

Forehill Primary School

NEWSLINK

September 2021



We are so grateful to the huge majority of parents who are supporting the school in the current extremely challenging circumstances, and for the many positive messages we have received in recognition of our approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our young people, staff and parents. We have the privilege of being responsible for the care and wellbeing of over 550 children and 100 staff - please be assured we are doing our very best for everyone in our school community, and would welcome your continued support to help us achieve this.

Increase in Positive Cases

We are seeing an increase in the number of children/families reporting positive results. We would strongly encourage all parents to be extra vigilant, and if in any doubt, **do not** send children into school until a test has been taken and a negative result received. Test and Protect and NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Health Protection team will continue to work with the school and local authority. We will continue to keep all parents and carers informed.

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:

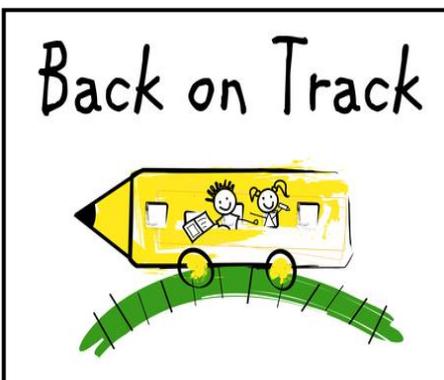
By phone: 01292 612461

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

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	P4:	Mr Watson
P1:	Mrs Carswell	P5 & P6:	Mrs McDowall
P2:	Mrs Baines	P7:	Mrs Baines
P2/3	Mr Watson		

Getting Back on Track



We are very impressed with how the children are re-engaging in learning, and producing work of a good quality. I am grateful to the large numbers of parents who continue to support their children's learning at home. We are about to undertake assessments in Reading and Maths with all children in P2-7, which will support us in ensuring learning and teaching meets the needs of all children and allows us to support any gaps emerging. These assessments will be undertaken in the next few weeks, with feedback being available for teaching staff to share with parents in October.

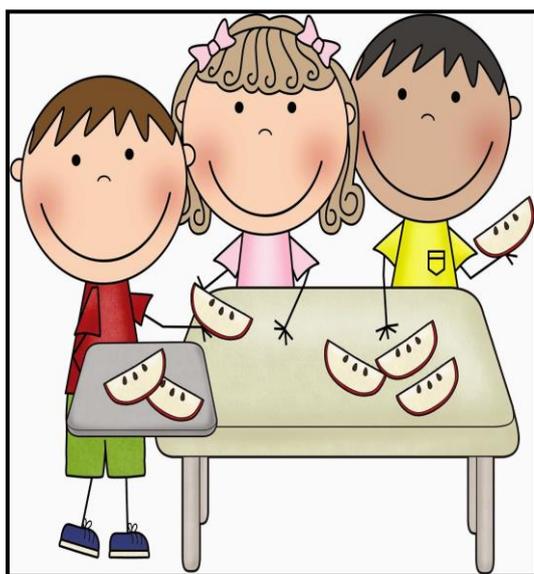
New Depute Head Teacher

Following interviews held last week, I can confirm that Mrs Jennifer Mulholland has been appointed to the post of Depute Head Teacher in Forehill. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Mulholland to the staff team at Forehill.

Early Years Centre

We are enjoying seeing the number of children in our early years centre continuing to grow. As a result, we also look forward to welcoming new Early Years Practitioners - Mrs Rhona Sturgeon and Mrs Melanie Lang to the school. Mrs Lorna Samson has also been appointed to a full-time permanent post and Mrs Fiona Currie will now work on a full-time basis. It is amazing to see so many children in the centre playing, having fun and learning together.

Snacks



A number of children have highlighted to staff at break they have forgotten to bring a snack. Can we please remind parents to ensure children have a small snack for morning break - this can be a piece of fruit, snack bar, bag of crisps etc. We would ask that all snacks are NUT FREE. Many thanks for your help.

School Lunches

Catering teams in schools are continuing to work under quite challenging circumstances and from time to time have problems receiving deliveries of supplies. Where they are unable to receive ingredients for meals planned on menus, alternatives will be provided. My thanks to you for your support and understanding with this in such challenging times.

Parent/Teacher Discussions - Tuesday 26th October

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we normally hold parent/teacher meetings in Term 1. However, due to current restrictions, it is not yet possible to have face to face discussions. Once again, we are able to offer parents who wish it, a telephone appointment which would take place between 3.30pm and 8.00pm on **Tuesday 26th October**. A link, which would allow you to identify a suitable time will be sent out to parents prior to this date. 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.

Sharing Learning

On Friday 22nd October, prior to our parent/teacher phone calls, all children in the school will bring home a selection of classwork to parents to see and for children to talk about with parents. This will ensure parents will have seen any pieces of work teachers may refer to when discussing your child's progress.

Maths Week Scotland

Maths Week Scotland takes place in the week beginning 27th September. All our young people will be involved in a wide range of learning activities as part of this. We will continue to share some of the learning through our facebook and twitter pages. More information can be found online at:

<https://www.mathsweek.scot/schools>

Uniform

We have always been so proud of the high number of children wearing the Forehill uniform. Our thanks to parents who continue to promote and insist on this. However, we are noticing an increasing number of children, particularly in P5-7 who are wearing "alternative" uniform to school including jogging trousers, hoodies, designer/converse trainers etc. We would ask that all parents support our policy by ensuring children wear grey/black trousers/skirts, white shirt/tie or polo shirts, and school jumper or sweatshirt.

PE Kits

A gentle reminder to all parents that children require a suitable PE kit on gym days. This includes shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes. Class teachers have already informed children when these days are. PE kits can remain in school in a gym bag and are normally sent home for washing at set times throughout the year. Where children go outdoors for PE, Mrs Sutherland and Mrs Baines will remind children about bringing appropriate outdoor wear for PE.



Pupil Behaviour & Attitude

We are extremely proud of the majority of children in Forehill, who are extremely well behaved and respectful to staff and each other. Sadly, since returning in August, we are noticing a few who are making poor choices in relation to their behaviour. As you would expect, we will continue to reinforce our expectations in school, but would ask for the assistance of all parents in emphasising this at home too.

Kyle Academy Virtual Information Evening for Prospective Parents

Kyle Academy will be hosting an information evening for any parents/carers of P7 pupils coming to Kyle next year or anyone interested in finding out about the school. This virtual event will take place on **Thursday 30 September at 7pm on Zoom.**

If you are a current P7 parent and interested in joining the event, please email Kyle Academy on: kyle.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

You will then be sent a link to join the meeting nearer the time. I hope you are able to join this meeting to hear more about Kyle Academy and what happens next in the transition process.

Parent Council

It was amazing to see so many new faces at our last parent council meeting. It is great to hear new ideas, suggestions and have more support. Even within the current challenges, our parent council are continuing to look for new and creative ways to support the school. The group are unable to meet in the school at present, but their next on-line meeting will take place on **Monday 25th October at 6.30pm**. 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 to take part, 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.

Dress Up for Hallowe'en

Normally, our parent council arrange Hallowe'en Discos for children across the school. Unfortunately, we are unable to run these at the moment, but we are running a Hallowe'en dress up day on **Friday 29th October**. Children are invited to come to school dressed up and participate in a few activities in class. Each child is asked to bring £1 on that day.

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 **Thursday 21st October** 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).



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. A parental permission form should also be completed. This can be downloaded from the school website or is available from the school office. Should you have any queries around this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Vandalism

Sadly, we have been experiencing some anti-social behaviour around the school in the evenings and at the weekends. We have been working with Police Scotland in attempts to reduce this, and have passed a number of names to them.

I am grateful to all parents and members of the community for taking the time to call Police Scotland, but understand there have been challenges in getting to speak to someone.

You are also encouraged to report any concerns on-line, by following the link below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/>

Many thanks to you all for your support as we work together to look after our school buildings.

Active Schools

Fiona Reid, our active schools co-ordinator will soon be leaving us to take up a new post in the authority. We are obviously delighted for her, but devastated for everyone in Forehill.

Fiona will be a huge loss to the school and the wider community as her hard work, passion and genuine enthusiasm for sport and wellbeing is simply outstanding. I know you join myself and the staff in wishing Fiona every success in her new role.

Wider Achievement

In partnership with Active Schools, we are beginning to run a few clubs and sports activities for children in Primaries 4-7. Confirmation of places in these clubs will be sent out soon.



Forehill Running Club

Our very successful running club will start again on Wednesday 29th September and is open to P5,6 & 7 pupils. More information about this can be provided by Mr Daily and Mrs McDowall.

Choirs

We are delighted to say our Junior and Senior choirs have restarted again and are already, with Mr McDowall, preparing for performances in the lead up to Christmas. We look forward once again, to hearing music around the school.

Homework Clubs

Mr Daily has this week, started drop-in homework clubs for children in P4-7 classes. A session will run on Wednesday at 1.00pm for P4-5 and on a Thursday at 1.00pm for P6-7.

Tempest Photographer

The tempest photographer will be in the school on Monday 1st November to take individual photos of all P1, P2 and P7 children and class groups of all P1-7 classes. They will be in the Early Years Centre on Wednesday 10th November to take individual photos and class groups. More detailed information will be issued in advance of these visits.



Go Purple 2021

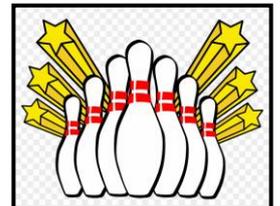
Once again, we are delighted to be supporting the Ayrshire Hospice Go Purple Event on **Friday 8th October 2021**. Mrs Gray and some of our P7 pupils are in the process of organising this for us. Sadly, restrictions stop us having our normal coffee morning, but following the huge success of last year's remote event, we plan to repeat that again this year. More information will follow.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

Miss Crawford, one of our infant teachers is once again organising the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal with our EYC and P1-3 classes. This was so well supported last session, and we look forward to helping once again. Your kindness and generosity makes such a difference. Receiving a shoebox at Christmas brings so much joy to vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe. More information can be found at: <https://blythswood.org/shooboxappeal/>

Sporting Congratulations

We are so proud of Ben W, one of our P7 pupils who has shown the country how talented he is at his chosen sport of Ten Pin Bowling. Ben recently scored a "perfect" ten-pin bowling score of 300, and has the ambition to represent Scotland in this sport. We couldn't be prouder of Ben, and wish him every success for the future.



Sanitary Products

South Ayrshire Council is working in partnership with the Scottish Government to increase the number and range of places where free sanitary products are available. Forehill already has free products available in school. Products can now be delivered to your home **for free**. If you're interested, simply fill out a few details here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PH78GR8>
A list of where free products are available can also be found at: <https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/wee-white-bag>

Car Parks - Keeping Safe

Can we ask that parents remind their children they should not cross through car-parks on the way to school. We are noticing some children coming into the main playground through the Early Years Centre car park, and this can be extremely busy before school starts. Thanks for your help as we work to keep everyone safe.



Please be reassured we are continually monitoring national guidance and reviewing our procedures to enable us to move forward in a safe and sensible way.

Close Contacts

Where one person in the household has tested positive, we are extremely grateful to parents who have made the decision to isolate any other family members as a precaution. Although the national guidance is slightly different, we are extremely appreciative of the sensible approach being taken by a number of parents - thankyou!

Letters to Parents re Positive Cases in Your Child's Class

Where a positive case has been identified in your child's class, parents will receive a letter via the Groupcall Communication App & E-mail. The letter includes the following information:

What do I need to do now?

You or your child do not need to self-isolate unless you are contacted by Test and Protect (this could be a phone call or a text). If you or your child has not been contacted by Test and Protect and showing **no** symptoms of COVID-19, they can continue to attend school as normal.

If you receive a Letter, we recommend that your child takes an LFD test

To help reduce further spread of COVID-19 in the school, **we recommend that your child takes a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test**. These can be collected from your local pharmacy, COVID-19 test centres or by ordering online at: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms. Please record your LFD results, whether negative or positive on the online portal at: www.covidtest.scot OR by phoning 119. **Please do not use LFD tests if your child is feeling unwell or showing symptoms of COVID-19.**

If the LFD is positive, please self-isolate and book a PCR test for your child.

Note - If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, we do not recommend they take a LFD test.

What if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19?

If your child develops a fever, cough or loss of taste or smell, or are showing milder symptoms such as a sore throat, headache, upset stomach or cold like symptoms, they should stay off school and book a PCR test.

To book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect> or by calling 0800 028 2816.

If your child is symptomatic or their LFD test is positive, other household members should also self-isolate until your child receives their PCR test results.

Class Learning Information

You will find on our website, in the class pages, an outline of the learning focus for each class. We would encourage you to get involved and support your child's learning wherever you can.

Holidays

Please note, for P1-7 classes, the school will close on Friday 8th October and will reopen on Tuesday 19th October.

The Early Years Centre will be open for children who attend 52 weeks, on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th. The centre will be closed on Monday 18th and reopen for all children on Tuesday 19th October.

As we move forward, if there is anything we can assist with, or should you have any queries - I would encourage you to get in touch. I am hoping we will be able to continue to move in a positive direction and restart the range of activities the young people in Forehill are used to and deserve.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

Many thanks &
Kind Regards,



David Watson
Head Teacher



Please find below, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, this will be added to, and I will keep you informed of other important dates as they emerge.



Date	Times	Who	Details
Wed 22 nd September	1.00pm	P4-5	Homework Club Starts
Thu 23 rd September	1.00pm	P6-7	Homework Club Starts
27 th Sept - 1 st October	All Day	All	Maths Week Scotland
Fri 8 th October	All Day	All	Go Purple Day - Hospice
Mon 11 th - 18 th October	All Day	P1-7	School Closed
Thu 21 st October	All Day	P1-7	Flu Immunisations
Fri 22 nd October	Weekend	P1-7	Sharing Learning
Tues 26 th October	3.30pm - 8.00pm	P1-7	Parent/Teacher Phonecalls
Fri 29 th October	1.30pm - 3.00pm	All	Hallowe'en Activities
Mon 1 st November	All Day	P1-7	Tempest Photographer
Wed 10 th November	All Day	EYC	Tempest Photographer
Fri 3 rd December	6.30pm	All	Christmas Fair - tbc
Mon 13 th December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Mon 13 th December	7.00pm	P7	Christmas Party
Tue 14 th December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Wed 15 th December	12.30pm	All	Christmas Lunch
Wed 15 th December	Nursery session	EYC	Christmas Party
Thu 16 th December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Fri 17 th December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Mon 20 th December	Am	EYC- P3	Jack & the Beanstalk in School
Mon 20 th December	Am	P4-7	Visit to Cinema - tbc
Tue 21 st December	1:30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Wed 22 nd December	Am	All	Christmas Service - tbc
Wed 22 nd December	2.30pm	P1-7	School Closes
Thu 23 rd December	2.30pm	EYC	EYC Closes
Wed 5 th January	8.00am	EYC	EYC Re-Opens
Thu 6 th January	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens