

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
November 2020



Welcome to our November edition of Newslink. We continue to live in really challenging times, adapting and changing, doing things differently to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all young people and staff. My thanks to you all for your continued support and understanding. I hope you find the information in this Newslink helpful as we move towards the festive period.

Parent Teacher Discussions Tuesday 24th November



We are keen to provide parents with the opportunity to chat to their child's teacher about the progress children are making in learning. This time round, due to current restrictions, these conversations will be undertaken by phone. Teaching staff will be working with children to prepare three pieces of learning which will be sent home on 20th November to provide examples of the quality of work each child is producing in class. Telephone appointments will take place on **Tuesday 24th November** between **3.30pm and 5.30pm** and **6.30pm and 8.30pm**. A link to a Microsoft Form will be sent by Groupcall and posted on Facebook, and would ask all parents who wish a phone call, to confirm their preferred time by clicking on the link and completing the form. Should you be unable to do this, please feel free to call the school office and we will happily allocate you an appointment time. Prior to the 24th November, we will confirm an exact time your child's teacher will call. Due to the volume of phone calls being undertaken, we are on this occasion restricting these to five minutes per child. I would ask that parents respect this time allocation. Where we do not get a response from a parent, we will presume on this occasion they do not wish a call from their child's teacher. The link to allow you to choose an appointment time is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKTKqA9G7GB9MqRO-x8jLe7VUNDhyWEIWN1ZCNlhQQTIOWjdBNTI1RUFNOS4u>

Ayrshire Hospice - Light Up A Life

We have once again been invited to perform at the Ayrshire Hospice Light Up A Life event, which takes place on **Sunday 29th November**. This is always such a privilege, and an evening we look forward to. This year, we are unable to involve our choirs due to restrictions, but three of our senior pupils - Ellie, Craig and Jackson have recorded their songs which will feature as part of this online event. This is always an amazing evening, and would encourage you to support the Hospice from the comfort of your own home. Online tickets can be purchased by following this link:

<https://www.ayrshirehospice.org/Event/light-up-a-life-christmas-concert-online-event>



Go Purple Fundraising

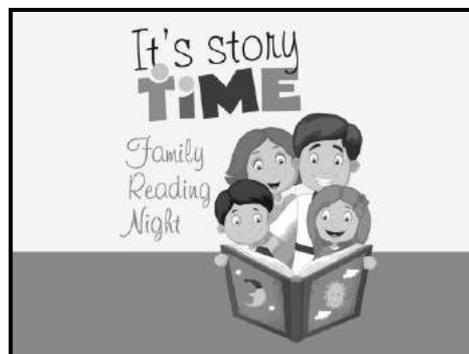
Huge congratulations to our wonderful Primary 7 pupils, their teachers, Mrs Gray and all other staff for once again organising our "Go Purple" event in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice. The amazing sum of **£2011** was raised. This was a wonderful effort from everyone, particularly at the moment. Well done everyone and thank you!

Encouraging Reading for Pleasure

We are always keen to encourage our young people to read as much as possible. This supports so many aspects of a child's learning. As part of Book Week Scotland, our Primary 7 children have been asked to be involved in a reading challenge with Kyle Academy. Information has been sent to parents about this and text, chosen by the English Department at Kyle are available in the P7 classes for children to borrow.

Read, Write Count: P2 & P3 Packs

Read, Write, Count is the Scottish Government initiative which encourages parents, carers and children to share and be involved in literacy and numeracy activities together. Every child in Primary 2 and Primary 3 will be provided with a Read, Write, Count pack to keep at home and use. It has lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Children will bring these packs home during Scottish Book Week, which runs from **16th - 22nd November**.



Planned Learning Term 2

Planned learning for Term 2 in your child's class has now been uploaded to the school website. Should you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would encourage you where possible to have discussions with your child about the learning taking place.

Amended School Holiday List

There has been a slight change to the school holiday list issued to parents at the start of the session. The updated list is attached at the rear of the Newslink. Please note, the school will now close to children on **Tuesday 22nd December at 2.30pm**.

Homework

Class teachers will continue to provide a range of home learning activities which we would ask parents to ensure are completed. In P1-3 this may be in jotters, on websites or a reading task. In Primaries 4-7, homework tasks will be set through Microsoft Teams. Children are working with their class teachers to ensure they are confident in accessing this from home. Homework tasks set via Teams are part of class learning and should be completed when set. We are happy to offer any assistance if this is needed.

