

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
May 2021



Welcome to our May edition of Newslink. I hope this finds you all well, and you are now managing to enjoy some of the things we have all missed over the past few months. We are now well into the summer term, and have outlined some important information for you below.

Vacancy - School Crossing Patroller



We are currently seeking to appoint a school crossing patroller, who would be based on Caledonia Road. The service is required both morning and evening and operates term time.

The post will be advertised on the Council website on **Friday 21 May**. Should you be interested in this role or know someone who may be, we would invite you to call Mrs Moira Strachan on **01292 612969** for more information.

The main duties are:

- Undertake duties concerned with the safe passage of school children.
- Control and direction of traffic at school crossing areas.
- Operation of hazard warning signs.
- Identification of any roadside hazards

Communicating with Parents

We are working hard to ensure information is shared with parents through the X-pressions App, Facebook, twitter and of course the school website. Parents of children in P1-7 who do not use the Expressions App at present and would like to receive messages to their mobile, should contact the school office by e-mail: Forehill.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



Mobile Phone Numbers & E-Mail Addresses

Over the past few weeks, we have tried to contact some parents, only to find that mobile numbers and e-mail addresses were out of date and no longer valid.

Can we please ask that ALL parents ensure they inform the office about any changes to home or mobile phone numbers or e-mail address. It is VITAL we are able to contact parents of all children at all times when in school. Wrong phone numbers and e-mail addresses also mean important communication is not reaching all parents.

Castlehill Church Foodbank

Rev Paul Russell, our school chaplain and minister at Castlehill Church has asked me to let you know about the foodbank which is now operating at Castlehill Church each **Friday** morning between 10am and 12 noon. There is no need to be referred to this service and those who would welcome the support from this facility are welcome to drop in.



Parent Teacher Meetings

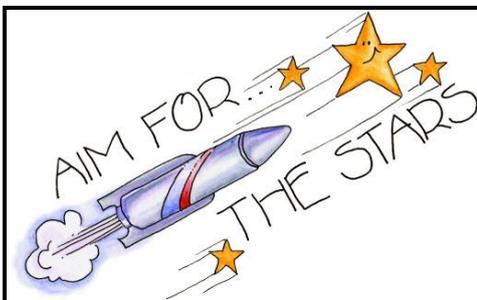
Our parent/teacher phone discussions took place earlier this week, and were most successful. My thanks to all parents for their support with this. As always, should you have any queries about any aspect of your child's learning at any point, you are more than welcome to contact the school for advice or support. Parent/Teacher discussions for children P1L will take place on **Wednesday 16th June** as already communicated.

Pupil Reports P1-7

To ensure parents receive information about their child's learning and progress, teaching staff are currently working on reports for all young people in the school. These will be sent out to parents in the week commencing **14th June**.

Pupil Reports - Early Years Centre

Parents of children in our early years centre will receive copies of care plans prior to the summer break. Our thanks to all parents who have participated fully in our telephone conversations about the progress their child is making with learning and development.



Scottish National Standardised Assessments

Over the next few weeks, all our children in P1 will be undertaking standardised assessments as part of their learning. These are computerised assessments and will be supported by class teachers, Early Years Practitioners and School assistants. The focus is on Literacy and Numeracy/Mathematics.

Children Starting P1 in August

All new Primary 1 parents will soon receive a letter from me outlining our plans during this challenging time, for their child to begin Primary 1. We look forward to welcoming our new P1 to the school to take part in small groups, in some outdoor learning tasks. These visits will take place after school on **Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th June**.

Our transition programme will start at the beginning of June and the theme this year will be "The Colour Monster Goes to School". We would ask that parents with a child moving into P1 check emails regularly as transition activities and videos will be shared with you. Pre-school children will enjoy a visit to P1 to meet their new teacher. At this input parents will be invited to a parent information session.

Nut Free Zone

I would ask for the support of parents in ensuring that morning snacks and lunches 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 in Forehill safe.

Sports Afternoons

Due to the current restrictions, we are sadly unable to have parents along to support our young people at our sports. Weather permitting, sports will take place as follows. We would invite children to wear t-shirts the colour of their home team.

EYC: Wednesday 26th May

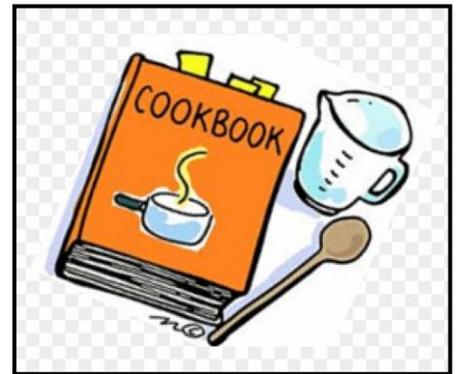
P1-3: Thursday 27th May

P4-5: Friday 28th May

P6-7: Friday 28th May

Primary 4 Lockdown Recipe Book

Primary 4 have created their own Lockdown Recipe Book and are hoping to sell some for their Enterprise Project. They have included their favourite recipes from home and have created posters to advertise their product. The books are priced £3 each or 2 for £5. If you would like to buy one or more of their "Lockdown Recipe Books" we would ask that you send the money to school in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and class. Orders and payment should be sent to school by **Friday 28th May**. Thanks for your support.



Primary 5M - Fab Flowers



Primary 5M are taking part in an enterprise project this term which involves them running a small business creating and selling flower planters. The class have been busy with Mrs McSheffery researching costs, finding out how businesses are run, creating adverts, completing market research, planting and looking after their products, working out prices/expenses/selling prices, investigating profit and loss. They will be using recycled plastic bottles for this so

the project is very environmentally friendly. To make the experience as real as possible the children decided buying shares would be a way of financing the business. They have discussed profit and loss and the risk factor of buying shares! The children are very excited about this, and we all look forward to seeing their amazing planters soon!

Walking for Whiteleys Cheque Presentation

Our thanks to Mrs Howlett, Mrs Paterson, Miss Cathcart and Miss Hawkshaw, who organised our virtual kiltwalk for Whiteleys Retreat. Due to your generosity and support, and the amazing efforts of staff and young people, we were able to present Whiteley's with over £1400 - an outstanding effort. Well done everyone!

Let Love In - Hospice Cheque Presentation

You may remember, Mr McDowall wrote a song and worked with children prior to Christmas, to record and release "Let Love In" All money raised from this was presented to the Ayrshire Hospice last Friday. We were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £1900 to the Ayrshire Hospice. Again, confirmation of the generous and caring school community we share. Well done to Mr McDowall, all our children and to everyone for your support.

Attendance at School

As you are well aware, the past few months have been unprecedented due to COVID, meaning attendance across the school has been varied for some children. During that time, we have continued to monitor attendance and supported families where necessary. Moving forward, we hope to return, with YOUR support, to the high levels of attendance we normally experience. Where attendance rates for children begin to drop, we will highlight this to parents and would ask that you work with us to address this.

Arriving Late

We are seeing a slight increase in the number of children arriving late for school each morning. Can we please highlight to all parents, the importance of children being in lines with their class, ready to enter together and to begin learning. We monitor this carefully, and where this becomes a concern, we will let parents know and work with you to address this.



EYC Hobbit Hut

The children in our EYC are enjoying playing and learning in our new centre. The hobbit hut in the garden is a favourite place to play. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Walters, one of our parents, who gave freely of his time to fit the flooring to our hobbit hut. We really appreciate his support and assistance.



New Early Years Centre

We are delighted that our new EYC is the first Carbon neutral education building in South Ayrshire, and the first Nursery in Scotland. We are delighted about this, and proud we are working to protect our environment.

Parent Council

Our parent council have continued through lockdown, to run a number of family events, which have been well supported. Many thanks to you all for this. Our Easter Trail was well supported, raising over £274. The sunflower packs have been issued this week to those who ordered them. Happy growing everyone!

The next Parent Council Meeting will take place via ZOOM on **Monday 24th May at 6.30pm**. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. The log-in details can be provided by contacting the secretary, Dave McIntosh: secretary.forehillpcfrg@gmail.com

Class Structures Session 2021-2022



We are beginning to look at class structures for next session, and as you are aware, class groupings in our Primary 1-3 classes are never set in stone, and always a likelihood that children are re-grouped as they progress through these stages.

These re-groupings take account of maximum class sizes, children's learning needs and social groupings. This task is done through consultation, with the focus on the learning needs of each learner, rather than parental preferences. We will be writing to parents of children in P1-3 prior to the summer break with more information. In the meantime, I would of course welcome any input or thoughts from parents of children in P1-3 as we work through this process. I will let parents know about classes and teachers as soon as possible.

Primary 7 Orienteering

Fiona Reid, our active schools' co-ordinator has planned for our P7 classes to take part in orienteering at Castlehill Woods. This will take place on **Friday 4th June**. Letters have been issued to all P7 parents with more details.

Primary 7

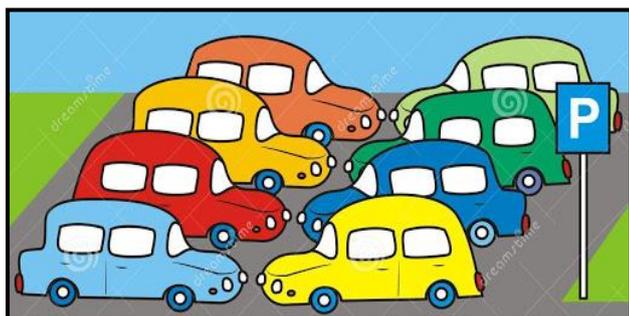
I am once again extremely disappointed the young people in our P7 classes have missed out on a number of activities and events this session including Inverclyde, transition events. We are in the process of trying to plan our Leavers' Assembly and a P7 Leavers' Celebration Event - further information will be sent to P7 parents as soon as possible.

Primary 7 - Visit to Dolphin House

Arrangements have been made for our two P7 classes to spend the day at Dolphin House in Culzean, taking part in a range of outdoor activities. This is being organised by our active schools team. Letters about this have already been issued to P7 parents. These visits will take place on **Wednesday 26th May** (P7S) and **Wednesday 16th June** (P7M).

P7 Hoodies

P7 Leavers' Hoodies will be distributed to those who ordered these, on **Friday 28th May**.



Early Years Centre - Summer

Our new Early Years Centre is open all year round, with some children attending over the normal summer holiday period. Can I please ask that parents remind children they should not be playing the EYC car park as cars will be coming and going from this area at certain times throughout the day.

Holidays

Please note the school and Early Years Centre are closed to all pupils on **Monday 31st May**.

Keeping in Touch

Please keep in touch through the following:

Website: www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk

Facebook: @forehill50

Twitter: @forehillprimary

@forehillN

My continued thanks to all parents for their support as we have all worked through the many challenges this session has presented us with.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

Kind Regards,



David Watson

Head Teacher

DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Fri 21 st May	am	EYC	Pre-school Eye Tests
Mon 24 th May	6.30pm	All	Parent Council ZOOM Meeting
Wed 26 th May	All Day	P7S	Visit to Dolphin House, Culzean
Wed 26 th May	pm	EYC	Sports
Thur 27 th May	pm	P1-3	Sports
Fri 28 th May	am/pm	P4-5 & P6-7	Sports
Mon 31 st May	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 4 th June	am/pm	P7M/P7S	Orienteering - Castlehill Woods
w/b Mon 7 th June	am/pm	EYC	New Nursery Parent Visits/Meetings
w/b Mon 14 th June	pm	P1-7	Reports Issued to Parents
Wed 16 th June	All Day	P7M	Visit to Dolphin House, Culzean
Wed 16 th June	4pm	P1L	Parent/Teacher Discussions
Tue 22 nd June	am	P7M/P7S	Visit from "The Ark" to P7 classes
Thu 24 th June	9.15am	P1-6	Bump Up Morning
Fri 25 th June	9.15am	All	Closing Celebration - P7
Fri 25 th June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes
Thu 19 th August	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens