

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
October 2020



I hope this edition of Newslink finds all our Forehill families well. As we reach the end of term one, my sincere thanks to you for your continued support as we work together to deal with these strange, unusual and extremely challenging times. The children have adapted well to new routines in classes and across the school very quickly. We are enjoying having them back in school.

Communication with Parents - Groupcall Xpressions App

All parents have been asked to ensure they have signed up to receive communication from us through 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 from 1st November onwards. ALL newsletters and other information will be circulated electronically to parents and there 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.

Communication with the School

Should parents wish to contact the school with a query or wish to speak to a particular member of staff, we would ask that this is done by phone or e-mail:

By phone: 01292 612461

By E-mail: forehill.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



Parents are respectfully asked not to send messages to the school through the facebook page or to staff personal facebook pages. To ensure your query is dealt with efficiently, office staff will attempt to direct your query to the most appropriate member of staff, normally your child's class teacher. However, should you wish to speak to a promoted staff member, the leadership team have departmental responsibilities 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		

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.

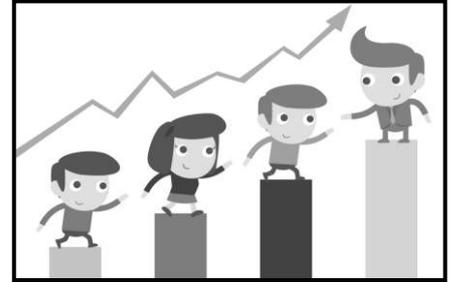


Welcome Back!

We look forward, on 21st October, to welcoming Mrs Zorget, one of our teachers, back from her maternity leave. It will be great to have her back in the school each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Zorget will be working with our Primary 6 teachers to support learning at this stage of the school.

Getting Back on Track

The children are working very hard in class on all aspects of their learning. Class teachers have been undertaking assessments, which will support in identifying learning targets and next steps for all children. Homework tasks are now being given to children and these will differ depending on the age and stage of the children. Children in Primaries 1-3 will be given tasks involving reading, writing and numeracy/maths. In primaries 4-7, homework tasks will be undertaken electronically.



Primary 4-7 Children - Online Learning through Microsoft Teams

We are moving towards a digital learning approach for all children in Primaries 4-7, where homework and some other aspects of learning will be provided through Microsoft Teams. Some classes used Teams very successfully during lockdown, and we would like to build on this.

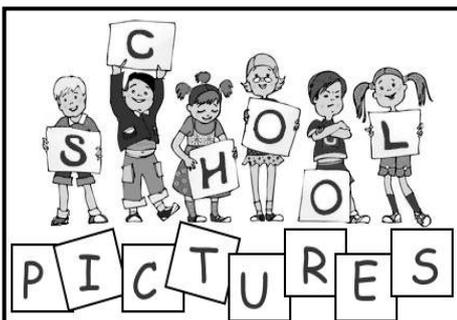
All children will be taught in school how to use "Teams" to access and complete set homework tasks. We are aware this approach may be new to parents, so Mrs McDowall is in the process of preparing support materials for parents which we will circulate after the October break.

Parent/Teacher Discussions - 24th November 2020

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we normally hold a parent/teacher meeting in Term 1. However, due to current restrictions, this is not possible. We are currently exploring the best way to deliver this opportunity and would love to hear your thoughts. Please feed this back to me through the parent council or by sending an e-mail to me. Staff will be available on Tuesday 24th November to speak to parents who have **a specific concern**. As you know, this is not how we like to engage with parents, but unfortunately, this is how we need to work at the moment.

Permission for Out of School Visits

While we are restricted in what educational visits we are able to organise at present, some classes are making use of the local area to enhance learning for the children. Normally, we would write to parents with information about any out of school visit, asking for a permission slip to be returned. At the moment, we will continue to issue information to all parents about outings through Groupcall and would ask that parents respond **ONLY** if they do **NOT** wish their child to participate. We continue to hold all medical and contact information for all children in the school office. Should you have any queries about this change to procedure at present, please let us know.



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. **Please note, where no response has been received, we will presume parents/carers give full permission.**

PE Kits & Learning Outdoors

Due to current COVID restrictions, we are currently unable to teach PE indoors. This advice may change in the future. At present, PE will continue to be taken outdoors and as we approach the cooler weather it is important all pupils have the correct outdoor PE kits to participate and feel comfortable when outside. Where possible, we would ask you to ensure your child has tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a sweatshirt or jumper and a waterproof jacket as part of their PE kit. Thanks for your support with this.



Head Pupils & House Captains

We are delighted to announce we have appointed the following pupils to these roles in our school:

Head Boy:	Craig Innes	Depute Head Boy:	Aidan Gray
Head Girl:	Ava Brizell	Depute Head Girl:	Emma McAnespie
Red House Captains:	Molly Madden & Angus McCubbin		
Blue House Captains:	Zahra Mosatini & David Baines		
Green House Captains:	Kayla Hannah & Corey Kotze		
Yellow House Captains:	Shanna Rae & Zachary Norris		

I know these young people will be great ambassadors for our school and will fulfil their responsibilities with enthusiasm.

Maths Week Scotland

Our young people across the school have been involved in a wide range of learning activities as part of Maths Week Scotland. Many of the classes have used the new Early Years Centre as a context in which to teach and explore new maths and numeracy skills. We have enjoyed sharing some of the learning through our facebook and twitter pages. In addition, we were successful in receiving a grant which will be used, along with some of the donation from our parent council, to set up a covered outdoor maths and numeracy discovery area for our P1 classes. We hope to have this completed by the end of October and look forward to sharing some photos with you.

Flu Vaccine - Primary 1-7 Pupils

As you are aware, children in P1-P7 are offered the Flu vaccine each year. This is painless and is administered by a nasal spray. School nurses will be in the school on **Tuesday 24th November** to undertake this. Detailed information has already been issued to parents, and would ask, if you haven't already done so, that consent forms are returned to school promptly. (Even if you do not wish your child to have this).

Learning Visits

The leadership team are in the process of visiting all classes to observe the quality of learning and teaching. Early feedback is extremely positive, and children are reporting enjoying being back in school. We are very impressed with how the children are re-engaging in learning, and producing work of a really good quality. I am grateful to the large numbers of parents who continue to support their children's learning at home.

New Early Years Centre

Our new early years centre is beginning to take shape. The children had great fun watching the building being put into place last week. We are currently in the process of ordering furniture, new resources and recruiting additional staff, and look forward to opening the new centre early in January 2021.

Education Scotland

The team of inspectors who visited the school earlier in the year found highly-effective practice in children's achievements at Forehill. Opportunities to achieve were wide ranging and high quality. The tracking of achievements results in positive action being taken to ensure all can achieve and no child misses out. Education Scotland have produced sketchnotes which capture some of this work. These can be found online at:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/resources-for-practitioners/what-s-going-well/forehill-primary-school-achievements/>

FOREHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba

1 **ACHIEVEMENTS** are planned, tracked and celebrated effectively

2 Creative approaches to **MUSIC**

3 **SKILLS** development

Children are **DEVELOPING A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS** through the many **OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE.**

TOGETHER WE LEARN TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

CONFIDENCE, PARTICIPATION, MOTIVATION for learning

SCHOOL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA perform at community events and in competitions

AMBITIOUS SCHOOL SHOWS

INSTUMENTAL TUITION TO ALL P5-7 children

CHILDREN ARTICULATE WELL how these roles support them TO REALISE THE SCHOOL VISION

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL SKILLS ARE DEVELOPED VERY WELL through the curriculum and experiences beyond the classroom and playroom

THE FOREHILL CAFE A WEEKLY CONTEXT FOR GROWING A RANGE OF SKILLS (eg: gardening, financial management, problem solving, communication and hospitality)

PUPIL PARTICIPATION GROUPS children can relate their skills to the world of work

PARTICIPATION RATES ARE HIGH

ACTION IS TAKEN TO ENSURE NO CHILD MISSES OUT

ACCREDITATION THROUGH PARTICIPATION in a wide range of programmes

OLDER CHILDREN ARE SUPPORTED WELL to lead clubs or activities for younger children

CHILDREN SHARE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS through social media, local press, school newsletters and displays

» Visit hub page «

» Read full report «

Highly effective practice identified through inspection

FOREHILL Primary School

Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba

BLOG

FOREHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Bookshelf of Reading and Research

NUANCE
MICHAEL POLLAN

WHEN ADULTS CHANGE
EVENTHINGS CHANGES
Paul Die

MINORST - CHANGING THE WAY YOU
THINK TO FULLY LIVE YOUR LIFE!
Carol Davis

WALKING NORTH - FORMING FOR LEADERSHIP
Michael Pollan

TOGETHER WE LEARN TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

October 2020

Children are DEVELOPING A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS through the many OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE.

In Forehill, we are extremely proud of the wide range of planned opportunities we are able to offer our young people as a context in which they can develop a range of skills, and experience high levels of success and achievement. Our approach to consulting, planning, promoting, recording and celebrating children's achievements has evolved over several years. It has been born from the belief that the learning and development of personal skills and attributes are fostered in and out of the classroom, in the school, home and in the wider community.

The array of opportunities we offer in the context of sport, music and expressive arts is extensive, changing year on year to respond to requests from our young people. Pupil participation is broadened across all stages, ensuring all young people are included and nobody is at risk of missing out.

We offer a huge range of sporting activities, which lead to successful participation in local and national competitive events.

In expressive arts, a cast of around one hundred young people take over the local theatre to present a musical with full professional scenery, lighting, costumes and music. Many additional children and staff take on a range of backstage roles. Past successes include Annie, The Sound of Music, Peter Pan and the Wizard of Oz.

Instrumental tuition is provided to all P5-7 children weekly, along with input from visiting instrumental teachers in strings, brass and woodwind. Our choirs and orchestra have enjoyed consistent success performing at community events and in competitions.

The Forehill café which runs weekly provides a context for young people to develop a range of skills including gardening, planning menus, cooking, maths, while also developing communication, confidence, independence and skills in hospitality.

Our vision underpins what we set out to achieve through our high expectations and nurturing inclusive ethos. Our motto "Together we Learn, Together we Achieve" is alive and well in Forehill.

David Watson, headteacher

» Visit hub page «

» Read full report «

Highly effective practice identified through inspection

Parent Council

We are so pleased our parent council continue to look for new and creative ways to support the school, even with the current restrictions. 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 23rd November at 7pm**. 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. Please give this some thought, and get involved in the amazing work the group continue to do to support the school. Should you wish to take part in the discussions, please contact the secretary - Dave McIntosh by e-mailing: secretary.forehillpcfrg@gmail.com who will be able to share the link to the meeting with you.

Medicines and Inhalers in School

As you would expect, we are committed to ensuring the medical needs of children in the school are fully met. Could we please ask that all parents ensure children who require it, have their inhalers in their schoolbag. P1-3 inhalers can be stored in the school office, whilst we would expect young people in P4-7 to take responsibility for their own inhalers. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name and pharmacist's label. Should you have any queries around this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



School Lunches

Our lunchtime routine is now well established, with children remaining in their class groups at all times. Primary 1-3 children are served their lunch by staff, with P4-7 children entering on a rota system to choose lunch as normal, and again, sitting in their class groups. We are continuing to provide a reduced menu, and would ask that parents in P1-3 ensure they return by Friday, the sheet indicating choices for the first three weeks after the October break.

Eco School News

Each year our Eco Committee works really hard to ensure our school is doing our bit to help save our planet. We like to plan activities to involve the whole school which helps maintain our Green Flag Status. This year our topics are Litter and Waste Minimisation, Food and The Environment and Global Citizenship.

This year we would to run our Eco Committee a different way by asking pupils to get involved from home. The link below will take you to the Eco Schools website which is full of fun activities and projects!

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/eco-schools-at-home/>

Some suggested activities are:

- Learning how to recycle at home and reduce plastic use.
- Going for a walk outdoors and looking for different types of trees/wildlife.
- Looking for ways to encourage different types of wildlife into your garden and local area.
- Look at ways to save energy in your home.
- Planting flowers/fruit/vegetables.

We would love to see what you are getting up to. If you have any photos/evidence can you please send it to Miss Kerr at tiffany.kerr@south-ayrshire.gov.uk to help us achieve our Green Flag Status this year!



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.

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.

Responsibility of Parents

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.

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.

Holidays

Please note, the school will close on Friday 9th October and will reopen on Wednesday 21st October. The early years centre remains open over the break, with the exception of 12th 19th and 20th October.

My thanks to you all for your support as we work together to provide the very best for the young people in our school at this difficult time. As we move forward, if there is anything we can assist you with, I would encourage you to get in touch.

Many thanks &
Kind Regards,



David Watson
Head Teacher