Parent Council



Our parent council continue to work hard in the background, exploring 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.

Parent Council Family Quiz - 20th November 7.00pm

Our parent council are running an on-line Family Quiz, which will take place on **Friday 20th November at 7.00pm**. Entry is £2 per family. Entry sheets will be on sale in school next week. Should you wish to take part, we would ask that you send the money to school in an envelope with your child's name and class marked on it. Entry forms will then be sent home in return. What else would you do on a Friday night? Great prizes too!

Flu Immunisations - 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 these.

Nut Allergies

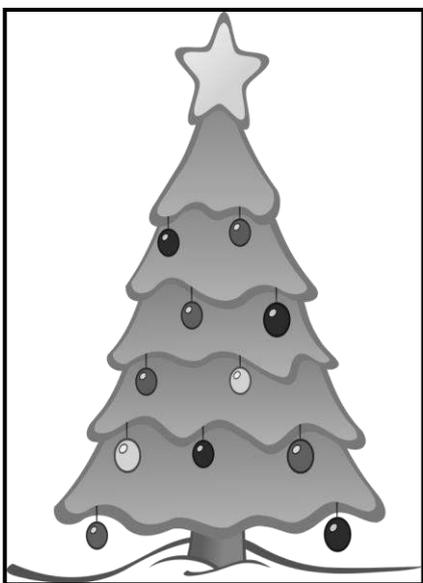
Can I please remind parents **not** to send to school, snacks which contain peanuts - this includes Nutella, Chocolate spreads etc. We have a number of young people across the school who are allergic to nuts. Thanks for your support.



Winter Weather

As the winter weather approaches, and mornings are becoming darker and wetter, I would ask that children, particularly on wet mornings arrive at school just in time to enter their classroom at the appropriate start time. Unfortunately, supervision is limited, and we will only be able to allow access to the building for pupils from **8.55am** onwards. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Christmas Arrangements



Normally at this time of year we are excited about the range of opportunities we provide for the young people in the lead up to the festive season. Unfortunately, we have had to think differently this year, and had to limit what we can provide. We are adding to the list below, but at the moment, we can confirm the following:

Each stage or individual class will have their own party time in the hall as normal, but where there are joint parties across a stage the classes would be kept apart in separate areas of the hall. Obviously social dance and some of the normal games are not an option. The party may also be slightly shorter this year. Children can wear party clothes to school for the full day of their party, so no need to be changing. Party dates are noted in the list of dates at the back on the newsletter.

★ We will be having a whole school movie morning on **Tuesday 22nd December**, where each class would choose a Christmas Movie of their choice to watch in class. Children will be provided with a tub of ice-cream.

★ Our Christmas Lunch will take place on **Wednesday 16th December**.

★ Each class will be recording their own special "Christmas Message" which will be shared through the school Facebook page from Monday 14th December onwards.

★ Real live Reindeer will be visiting our school on Wednesday 9th December. Children in the EYC and P1 will have the chance to meet them!

★ We have booked an on-line performance of "Tales from Toytown" by FIB theatre for the EYC and P1-3 classes. This will take place on the morning of Friday 18th December.

★ All classes have had their photograph taken for the Parent Council 2021 Class Calendars. Information on how to order these will be issued by the parent council shortly.

Christmas Cards

This year we would ask that children do not bring Christmas Cards to school to hand out to friends. This is sad and not what we would want to do, but a sensible decision to help prevent the potential spread of infection.

Energy Agency Calendar 2021

Congratulations to Molly M and Emma Mc - both P7 pupils who have had their art work selected for inclusion in the Energy Agency Calendar 2021. We look forward to seeing the finished work published soon.

Keeping in Touch

Regular updates on what is happening across the school can be seen on the Groupcall Xpressions App, our Facebook Page and on our twitter pages.

Facebook: @forehill50
Website: www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary
Nursery Twitter: @ForehillN



Face Coverings

We would respectfully ask that all parents or other adults wear a face covering when coming into the playground to drop off or collect children from school or nursery. When adults working in primary schools are moving around the school in corridors, offices, admin areas, staff rooms or other communal staff areas face coverings will be worn at all times. This advice is slightly different for staff working in Early Years.

PE

Can I please remind parents of the importance of ensuring that all children have a PE kit in school. PE is not optional, and is an important part of the curriculum. As children also participate in PE outdoors as far as possible, it would be helpful to ensure they have joggers and outdoors shoes on PE days. For safety reasons, can I ask that NO jewellery is worn on PE days - including earrings. Class teachers will be able to confirm individual PE days.

Shielding

In Ayrshire & Arran, we are currently in Level 3 of the tiered system. The new advice highlights children who have been previously shielding due to a medical condition. We would ask that parents or guardians discuss with their GP or clinician whether the child should still attend school. I would ask that parents keep us fully informed.

Attendance

Our attendance rates across the school continue to be really good, and my thanks to parents for supporting this. We are keen to ensure that all children have access to high quality learning and would ask that parents work with us to ensure children only remain at home if there is a genuine reason for the absence. All absences will be followed up and support offered where this would be helpful.

Keeping Safe in School

We are continuing to ensure all procedures are followed in school including hand washing/sanitising, keeping children in learning groups in class and at lunchtimes and breaks, limiting sharing of resources etc. We would ask that you continue to remind children at home of the importance of good hand hygiene and following all rules in school which are there to keep us all safe.

Social Distancing

When at the school, we would remind all parents of the need for 2m social-distancing and would ask that everyone respects this when near other parents or adults in the playground or in the street.

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**. 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.

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.

Contingency Planning

Should the advice from NHS, local authority or Scottish Government change at any point and there is a need to move to an alternative model of learning and teaching for an individual, a class or the whole school, we have contingency plans in place. There are a number of possible options, depending on the circumstances. However, the main aim would be to ensure we continue to provide quality learning for all our young people.

As we move forward, if there is anything we can assist you with, I would encourage you to get in touch.

My sincere thanks to you all for your on-going support and understanding.

Many thanks &
Kind Regards,



David Watson
Head Teacher

**IF YOU PROMISE
NOT TO BELIEVE
EVERYTHING
YOUR CHILD SAYS
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AT HOME.**



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 (Pupils)	Tues 22 Dec 2020
		Teachers (Inservice)	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
		<i>local holiday</i>	Tues 16 Feb 2021
		Re-open	Mon 22 Feb 2021
		Close	Thurs 1 Apr 2021
Third		Re-open	Mon 19 Apr 2021
		May Day	Mon 3 May 2021
		Close	Wed 5 May 2021
		Teachers (Inservice)	Thurs 6 May 2021
		Re-open (Pupils)	Fri 7 May 2021
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 31 May 2021
		Re-open	Tues 1 June 2021
		Close	Fri 25 Jun 2021
			195

Diary Dates

Please find attached, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, I will keep you informed of other important dates.

Date	Times	Who	Details
16 th - 22 nd November	All Day	All	Book Week Scotland
Fri 20 th November	7.00pm	All	Parent Council On-Line Quiz
Mon 23 rd November	7.00pm	All	Parent Council Zoom Meeting
Tue 24 th November	All Day	P1-7	Flu Immunisations
Tue 24 th November	3.30pm - 5.30pm	P1-7	Parent Teacher Phone Calls
	6.30pm - 8.30pm	P1-7	Parent Teacher Phone Calls
Sun 29 th November	7.00pm	P7	Hospice Light Up a Life On-Line
30 th Nov - 4 th December	All Day	EYC	My Care & Learning Discussions
Wed 9 th December	All Day	EYC / P1	Reindeer Visiting
Fri 11 th December	pm	P7	Christmas Party
Mon 14 th December	pm	P6	Christmas Party
Tue 15 th December	pm	P5	Christmas Party
Wed 16 th December	12.00 - 1.30pm	All	Christmas Lunch
Wed 16 th December	am & pm	EYC	Christmas Party
Thu 17 th December	pm	P4	Christmas Party
Fri 18 th December	am	EYC - P3	Tales from Toytown
Fri 18 th December	pm	P3	Christmas Party
Fri 18 th December	pm	P2/3	Christmas Party
Mon 21 st December	pm	P2	Christmas Party
Tue 22 nd December	am	All	Movie Morning
Tue 22 nd December	pm	P1	Christmas Party
Tue 22 nd December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Wed 6 th January 2021	am	All	School Re-Opens

