

*Forehill Primary School*

# **NEWSLINK**

**September 2020**



It is great to have everyone back in school again, and a very warm welcome to all our new children and families. The children are settling really well and becoming more confident in following the safety and wellbeing guidelines around the school. We are living in very strange times, and my sincere thanks must go to you as parents, for your support and assistance as we work together to ensure the wellbeing of our children and our staff in Forehill.

## **Staffing**

As the new term begins, we are delighted to welcome a number of new staff members to the school: Miss Muir (P5), Mrs McSheffery (P5), Miss Duncan (P7), Mrs Daubney (Pupil Support) Mrs Brady (School Assistant) Mrs Findlay (Senior EYP), Miss Dunlop (EYP), Miss Samson (EYP), Miss Clark (EYP). Following interviews held in the school in June, I am delighted to inform you Mrs Carswell was appointed to the new Depute Head Teacher post, and Mrs McDowall was appointed to the acting Principal Teacher post. Many congratulations to both colleagues, who I know bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the senior leadership team in Forehill.

## **Baby News**

We are delighted to share the news of two Forehill babies on the way. I know you will all join me in congratulating Mrs Murdoch and Miss Wilson, both expecting special arrivals at the end of January!

## **Pupil Data Forms & Contact Information**

This session, we are asking all other parents to ensure they provide to the school office, any updates on changes of address, house, mobile or work phone numbers and e-mail addresses. It is essential these are kept up to date, particularly with the situation we find ourselves in at the moment. Pupil data forms have been issued to all P1 pupils and new pupils to the school. It is important these are returned to the school office. Any changes to the above for P1-7 children should be e-mailed to: [Forehill.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Forehill.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## **Groupcall Xpressions**

Office staff have recently sent out information to parents who have not signed up to the Groupcall Xpressions App. It is important that all parents take steps to ensure they are registered for this, as we will be using this as the main method of communication. All newsletters and other information will be circulated electronically to parents and will be very few paper copies of letters sent home. Please don't miss out on important communication. Should you be unclear about how to do this, I would ask that you contact the school office for assistance.

## **Child Protection**

Everyone has a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our communities. Should any parent or family member be concerned about the wellbeing of any child, this should be reported immediately to Mr Watson, our Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.



## Medical Information

We are grateful to parents who keep us fully informed about changes to their child's medical needs. I would remind parents of the importance of this, and would ask that any issues are reported to the school promptly. This will ensure school staff are fully informed and children receive the care and support they require. Please note that children should **NOT** be sent to school with medication in schoolbags. Any requests for children to take medication at school should be discussed with myself or Mrs Hartley via the school office. The necessary paperwork must be completed before we are able to administer any kind of medication or inhaler.

## Communication with Promoted Staff



Communication is key to an effective partnership between school and home, and I am grateful to the large number of parents who support this. To ensure your query is dealt with appropriately, office staff will attempt to direct your requirements to the relevant promoted member of staff who has responsibility for your child's class. Where you have a query about your child's learning or behaviour, in the first instance the link would be with the class teacher. However, should you wish to speak to a promoted staff member, we each have departmental responsibility as follows:

Early Years Centre:	Mrs Carswell	P5:	Mrs McDowall
P1:	Mrs Carswell	P6:	Mr McDowall
P2 & P3:	Mrs Hartley	P7:	Mr Watson
P4:	Mrs Baines		

## Consultation - PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

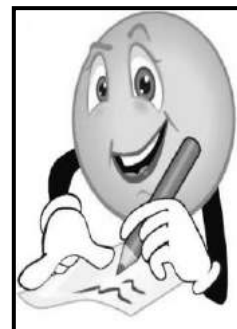
As we start a new session, can I once again please remind **ALL** parents and carers about the importance of safe and legal parking around the school. The school car park should **NOT** be used to drop and collect children, as this is for staff only. I would ask that drivers show courtesy to residents, by ensuring driveways are left clear. Police Scotland and parking attendants will continue to make unannounced visits.

We are currently working with Ayrshire Roads Alliance and colleagues within South Ayrshire Council to explore options around closing certain roads around the school at the start and end of the school day. I would encourage you to engage in the consultation, which can be found on line at:

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

## Getting Back on Track

Many of our young people worked extremely hard on home learning tasks during the school closure in term 4, and we are grateful to the majority of parents who supported this through partnership working with teaching staff. In order to ensure all children are working at appropriate levels, and receiving any support required, we are about to undertake a number of assessments with all children across the school between now and the October break. These will include reading, spelling, writing, maths and wellbeing. We will use the results of these to set clear learning and wellbeing targets for all groups of learners. The assessments will be repeated later in the session to measure progress.



### **What is Your Child Learning?**

Class teachers have outlined the learning focus for all classes for Term 1. This will shortly be uploaded to the class pages of the school website. I would encourage you to have a look! This should help you to support your children and talk about what they have been learning in class.

### **Reporting to Parents**

Each session we run an open afternoon and evening, to provide an opportunity for parents to meet class teachers and discuss pupil progress. This session, we have set aside Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November for this. Normally we do this earlier, but have made the date in November with the hope that national guidance and restrictions may change. If not, we will explore a range of options and approaches, and will of course let you know about these nearer the time.

### **Go Purple Event**

Annually, in September, our Primary 7 children work with our friends at The Ayrshire Hospice to support their "Go Purple" appeal. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to organise and run our normal coffee morning and fundraiser. However - that will not stop our creative team! Along with Mrs Gray, the children will soon begin thinking about different ways to do this year, ensuring our support for the Hospice continues. Watch this space!

### **School Photographs - Tempest**

Due to restrictions on visitors coming in and out of school, we are unable to have the tempest photographer in Forehill at the moment. We will of course review this later in the school year and will let you know if and when we can arrange this in the future.

### **Photography & Recordings**

From time to time throughout the year, photographs and video recordings of children are taken and used in the local press, media, on our website, in displays across the school and on the school facebook and twitter pages. If for any reason you do not wish your child to be included, I would ask that you put this in writing to me as soon as possible. **Please note, where no response has been received, we will presume parents/carers give full permission.**

### **Making Good Behaviour Choices**

We continue to have high expectations in relation to pupil behaviour across the school and work a very structured and clear behaviour system of reminders, rewards and sanctions. The main aim is to encourage children, no matter the age, to take responsibility for the choices they make in relation to the way they behave. As you will appreciate, some young people's perception of situations doesn't always match that of others! The behaviour policy is available on the school website for you to read. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries about this.

### **PE Kits & Learning Outdoors**

In order to participate fully and safely, all pupils must have the correct PE kit. This should include indoor gym shoes or trainers, shorts and a t-shirt. In the current situation, PE will take place outdoors as often as possible - even when it is slightly cold! We would ask that a pair of jogging trousers, warm jacket and outdoor trainers are brought to school for this purpose on PE days. For health & safety reasons, all jewellery should be removed for gym and long hair tied back.

### **Parent Council**

Our parent council continue to support the school in a number of ways. At the start of a new session, we are always looking for new parents to become involved. Ideally, it would be great to have a couple of parents on the parent council representing each class. Through discussion, consultations and fundraising, the group work closely with the school leadership team to ensure all children across the school get the best we can provide. Although unable to meet in the school at present, the group are continuing to meet via Zoom. The next on-line meeting of the group will take place on Mon 25th November. As always, all parents are encouraged and welcome to participate. It may be that on-line meetings are easier for you - so a great opportunity to get involved. Should you wish an informal chat about becoming a class rep or getting involved in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the e-mail address: [forehillpcfrg@gmail.com](mailto:forehillpcfrg@gmail.com)



### **Nut Free Zone**

I would ask for the support of parents in ensuring that morning snacks and lunches (including chocolate spreads in sandwiches) sent to school do not contain nuts. We have a number of children in the school who can take a severe allergy to nuts and products containing nuts, so would ask for your co-operation in helping us keep everyone safe.

### **New Early Years Centre**

The building of our new Early Years Centre is moving forward at a great pace. We are having regular meetings with the contractors, who have given us the indication that the building may be finished prior to Christmas, which is exciting news! The main buildings are put in place by crane, and this will take place over the weekend of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. This is quite a scene, and would encourage you, from a safe distance, to try to see this happen!

### **Best Start Grants**

I have had a letter from Social Security Scotland, asking me to highlight to parents, the Best Start Grant, available around the time children start Primary 1. It is open to people who receive certain benefits or tax credits and who have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and 29 February 2016. Applications can be made online at: [www.mygov.scot/beststart](http://www.mygov.scot/beststart)

### **Holidays**

Please note, the school and Early Years Centre will be closed to children on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school. One newsletter will be issued per family, and this will also be available on the school website.

I look forward to your support, particularly through these trying times, as we work together to provide the very best for the young people in our school.

Many thanks &  
Kind Regards,



**David Watson**  
**Head Teacher**



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Within Forehill, we are continually monitoring national guidance and reviewing our procedures to enable us to move forward in a safe and sensible way. I have pulled this information together in this section of newslink, and hope you find this helpful.

## Visitors to the School

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.



## Social Distancing

Can we please remind parents about the importance of social distancing when bringing and collecting children from school and our Early Years Centre.



## Home Learning / Schoolbags

Following the September weekend, children in some classes may begin to bring home some simple home learning tasks. To support this, and where it is helpful, we are happy for children to bring a schoolbag to school. Children in Primary 1 do not need a school bag, but instead will be given a reading bag, donated by our parent council.

## School Lunches

From **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** onwards, we will begin making a choice of hot meals available to children. Many children bring packed lunches, and of course this can continue. Children in P4-7 can choose to eat outdoors, or sit at their class table with their peers.

We are currently working with catering staff to review how we serve meals and will write out to all parents when this is finalised.

We will continue to ensure our lunchtime routine meets current safety and wellbeing guidelines.



### **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 book a test. You can do this by searching online for 'NHS Inform Test and Protect' or by visiting:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

If you don't have access to the internet, please contact the helpline on: **0800 028 2816**

The child should **NOT** under any circumstance, attend school and should self-isolate for the current specified period. The school should be informed immediately.

### **What do I do if the coronavirus (Covid-19) test is negative?**

If the test result is negative, children can return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so, and have been fever free without the use of medication for 48 hours. Self-isolation is no longer required. We would ask that parents keep us fully informed.

### **What do I do if the coronavirus (Covid-19) test is positive?**

If the test result is positive, your child **should not return to school** and you should follow the advice from the Test and Protect Team. In this case, it is vital that parents contact the school immediately.

### **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.

### **Children Taking Unwell at School**

Any child who takes unwell at school 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, a 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 school, 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 school 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 testing.



**Please find below, information about Face Coverings in South Ayrshire Primary Schools and also a letter from the National clinical director:**

## Use of Face Coverings

The Scottish Government has issued new guidance to schools about the use of face coverings, which came into operation on Monday 31 August. These measures were put in place as precautions and are based on the latest scientific advice. Face coverings are not generally required in classrooms or other learning environments.

In primary schools this guidance applies **only to children using school transport**. They are not required to wear face coverings at any other time.

It is really important that young people know how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings safely, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. Please go over these key points with your child. We will be reinforcing them regularly at school too.

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- The face covering should cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- They should not touch the front of the mask or pull it under the chin.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container.
- Avoid placing the face covering on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically in a bin.



**Letter from Professor Jason Leitch National Clinical Director**  
**Common Cold and COVID-19 Symptoms**

To Parents/Carers:

I understand these last few months have often been challenging, particularly for parents and carers. Now that schools and nurseries have returned I am writing to provide some advice where a child or young person in your care presents with symptoms of the common cold or similar bugs during this pandemic.

Following the return of schools after a prolonged break, it is common for colds and similar viral infections to circulate. In many cases, children will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. In other cases, for instance where they have quite a heavy cold, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

This is not the case for children and young people with potential COVID-19 symptoms, they are required to self-isolate and seek a test through [nhsinform.scot](https://nhsinform.scot) or by calling 0800 028 2816.

In order to ensure your children do not miss out on their education, it is important to be clear about how COVID-19 symptoms differ from those of other infections that we normally see circulating at this time of year.

**COVID-19 Symptoms**

It is important that all of us – including those who make up the community around a school - are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19 and understand what actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible at [NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect), or by calling 0800 028 2816.

We recommend testing only for those with a continuous cough, fever, or loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell. The UK senior clinicians continue to keep the symptoms for case definition under review and will continue to use evidence to adjust these if it becomes necessary.

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school, nursery or other childcare settings, and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone. If the test is positive, Test and Protect will give you further advice.

**Cold-like symptoms**

**If, however, your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can go to school if fit to do so.**

The Scottish Government appreciates the huge effort being made by parents, carers and school staff to ensure the risk of COVID-19 is minimised and to support children's education.

**Further information**

For further advice please visit the Parent Club website at:

[www.parentclub.scot](https://www.parentclub.scot)

or

[www.nhsinform.scot](https://www.nhsinform.scot)

Professor Jason Leitch  
**National Clinical Director**  
Scottish Government