

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
November 2021



Welcome to our November edition of Newslink, and a special welcome to the new children and families who have joined us at Forehill. With only five and a half weeks till "C" it is hard to believe how quickly the session has gone. It has been an enjoyable couple of terms, but continues to be challenging in a number of ways due to the current situation. Sadly, we are not yet at a point where we can return fully to the normal things we enjoy so much in Forehill.

Our New Depute Head Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Mulholland, our new Depute Head Teacher to Forehill. Mrs Mulholland is currently spending time getting to know the staff, the children, our procedures and the way we work in Forehill. Sadly, due to the current situation, she is unable to meet the volume of parents she would like. We hope it's not too long till you are able to say hello!

Junior Leadership Team



We are delighted to have appointed our head pupils and House Captains for Session 2021-22. Congratulations to all pupils, who I know will be great ambassadors for the school and will undertake their duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm and pride.

Head Pupils: Katie R, Hazel P, Lewis B, Cody P, Ryan S & Tyler R

House Captains: Reilly M, Jack S, Joshua P, Nathan C, Pierce L, Callum S, Archie F, Emily L

New Staff Welcome

A very warm welcome to new staff who have joined the team at Forehill:

Mrs Lang, Mrs Sturgeon & Miss Smith (Early Years Practitioners), Mrs Lawrence (School Assistant) in our Early Years Centre, Mr Thorburn (Backshift Janitor), Mrs Eileen Sheeky (Cleaning Supervisor) & Mrs Hayley McGuire (Assistant Catering Supervisor)

Energy Agency Calendar

Many congratulations to Katie G, one of our P5 pupils who has been identified as a winner in the South Ayrshire Energy Agency Calendar Competition for 2022. Katie will participate with other winners, in an interactive presentation ceremony on **17th December**. Well done Katie!

Remembrance 2021

Huge thanks to our Head Pupils, who along with Mrs Baines, attended the Remembrance Day Service at Castlehill Church last Sunday. The children layed a wreath on behalf of the school. Our young people were a real credit to themselves, their parents and the school. Well done and thanks to them all.



Active Schools Team

Many of you will know Mrs Fiona Reid, who has been the active school co-ordinator in Forehill for many years, and in that time has made a significant contribution to the sport, fitness and wellbeing opportunities we have been able to offer our young people. Sadly, Fiona will be leaving Forehill to take up another post, managing other members of the active school team. We are extremely sad to see her leave Forehill, but know she will continue to achieve great things in her new post. We look forward to welcoming Chloe McDowall as our new Active School Co-ordinator. I know Chloe brings a new enthusiasm and wealth of experience to the role.

Photographs of Children

As you know we seek permission from parents regarding the taking of children's photos to use in a range of ways. This includes in-school displays, social media, newspapers, magazines etc. Where a parent has indicated they do NOT wish their child photographed, the child will be removed from ALL photos taken in school. We are unable to provide the opportunity for parents to pick and choose individual situations. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Sharing Learning & Parent Teacher Meetings

I hope you enjoyed taking time prior to our parent/teacher phone calls, to look at samples of your child's learning. It is frustrating not to be able to welcome parents into the school, but hope it won't be too long till we can get back to normal with this! Thankyou to those who took time to provide some useful and helpful feedback.



Assessments

Staff across all classes have been working hard to gather together assessment information about children's progress, working closely with colleagues to ensure children are supported and challenged in all aspects of their learning. These assessments include reading, spelling, numeracy and mathematics. Members of the senior leadership team will meet with individual class teachers over the next couple of weeks to discuss the progress all children are making. As always, should you have any concerns around your child's learning, please do not hesitate to make contact in the first instance, with your child's class teacher.

Pupil Attendance

As you know, we place high importance on good attendance and timekeeping. Where children's attendance at school falls below an acceptable level, we will contact parents to alert you to this. We are currently working through this at the moment and will be in touch with parents where attendance is causing some concern.

Book Week Scotland



We are always keen to encourage our young people to read as much as possible as this can have such a positive impact on all aspects of their learning. This week, as part of Book Week Scotland, our P1 children will receive a Bookbug Pack and P2 and P3 children will receive a Read, Write & Count pack to keep at home and use. 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. These packs have lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Have fun!

Ayrshire Hospice - Light Up A Life

Once again, we are delighted to be involved in the Ayrshire Hospice Light Up a Life Concert which will take place as a live stream on Sunday 28th November. The recording of Mr McDowall's song we so proudly shared this time last year "Let Love In" will be streamed as part of this 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-2021>

Go Purple Fundraising

We were delighted once again to support the amazing work done at the Ayrshire Hospice, by organising our Go Purple Day. Huge congratulations to our wonderful Primary 7 pupils: Katie R, Archie F, Nathan C, Hazel P, Melissa D, Katie C, Liam P, Daryl Mc, their teachers, Mrs Gray and all other staff for once again organising this. The amazing total of **£2175** was raised this year. Our grateful thanks to all parents and friends who offered their support to this local charity.

Shoebox Donations

Our grateful thanks to all parents and friends who supported the school in filling **60** shoeboxes as part of the Blythwood Care Christmas Appeal. Our shoeboxes will make their way to children in communities across Eastern Europe, helping to make their Christmas a little more special. A special thanks to Miss Crawford for organising, and to other staff, children and parents who assisted in any way with this. Well done and thank you everyone!



Planned Learning Term 2

Planned learning for Term 2 in your child's class will soon be uploaded to the school website. Should you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In addition to offering support with homework tasks, we would encourage you where possible to discuss with your child, what they are learning about in school.

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 we ask that **NO** jewellery is worn on PE days - including earrings. Class teachers will be able to confirm individual PE days.

Parent Council

It was encouraging to see so many new parents taking part in our recent Parent Council Meeting via Zoom. Our parent council group continue to work hard in the background, exploring creative ways to support the school, even with the current restrictions still in place. I am extremely grateful to them all for their hard work, which resulted in a donation of **£3,500** being made to the school. This will be used to benefit all children in a range of ways. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Fayre this year, but we look forward to the Spring, when hopefully the group will be able to plan an outdoor event for the community. A couple of events are planned in the lead up to Christmas: Mrs Howlett has taken class photographs for Class Calendars, which will be on sale soon, and our Parent Council are organising a Family Snowman hunt around the Forehill Community in the middle of December. More Information will follow.



Early Years Centre Award

We were delighted to hear our new Early Years Centre has been shortlisted in the Early Years category of the Learning Places Scotland Awards 2021. The ceremony takes place in Glasgow on **23rd November**. My congratulations to the design team on their amazing work.

Primary 7 Visit to Inverclyde

Arrangements are in place for our P7 children to visit Inverclyde Sports Centre prior to the Easter break. More detailed information has already been issued to P7 parents.

Tempest Photographs

Individual photographs of all P1, P2 and P7 children, along with group photos of all classes have now been done. All ordering for photos is now done on-line. Links to class photographs will be sent out shortly. There is an option for class group photos to be delivered to the school free of charge for a short time only, but there is a charge for home delivery. Should you require any assistance with ordering photos, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



Primary 6 Classes - Sustainability

Our P6 children and staff are working very closely with staff from Kyle Academy on a transition Project around Sustainability. Children will have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of learning opportunities around sustainability and diversity. This work will continue when children move into P7, prior to transition to Kyle Academy.

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.

Parking Around the School



Can I please remind **ALL** parents of their responsibility in parking legally, safely and considerately around the school at drop off and pick up times. There have been a few incidents over the past couple of weeks. As always, the safety of our children is **VITAL**. I would ask that you respect residents' access. A gentle reminder that parents should **NOT** be using the staff car park to drop off or collect children unless they are in possession of a blue disability badge and are using the disabled parking bays. Parents dropping children at the EYC are able to access the car park and turning bays for this, creating a little less congestion in the street.

Vandalism



Sadly, we have experienced some vandalism around the school in the last few weeks, but have managed to identify some those responsible. We are currently working out the cost of damage and the parents involved have agreed to pay for damage caused. I know many of you have been in touch to express frustrations around your attempts to report incidents to Police Scotland. I have been in touch with senior officers and have requested a meeting to discuss ways in which we can work more closely to prevent vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the school. I would encourage you to continue to report any inappropriate behaviour around the school in the evenings or at weekends.

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 9.00am. 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.

Music Tuition

We are delighted to be able to restart instrumental tuition to pupils and to welcome our music instruction team - Mrs McKail (strings) Mrs Prill (brass) and Mr Gonzales (woodwind) back to Forehill. We are excited about the number of pupils being provided with the opportunity to learn an instrument, and look forward to hearing them play in the weeks and months ahead.

Alterations to Old Nursery

Starting on Friday 26th November, work will begin to convert the old nursery space into three new learning areas. The contractor will ensure their site is completely safe and enclosed. In school, we will obviously remind children about the possible dangers on a building site. They will be kept separate from any work at all times when in school. We would ask that you also share the safety message at home - particularly for times when children may play in the playground after school or at weekends.



Christmas is normally an amazing time in schools when we get to share and celebrate the excitement this season can bring. Following the guidance received last week, we are unfortunately unable to offer the full range of activities, but we are working hard to think of alternative ways to try to make this time of year special and of course, fun for everyone in Forehill.

