chatting with all children, making them aware of new routines and procedures on return. Children's views, concerns and ideas will be noted and where possible and appropriate, put into place.

What to bring and What NOT to bring Nursery

We would ask that children do not bring anything with them to Nursery other than a jacket and a bag with change of clothes. No toys or books should be brought from home.

Cleaning

A strict cleaning regime is in place within the whole school, with staff from facilities management on site at all times. Staff will ensure tables and other furniture within playrooms is wiped and cleaned regularly. Computer equipment and other resources will also be wiped and cleaned. The nursery will be cleaned between different groups of children attending different sessions.

Hygiene & Handwashing

As a school, we will continue to encourage and support all children, young people and staff to practise enhanced personal hygiene throughout the day. This includes:

- *frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before/after eating and after using the toilet;
- *encouraging children, young people and staff to avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose; and
- *using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze.



ALL staff and children will use anti-bacterial hand wash on entry to the school, before and after breaks, and before they leave the building at the end of the day. Sanitising stations are located at ALL entrances/exits to the school building and at several points within the building.

Clothes at Nursery

Nursery Polo Shirts and sweatshirts can be purchased on line via the school wear shop, at: www.beschoolwear.co.uk As children will access outdoors every day, in many different weathers, we would ask that children come appropriately dressed in clothes that easy to wash and ones you don't mind being painted or getting dirty! Children should also bring a pair of indoor shoes and a pair of wellies.

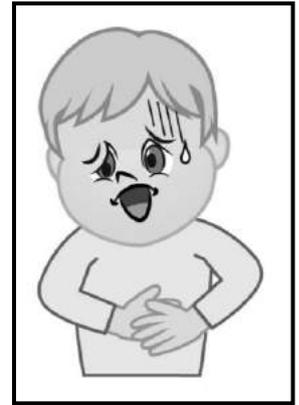


Children or Family Members Showing Symptoms

Where any child, or any family member in the household is showing any Covid symptoms such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste - parents should take advice from NHS Inform and from Test & Protect. The child should **NOT** under any circumstance, attend school and should self-isolate for the current specified period, currently ten days. The school should be informed immediately.

Children Taking Unwell at Nursery

Any child who takes unwell at nursery would be cared for in the normal way. We expect that there will continue to be children who report feeling sick, have a sore stomach, cold, sore throat, headache etc and parents or one of their emergency contacts will be called as normal. Where a child is displaying COVID symptoms and begins to feel unwell at nursery, parents will also be called and asked to attend immediately. The child will be removed from the class and will be supervised in an identified isolated area by a member of staff till the parent arrives. The nursery has facilities to take children's temperature as a precaution. Where there is growing concern about the health of any child or staff member, an ambulance would be called. All parents must follow national guidance, including possible testing.



Responsibility of Parents re Health & Wellbeing

The procedures the school would follow in the case of a suspected case of COVID are clear. For this reason, it is important that parents keep the school fully updated with the reason for ANY absence from school. Where we have two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 14 days, or an increase in absences due to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, we would make prompt contact with the local Health Protection Team and local authority. Where we have increased rates of absence due to respiratory illnesses, we will also contact our local Health Protection Team for further advice. It is VITAL that parents keep the school fully informed about any changes to the health and wellbeing of any child or member of the household.

Test & Protect

The effective use of Test and Protect in the school environment will be an important way of preventing any spread of the virus. Schools are considered complex settings and cases will be prioritised and escalated to specialist Health Protection Teams. The key initial step is the self-isolation and rapid testing of all symptomatic children, young people and staff. **Other children, young people and staff members will not be required to self-isolate unless contacted by the contact tracing service.** If a child, young person or staff member tests positive, the Health Protection Team will assess what action is needed. If a child, young person (or their parent/carer if under 16 years) or staff member is contacted by a contact tracer and told to self-isolate, the person should leave school to self-isolate at home straight away and, if possible, wear a face covering and should avoid use of public transport.



Visitors to the School or Nursery

Normally we would welcome parents and visitors to the school at any time, but we would ask until further notice that parents who have queries or concerns call the school office on **01292 612461** in the first instance. Queries will then be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Parents should **not come to the school without first phoning the school office and will not be allowed to enter the school building.** This is not how we like to work, but hope you understand the reasons for this as we try to limit the number of adults coming to and from the school and any potential for spread of infection.

Travelling to and from School

As a school, we promote active travel to and from school such as walking, scooting etc. At this particular time, we would strongly encourage this, as far as it is safe to do so. We would remind parents of the parking expectations around the school, and would ask for your co-operation yet again with this to ensure the safety of all coming and going from the school.

Consultation - Road Closures

There is a proposal out for consultation in relation to the closing of some roads around the school at key points of the day. I would encourage you to visit the South Ayrshire Website to see more details, and to give your views and feedback on these. The information can be found at:

<https://spacesforpeoplesouthayrshire.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/have-your-say-on-our-proposals-for-schools/details>

Information has also been shared on the school facebook page.

Large Gatherings & Moving Round the School

At present, we will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies and wherever possible, keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the session. Timetables will be reviewed to reduce movement of groups of pupils around the school as much as possible.

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.

Should any parent be unable to access this method of communication, I would invite you to contact the school office for assistance. It is important parents register for this, to ensure they receive up to date information from the school.

Revised Holiday Dates for Session 2020-2021

Please find attached, the amended school holiday list for session 2020-2021. I would encourage parents to take diary notes of these, as there have been a few changes due to the earlier start date.

Learning in the Primary Stages

For those families who have children in Primaries 1-7, separate advice has been produced and will also have been uploaded to the school website.

New Early Years Centre

I'm sure you will have noticed that building work is well under way for our new Early Years Centre. The building site has been completely fenced off, and we would ask for your support in reminding children of the dangers of accessing the building site. We are hopeful that the new state of the art facility will be opened early in the new year.

Parental Feedback

It is equally important that all parents feel confident we are doing everything possible to ensure the wellbeing of all staff, pupils and parents. Any suggestions or ideas would be welcomed, and where possible and appropriate will be taken forward. These should be sent to the HT by e-mail.

E-Mail Addresses

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with staff as follows:

Mr Watson	Head Teacher	David.watson3@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Mrs Hartley	Depute Head Teacher	Gaynor.hartley@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Mrs Carswell	Depute Head Teacher	Katrina.carswell2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

We are living in very strange times, and for many, this will mean doing things differently and in ways we have never done before. It is new to us all, and I would ask that you continue to work with us through these challenging times, knowing that our main aim is to ensure the children are safe, secure, and get positive, valuable and high-quality learning experiences.

As you will be aware, national guidance changes regularly, and we will respond to this as appropriate. I will of course keep you fully up to date as things move forward and as we need or are able to make changes to the way we work in Forehill.

As always, should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch and I will do what I can to assist.

Many thanks &
Best Wishes,



David Watson
Head Teacher

e-mail: david.watson3@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Educational Services

Amended School Holiday Arrangements: 2020/2021

Term	Break	Dates of Attendance	Cumulative Working Days
First	Mid Term	Teachers (Inservice)	Tues 11 Aug 2020
		Pupils return	Wed 12 Aug 2020
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri 18 Sept 2020
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 21 Sept 2020
		Close	Fri 9 Oct 2020
		Teachers (Inservice)	Mon 19 Oct 2020
		Teachers (Inservice)	Tues 20 Oct 2020
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed 21 Oct 2020
		Close	Wed 23 Dec 2020
			90
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Wed 6 Jan 2021
		Close	Fri 12 Feb 2021
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 15 Feb 2021
		Teachers (Inservice)	Mon 22 Feb 2021
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues 23 Feb 2021
		Close	Thurs 1 Apr 2021
			147
Third	May Day	Re-open	Mon 19 Apr 2021
			Mon 3 May 2021
		Close	Wed 5 May 2021
		Teachers (Inservice)	Thurs 6 May 2021
		<i>Re-open (Pupils)</i>	Fri 7 May 2021
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 31 May 2021
		Re-open	Tues 1 June 2021
		Close	Fri 25 Jun 2021
			195
	Session 2021/22	Teachers (Inservice)	Tues 17 Aug 2021
		Teachers (Inservice)	Wed 18 Aug 2021
		Pupils return	Thurs 19 Aug 2021

NB Good Friday: 2nd April 2021

Pupil's attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days.