

Forehill Primary School

NEWSLINK

June 2021



Welcome to the final "Newslink" for this session. At this time of year, we would normally be enjoying a range of outings, our school show, sports events, and celebrating all the amazing things our young people have achieved over the year. Sadly these things have not all been possible again this year.

I cannot thank you all enough for the support you have shown us through the past year. We know times have been difficult, especially where we have had to isolate or send children home. I am grateful for the sensible and proactive approach the majority of you have taken to support us in our drive to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the school community.



Mrs Hartley

It is with great sadness, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Hartley at the end of term, who leaves us to take up her new post of Headteacher at Glenburn Primary in Prestwick. I have had the privilege of having Mrs Hartley as part of our leadership team for the past seven years - a role to which she brought great passion, enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism. She is a highly regarded member of staff who will be sorely missed by the whole Forehill community. I know you join me in wishing her all the very best in her new role. Glenburn's gain, Forehill's loss!

Depute Head Teacher

We will move to advertise our vacant Depute Head Teacher in August. In the meantime, I am delighted that Mrs Baines and Mrs McDowall will take on and share the role of Acting Depute Head Teacher till the post is filled on a permanent basis. Mrs Carswell and Mr McDowall will also take on additional leadership/management tasks during the vacancy. I am indebted to the team for their support.

Staffing Update

As we come to the end of another session, there are a number of other colleagues coming and going. We are sad to be saying farewell to the following staff, who leave us on Friday:

Miss Clark, Miss Quinnell, Miss Harper - our three P1 Early Years Practitioners.

Miss Reid, who has been teaching P4W and Mrs Powell who has been teaching in P7.

Mrs Bickerton and Mrs Brady - school assistants

Mrs Daubney - cluster pupil support teacher.

I am indebted to all these colleagues for their hard work, support and assistance throughout what has been a really challenging year for everyone and would wish them well for the future.

The following staff will be joining Forehill, taking up their posts in August:

Mrs Ogilvie - who joins us a newly qualified teacher to teach one of our Primary 6 classes.

Mrs Youd, who joins us from the cluster pupil support team

Miss Yeo, Mrs Marshall, Mrs Davis & Mrs Lopez-Carrillo who, following interviews last week have been appointed to vacant School Assistant Posts.

Changes to Staffing

Due to internal appointments, I can confirm a couple of changes to teaching staff for our current P4W and P5P classes.

In August, the current P4W class will move to P5P and their teacher will be Miss Muir. The current P5P class will move to P6M and their teacher will be Mrs Ogilvie.

New Primary 1 Pupils

Due to the increasing number of covid cases, we took the decision to postpone visits to the school for our new P1 children and parents. These have been rescheduled for **Thursday 12th August**, and new P1 parents have been informed. We look forward to seeing the children and parents at that time.

Parent Council News

Our grateful thanks as always to our parent council for their work through what has been an extremely difficult year. Their enthusiasm and creativity in making things happen has been outstanding - my thanks to them all. Due to work and personal commitments, a couple of parents have taken the decision to step down from the group, meaning we are looking to recruit new members. The group work extremely hard to support the school in a range of ways and make significant donations to the school fund, benefiting all children across the school. I would encourage you all to give this some serious consideration and perhaps get involved in playing a part in supporting your child and their school in August. More information will be shared in the new session.



Our grateful thanks to the parent council for providing ties for our P7 pupils and also bookbags to our new P1 children joining us in August.

Bump Up

Normally at this time of year, all classes would spend some time with their new teacher, getting to know each other. To prevent any risk of spread of infection by teachers going into other classes, we are unable to do that this year.

Sports



Once again, our thanks to Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Carswell and Mrs Baines for organising our sports this year. Due to restrictions, these were run over four afternoons, and all went well. We are considering repeating this approach next session. We are delighted to confirm the results this year were:

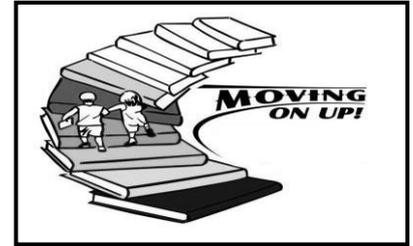
1 st :	Yellow	1690 Points
2 nd =:	Blue & Green	1650 Points
3 rd :	Red	1550 Points

Many congratulations to our Senior Sports champions for Session 2020-21, who were:

1 st :	Evan Shields	1 st :	Millie Morrison
2 nd :	Mark McDougall	2 nd :	Ava Brizell
3 rd :	Corey Kotze	3 rd :	Freya Docherty

Moving On

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our young people moving to secondary school every success for the future. We are so disappointed not to be able to give them the send-off they rightly deserve. We also wish our nursery children good luck as they prepare to move into Primary 1. As always, we will continue to follow their progress and journeys with great interest and pride.



P7 Celebration - Thursday 24th June

After discussions with our P7 pupils, we have arranged a celebration event which will take place on Thursday in the school. The children will have time in the morning to spend some time in the chill zone, listening to music, having an outdoors Karaoke and making use of the amazing photo-booth made by Mrs Kerr. In the afternoon, the children will have their own individual Dominoes Pizza, Ice-Cream and a movie of their choice.



Presentation of Awards - Friday 25th June

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold a whole school assembly at present, but will bring our two P7 classes together on Friday morning to mark their achievements this year. Despite lockdown, many young people have completed a number of awards including Heartstart and Award of Ambition. The children will also be presented with their secondary school ties from our Parent Council, along with a small gift from the school and from the Youth Club committee.

Auld Lang Syne

As normal, our P7 pupils will finish the school year with "Auld Lang Syne" in the playground, but would ask that parents remain on the street side of the fence, and of course - SOCIALLY DISTANCED. This will take place at 12.50pm in the upper playground.



West Coast Walkabout

Well done to all the pupils and staff who took part in the "Let's Shift Programme" and our "West Coast Walkabout" at Forehill. It was a close call with the total number of miles covered by each class - but a huge well done to our winners:

P3C who walked **245.4 miles** and P4Z who walked **662.22 miles**.

As a school we collectively walked a massive **5018 miles** which is roughly as the crow flies from Ayr to Tanzania in Southern Africa!

The feedback from all classes has been very positive and has been a great way to promote the value of walking daily in contributing to our health and wellbeing.

Building Works

Towards the end of the summer, work is likely to begin on re-developing our old nursery accommodation, which is being changed into a number of teaching rooms. I would ask that parents remind children of the dangers around playing on a building site.

Early Years Centre News

As many of you will know, our Early Years Centre is open all year round, and children who have 52 week places will continue to attend over the summer period. I would remind parents that the school office is not open over the summer, and the best way to contact the Early Years Centre is via the mobile, which is: **07879 837851**.

As we take time to reflect on the last session, it is amazing to think we have only been in the new early years centre since the 22nd February. The staff have worked hard to make the environment a successful place to learn, grow and develop. The children have had such fun and enjoyment in the garden and I am sure this has become one of their favourite places. The willow dome will always symbolise the old and new nursery joining together and provides a sense of recovery and a new beginning after such a difficult time for so many families. The children's involvement in creating this structure was a joy to watch!

The staff would like to take this opportunity to send all our pre-school pupils best wishes as they move on to Primary 1. It has been a pleasure to watch all the children grow and develop over the last session.

The children had a fantastic time at their celebration event and we hope you enjoyed the singing and presentation that can be seen on Twitter and Facebook. I am sure the wider family will enjoy sharing in this special event.

Carnival Day

Our EYC "Carnival day " is taking place on Wednesday the 23rd of June. We will be taking part in lots of games such as hook a duck, splat a rat, tin can alley, water pistol shoot out and many more. However, the highlight of the day will be a magical show provided by Uncle Billy. We are extremely grateful for this kind gesture. Don't forget to bring your carnival ticket!

Attendance Over the Summer

Please can you inform the nursery if you do not wish to attend one of the agreed sessions. This is to ensure we meet the safety needs of all pupils. We will continue to play outdoors on a regular basis and we ask that they wear appropriate clothing for messy play and sun safety over the summer months. Please ensure sun cream is applied prior to attending nursery.

Our planned themes over the summer period will be "The Seaside", "Sealife" and "Pirates". We will be talking about keeping safe in the sun and how to keep safe when near the sea. The children will also be making some healthy snacks such as fruit ice lollies and healthy muffins. Our literacy focus will be around further developing fine motor skills, letter recognition and developing our knowledge of parts of a book. Within numeracy we will be reinforcing our knowledge and understanding of shape, pattern and number.

Staying Safe

We must continue to follow risk assessment guidance and ensure social distancing at drop off and pick up. If your child has any of the following symptoms then please follow the guidance indicated. ***If children and young people have symptoms: cough, temperature, loss of taste and smell or other non-specific symptoms such as cold like symptoms, upset stomach / vomiting or fatigue then it is important to ask them to isolate and book a PCR test. Please err on the side of caution and do not presume it is 'just a cold'.***

Summer Programme

Over the summer there are a range of opportunities available to children across South Ayrshire which are all free, thanks to additional recovery funding from SportScotland.

Fiona Reid, our Active Schools co-ordinator is running a Kyle Cluster Camp in the week beginning **Monday 5th July**, running each day from 10.00am-2.00pm.

The camp will be run with appropriate Covid measures in place and hopefully it will be well attended. There will be a range of sports on offer from Cycling/ Ball Sports and Dance.

Monday & Tuesday is specifically for P7 pupils as a transition camp
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are open to all P1-7 pupils.

Bookings can be made via this link

<https://www.activesouthayrshire.co.uk/as/projects/holiday-programmes/>



Eco- Group Green Flag



Many congratulations to Miss Kerr and our Eco-Group, in being awarded a further Green Flag in recognition of their work across the school in relation to eco-friendly issues. The young people do a great job in promoting this across the school. Well done to them all.

Eco Garden

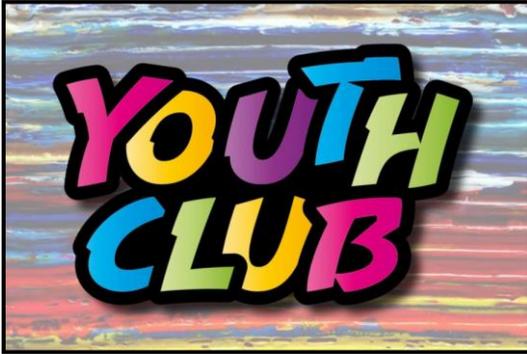
Mrs McDowall, Mr Daily and a number of our young people have been working hard to redesign and tidy our eco-garden. We look forward to this being developed further on return after the summer, to make this a space which can be enjoyed by all children as a play and learning area. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this work in any way and to all who have donated time, materials and ideas.

Vandalism

I am indebted to the parents and neighbours in our local community, who keep an eye on the school in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays. We have had a few episodes of vandalism over the past couple of months. I would encourage parents and neighbours over the summer period, to report anything suspicious by dialling 101. I know it is frustrating if Police do not attend immediately, but I have been reassured all calls are logged and contribute to potential increases in Police presence around the area. Many thanks for your support and assistance.



Forehill Youth Club



Sadly, Elaine McCubbin and Lucy Madden have decided to step down from their role in leading Forehill Youth Club. I know you join me in thanking Elaine and Lucy most sincerely for their investment of time, energy and talent in this role. I am indebted to all parents who support the club as volunteers and helpers - this is what makes it so unique and successful.

Forehill Youth Club is an amazing community resource I would be sad to see come to an end.

At the moment we are unable to find parents to take over, when restrictions begin to lift. The decision has been taken to put things on hold at present, but with the hope that perhaps with your help we may be able re-establish it next session. I would ask that you give this some serious thought, and hopefully together, we can find a solution which enables the club to continue to provide amazing opportunities for the young people in Forehill.

Holidays

The school will close at **1.00pm** on **Friday 25th June**. Please note there will be **NO afternoon nursery session** on that day for children who attend term time. The nursery will be open in the afternoon to children who attend on a 52-week basis only.

School re-opens to all pupils on **Thursday 19th August** at **9.00am**.

On behalf of everyone in our school, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support in these extremely challenging circumstances. At this stage, we do not know what August will bring, and will await guidance from the Scottish Government as to the way forward for schools in August. I would ask that you continue to work with us through these challenging times, knowing that our main aim is to ensure the children feel secure, safe and get positive, valuable and high-quality learning experiences at all times.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Given restrictions, it may for many, be a very different summer. Wherever your travels take you if anywhere, - stay safe and have a great time. My fingers are crossed for lots of sunny, dry weather!

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