★ As our hall is large enough, each stage will have their own party as normal. Unfortunately, social dance and some of the normal games are not an option, but we have provided a number of alternative activities to ensure the parties are fun. 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. Please note a slight change to P2 and P3 parties.

★ Our Christmas trees will be put up in the school around **Friday 3rd December**, and this year, we are inviting children across the school to donate a tree decoration for our tree. Our hope is that the children would feel ownership of the tree. The range of different decorations - colours, sizes, shapes would reflect the diversity of our school community. Decorations can be sent to school any time now!

★ We would invite children to wear Christmas Jumpers to school from **Monday 13th December** onwards, and look forward to seeing the range of jumpers available!

★ We are unable to have a pantomime into the school or to take children out to a cinema or theatre. Instead, we will be having a whole school movie morning, where each class would choose a Christmas Movie of their choice to watch in class. Children will be provided with ice-cream, paid for by the parent council. Dates for this will follow.

★ Our Christmas Lunch will take place on **Wednesday 15th December**.

★ Children in our EYC will pre-record songs for their Nativity. These will be released and made available to parents on our Youtube Channel and through our Facebook Pages.

★ Children in P1-3 will pre-record songs for their Nativity. These will be released and made available to parents on our Youtube Channel and through our Facebook Pages.

★ Each P4-7 class will be recording their own special "Christmas Song" which will be shared through the school Facebook page in the lead up to Christmas.

★ Real live Reindeer will be visiting our Early Years Centre on **Wednesday 8th December**.

★ Treacle the Elf will visit the Early Years Centre on **Monday 20th December** to work with groups of children outdoors.

★ All classes have had their photograph taken for the Parent Council 2022 Class Calendars. Information on how to order these will be issued by the parent council shortly.

★ Our Parent Council will be running a Christmas Family Snowman Hunt around the Forehill Community. Detailed info will follow, along with entry forms.

★ We are planning a "Christmas Countdown Calendar" across all classes in the school, with a range of activities taking place in the lead up to the Christmas break. We will share this with you via Facebook when this is complete.

★ As we are unable to hold our Christmas Service in Castlehill Church, we are making plans for an outdoor Christmas Celebration for all children in the last week of term - weather permitting!

★ 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.

Keeping in Touch

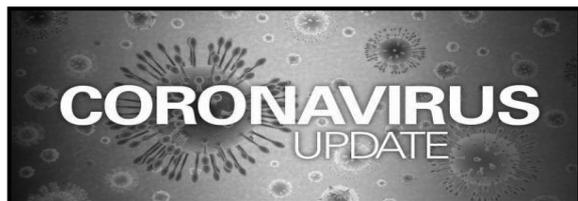
The following members of the leadership team have direct responsibility for specific stages in the school. Where your child's class teacher is unable to assist, your query will be directed to:

Early Years Centre: Mrs McCloskey or Mrs Carswell

Primary 1:	Mrs Carswell	Primary 2:	Mrs Mulholland
Primary 3:	Mr McDowall	Primary 2/3:	Mr Watson
Primary 4:	Mr Watson	Primary 5:	Mrs Mulholland Primary
6: Mrs McDowall		Primary 7:	Mrs Baines

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



Keeping Safe in School

We are continuing to ensure all procedures are followed in school including hand washing/sanitising and keeping children in class groups as far as possible.

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.

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.

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.

Advice to Parents on Notification of a Positive Case in School

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.

To help reduce further spread of COVID-19 in the school, **we recommend in this situation, 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. If the LFD is positive, please self-isolate and book a PCR test for your child.

If at any time 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.

My sincere thanks to you all for your on-going support and understanding in such challenging times.

Many thanks &
Kind Regards,



David Watson
Head Teacher

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
Mon 22 nd November	Am	P1	Dental Checks
Sun 28 th November	7.00pm	All	Hospice Light Up a Life Service
Wed 8 th December	All Day	EYC	Reindeer Visit
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	Various	EYC	Christmas Party
Thu 16 th December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Fri 17 th December	1.30pm	P3	Christmas Party
Mon 20 th December	1.30pm	P2	Christmas Party
Tue 21 st December	1:30pm	P1	Christmas Party
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
Mon 24 th January	All	All	Scottish Poetry Week
Tue 1 st February	6.00pm	All	Targeted Parents' Night
11 th & 14 th February	All	All	School Closed
Tues 15 th February	All	All	In-Service Day
Wed 9 th March	7.00pm	All	Parent Learning Event
29 March - 1 st April	All	P7	P7 at Inverclyde
Fri 1 st April	3.15pm	P1-7	School Closes for Easter
Tue 19 th April	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens

