

Forehill Primary School

NEWSLINK

February 2022



It is hard to believe January has now passed and we are already in February. Unfortunately, we continue to experience some uncertainty, and things are not quite back to normal in schools. We are however hopeful that things will move in a more positive direction soon.

Primary 1 Registration

Primary 1 registration took place recently. This year, there has been quite a demand for places in Primary 1 in August 2022. More information will be issued to parents when the whole registration and placing request process is complete.

Early Years Registration

Registration for our Early Years Centre will be done on-line in the week commencing **28th February**. In Forehill we are able to offer a range of attendance patterns, which can be viewed on the website. Parents should register on the South Ayrshire Website by using the link below:

<https://my.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/25949/Early-years-registration-3-to-5>

We would ask that parents note the following points:

- *Places for Early Learning and Childcare are not allocated by school catchment areas.
- *Places are allocated according to our admissions priorities and not on a first come first served basis.
- *To complete the application, you will need to have: a scan or photo of your child's birth certificate and a scan or photo of Proof of residence (current council tax notice or recent utility bill)
- *A separate application is required per child.
- *All children even if currently in nursery will require to complete an application for next year.
- *When will my child be eligible to start early learning and childcare?
4 Year Olds: If your child's date of birth is on or between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019
He/she will be eligible for a funded early learning and childcare place from August 2022
3 Year Olds: If your child's date of birth is on or between 1 March 19 and 29 February 2020

For those unable to complete the Early Learning and Childcare registration form online please contact the office on 01292 612461 (option 2) or speak to Mrs Carswell or Mrs McCloskey at the Early Years Centre.



Scottish Poetry Competition

Our Scottish Poetry competition took place in school last week. The standard across the whole school from Nursery through to P7 was super! A winner and runner-up have been chosen from each class, and these children will perform their poem at our "remote" assembly. We look forward to this event, when children participating will also be presented with their certificates.

Parent Council

Huge thanks to our parent council, with the support of staff, children and friends in the community for organising our Christmas Snowman Hunt. This was great fun and a really successful fundraiser, raising **£232** for school funds. Well done everyone!

The next parent council meeting will take place on **Monday 21st February at 6.30pm**. All parents are invited to take part in this meeting and it is always great to have new faces and new ideas. Should you wish to attend, please contact the parent council for more information. The e-mail address is: forehillpcfrg@gmail.com

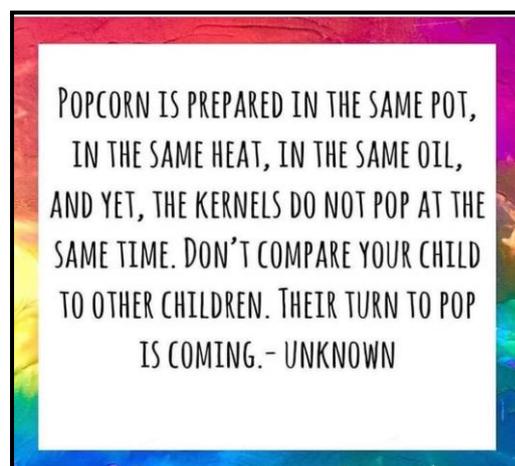
Early Years Survey

The local authority is required to undertake an Early Learning and Childcare survey every two years as part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. We are keen to get as many responses as possible to help shape future delivery of Early Learning in South Ayrshire. The survey will close on **6th February**. We would invite parents of children using the EYC to participate by following the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKdRFd0JRaJIOt_QmdvOIBalUNVg4SFZKVJRU05WTIM3MINZNIk1VFUyUy4u

Assessments

As you know, we have been undertaking a range of assessments with all children in P2-7 in literacy and numeracy. The results across the school are very pleasing given the challenges we have faced over the past couple of years. Across all aspects, Forehill's results are above national average. However, we continue to reflect on our approaches to continually improve what we do. We are using the results to ensure all children are supported and challenged in their learning at their own pace. Children develop at different rates, and staff will continue to ensure learning is relevant and appropriate for each individual child.



Uniform

We are extremely proud of our school uniform, but have noticed some children are choosing to come to school wearing designer clothes and non-uniform items. We would ask for your co-operation in ensuring children wear appropriate uniform to school. I have asked staff to remind children about the school's expectations in this area. Thanks for your support!



Spare Uniform Items

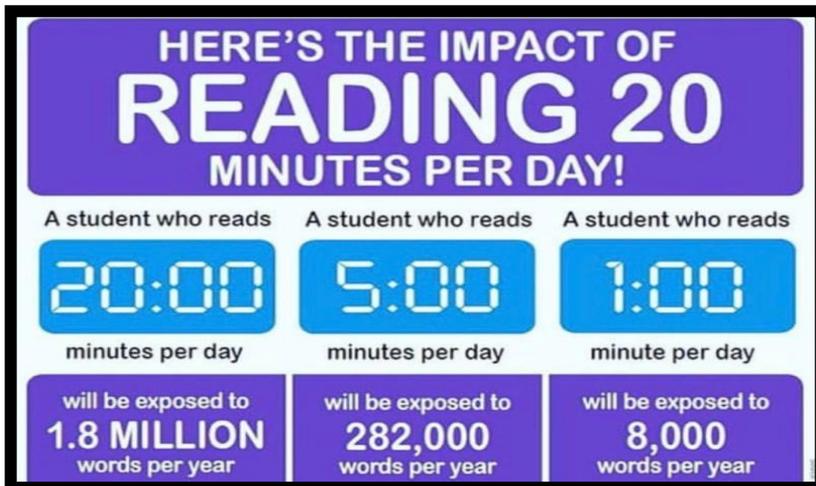
We have a number of spare new and used uniform items in school - jackets, sweatshirts, new trousers, new shirts etc. We are conscious that money can be tight for some families at the moment so are keen that parents are supported. If you could make use of any of these items, I would ask that you contact Mr Daily at the school, who would happily help in a sensitive and confidential way.

PE Kits

All children require to have a PE kit in school for PE days. We would ask that ALL parents ensure their children have a PE kit - shorts, shoes and if outdoors - jogging trousers available on PE days.

Homework

We are sadly seeing a significant decline in the number of children completing homework tasks and would ask for increased parental support in this area. Homework is an extension of learning undertaken in school and is an opportunity for parents to see the kinds of things children are learning during the day. We would not expect children to spend unreasonable amounts of time on homework as we recognise family life is busy, and children have a range of other activities they take part in. However, we would ask that parents support us in ensuring set homework tasks are completed on time. This is also helping to create good work habits in children, which will extend to secondary school and beyond into the workplace in later life. Our homework clubs run in the school for children in P4-7 each Thursday and Friday. We would encourage children who struggle to complete tasks at home, to make use of this opportunity. Where children are not completing or submitting tasks, it is our plan to contact with parents seeking your support.



Reading at Home

Reading at home is a vital part of every child's learning. We cannot stress enough the difference reading can make to a child's learning and development. We would continue to encourage children to read for a short time each day. This can be books, magazines, newspapers, on a kindle and can be a story read alone, by an adult or with an adult or older sibling.

BUD Bus

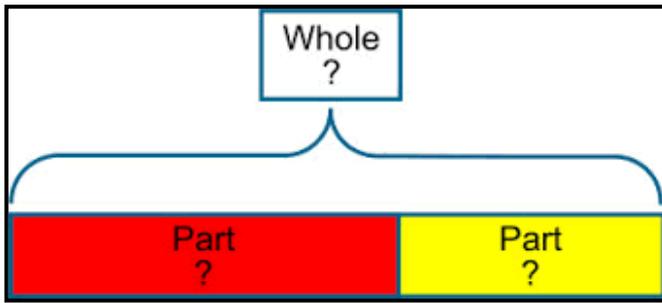
We are delighted to have been chosen by Poppy Scotland to host the BUD bus in Forehill on **Thursday 10th March**. Our P7 classes and some other learning groups from the school will have the opportunity to visit this resource and hear about the work of Poppy Scotland.

Bud is a large truck that transforms into a mobile learning space and includes a mini poppy factory, micro-museum and interactive learning opportunities. It is an interactive experience that encourages visitors to create their personal remembrance journey through exploring the exhibits and helps keep remembrance relevant all year round.

Photo Permission

As you know, we ask permission from all parents each session for their child to be included in a range of photographs taken in school. These may feature in class displays, on the school website, Facebook or twitter pages or indeed, may make it into local newspapers. This is a great way to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful young people beyond the school. Obviously once a photo is shared on social media or in a newspaper, we have no control of who sees this. A small number of parents have asked that their child's photo is not taken or used, and we fully respect this decision. However, we are unable to ask for permission for each individual photo taken, therefore if you have asked that your child is **not** photographed, they will not appear in **any** photos taken by staff or visitors to the school. Many thanks for your understanding.

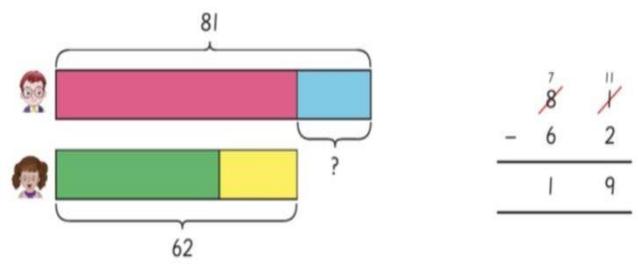
Bar Models



Primary 6 and 7 have been learning how to draw bar models to solve word problems in Maths. Bar models are used to represent the known and unknown quantities in a word problem and helps learners to visualise mathematical concepts. Bar models can be used to solve number problems with the four operations - addition, subtraction,

multiplication and division and can also be used to solve questions involving fractions, percentages and ratio. Bar models build confidence and develop an understanding of algebraic formulas and once mastered, they can give children a clear strategy for tackling more complex mathematical word problems. Should you have any queries about this, please contact Mrs McDowall at the school.

2 How many more stickers does  have than  after she buys more?



$81 - 62 = 19$

 has 19 more stickers than .

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our targeted parent/teacher discussions took place this week. This once again provided an additional opportunity for parents or class teachers to discuss progress, where either had a concern or query. As always, should you have any questions around your child's learning, we would encourage you to contact the school office in the first instance.

Staffing Update

It is great to have Mrs Murdoch and Miss Wilson back from maternity leave. They both take responsibility for one of our P5 classes. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Christie, Mrs Gilmour and Mrs Brown to Forehill as new school assistants.

Sadly, Mr Smith, one of our Early Years Practitioners has been appointed to a Term Time post in Barassie Early Years Centre, and leaves Forehill on 25th February. We are extremely sorry to lose him and know you will join me in wishing him well in his new post. Mrs Lang was appointed to the vacant 52-week post in Forehill at interviews held recently. Mrs Lang is known to you all as she currently works within the EYC. The vacant term time practitioner post has now been advertised, with interviews taking place on 16th February.



Phunky Foods

Mrs McDowall has made the arrangements for groups of children across the school to work with Jen from Phunky Foods. These workshops will have a focus on healthy cookery and will take place over the next eight weeks.

Golf

Mrs Baines has arranged for all classes, as part of their PE blocks, to have input from Jordan Fraser, the golf professional at Prestwick Golf Club. These sessions will take place over the next few weeks.



Youth Music Initiative

Our P5 and P6 pupils are currently working with Mr Thomson, from Youth Music Initiative. They are undertaking some work on using digital technology to compose music. We look forward to hearing the finished results!

Artie from the Singing Kettle

We were delighted to have Artie from the Singing Kettle visit our Early Years Centre as part of our Scottish learning Focus. The children (and staff!) had an amazing time learning many Scottish Songs.

Parking Around the School



This is an on-going challenge, and one we ALL need to continue to work together to try to address.

Following discussions with some parents, I have requested that colleagues from South Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Roads Alliance undertake a traffic survey on Holmston Drive to give some consideration to the need for an additional school crossing patrol. This is currently being undertaken and I will get a report soon on their recommendations. Part of the problem continues to be the inconsiderate and dangerous parking by parents collecting children from school. I am indebted to those who park legally and safely, ensuring everyone's safety.

Early Years Centre Car Park

I would remind parents that this car park is for dropping and collecting children at the **Early Years Centre ONLY**. Parents collecting children from the primary classes should

NOT use this car park. I would also ask that nursery parents using it park only in the appropriate parking bays. Cars should not be parked across gates or on the zig-zag areas. Some of our children and families leave the main school playground via the nursery car park. I would ask that parents encourage children to leave by the usual playground gates. The Early Years Centre car park is very busy and is **not a right of way** for pedestrians.

Police Scotland - Community Police

A number of parents have raised concerns with me in relation to the challenges they have been facing when trying to report vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the school. I am grateful to members of the community who help look after the school at night, weekends and holidays. I have a meeting arranged with local community police to raise these issues and am hopeful we can work together to reach a possible solution moving forward. As always, thanks for your help with this.





Health & Wellbeing Survey

You may have seen in the media about a Scottish Wellbeing Survey that all P5-7 children in the primary school are being asked to undertake for the Scottish Government. Mrs Baines is co-ordinating this in Forehill, and will be in touch soon with more information for parents. It is our plan that children will undertake this on-line on the following dates:

P5: 11th March

P6: 18th March

P7: 25th March

Lost Property

We have a significant amount of lost property in school, with no names attached. We are unable to store this in school for any length of time. We have asked children to check for any items which perhaps belong to them. All items will be on display at the school's main entrance on the in-service day - **Tuesday 15th February**, and would offer parents the opportunity to check for any lost items between 9.30am and 3.00pm.

Old Nursery

Work is currently on-going within our old Nursery, to convert this space into additional classrooms. It is hoped this work will be completed prior to the Easter break, creating two new classrooms and potentially increasing the number of classes in the school.

Wider Achievement Opportunities

A huge part of school life is the range and variety of lunchtime and after school activities we like to offer. We are hopeful as restrictions continue to change, to be able to restart some of these activities. We will send out information to the relevant classes as we are able to restart these clubs.

P7 Visit to Inverclyde

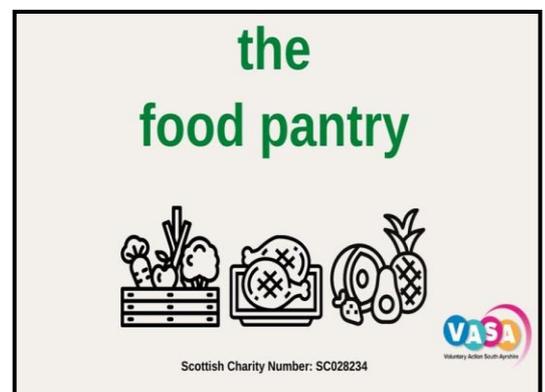
Our P7 classes will take part in a residential visit to Inverclyde Sports Centre from Tuesday 29th March through to Friday 1st April. This is normally a fantastic week for our young people, who get the opportunity to participate in a range of sports activities. A parent meeting will take place on **Tuesday 15th March**. More information will be issued to P7 parents nearer the time.

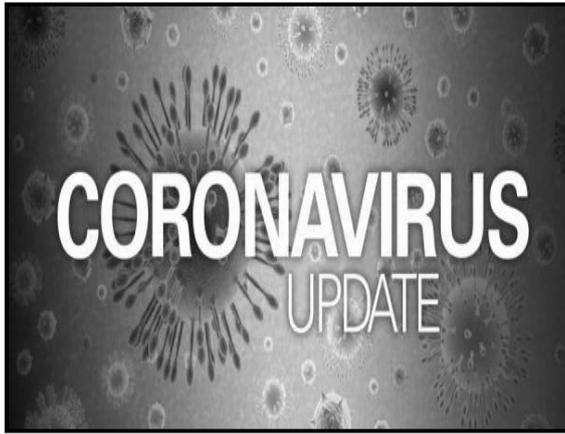
Food Pantry

New food pantries are opening up in Ayr, giving families who need it, access to affordable, healthy food. Membership of the food pantry is open to anyone in South Ayrshire and anyone who is interested can join for only £1 per year. This would entitle you to two visits per week, to collect around £10-£15 worth of shopping for only £2.50.

If this is something you would find helpful, and would like further information, please contact the school office for a membership pack or contact the Food Pantry co-ordinator, Adam Donnan on 07511404854 or by e-mail at

adam@vasa.scot





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.

We would ask that parents/children consider undertaking frequent Lateral Flow Testing, especially if family members are complaining of sore throats, coughs, colds, headaches or have a temperature.

If you have a positive Covid test result then isolation advice for household contacts is as follows;

Fully vaccinated adult contacts over 18 and 4 months - If you are fully vaccinated (3 doses with more than 14 days since last dose), then you can take a daily LFD test instead of self-isolating. Daily LFDs should be taken for 7 days in a row after notification as a contact or for the 10 days of your child's isolation period.

Household members under the age of 18 and 4 months - Can take a daily LFD test instead of self-isolating. Daily LFDs should be taken for 7 days in a row after notification as a contact or for the 10 days of their contact's isolation period.

Household members aged **under 5 years** are advised to take a LFD test, but do not need to continue these for 7 days. If they do not have any symptoms, they do not need to isolate.

If any household members over the age of 18 years and 4 months are **not fully vaccinated** (3 doses, or less than 14 days since last dose) then they must self-isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test. Even if the PCR is negative, they must continue to self-isolate.

If any lateral flows are positive, the household member should self-isolate and record their result on the online portal at: www.covidtest.scot OR by phoning 119. From the 6th January, you no longer need a confirmatory PCR following a positive LFD, Test and Protect will act based on the positive LFD result and your child will be considered to be a confirmed positive.

If a LFD test is positive but a PCR has also been taken and the result is negative, we will still act on the positive LFD due to current high levels of cases in the community.

Should anyone in your household become unwell and develop symptoms of COVID-19, they should book a PCR test.



We are hoping restrictions in schools will gradually begin to ease as we move forward. We are missing all the activities and wider opportunities we normally work so hard to provide for the young people in Forehill and it will certainly be good to get at least some of the normal things started once again.

Please note, the school and Early Years Centre will close to pupils on **Thursday 10th February**, and re-open on **Wednesday 16th February**.

As always, should you wish more information on anything in our newsletter and would like to speak to a member of staff, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Day to day queries would normally be answered by class teachers and Early Years Practitioners. However, should you wish to speak with a member of the leadership team, the links are noted below:

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

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

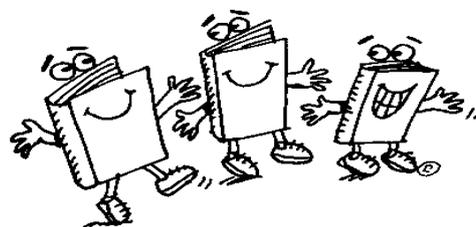
Take care,
Best Wishes,



David Watson
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Class	Details
Tue 8 th February	All Day	All	Golf Taster Sessions Begin
Fri 11 th February	All Day	All	School Closed - Holiday
Mon 14 th February	All Day	All	School Closed - Holiday
Tues 15 th February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Mon 21 st February	6.30pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Mon 28 th February	All Week	All	Early Years Registration Week
Thu 3 rd March	All Day	All	World Book Day
Mon 7 th March	Tbc	P4-7	Children at Music Festival
Thu 10 th March	All Day	P7	Poppy Scotland Bud Bus Visiting
Fri 11 th March	All Day	P5	Health & Wellbeing Survey
Tue 15 th March	7.00pm	P7	Parent Meeting re Inverclyde Visit
Fri 18 th March	All Day	P6	Health & Wellbeing Survey
Tue 22 nd March	6-9pm	All	Parents' Evening
Wed 23 rd March	4-7pm	All	Parents' Evening
Fri 25 th March	All Day	P7	Health & Wellbeing Survey
29 March - 1 st April	All Day	P7	P7 at Inverclyde
Fri 1 st April	2.30pm	P1-7	School Closes for Easter
Tue 19 th April	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens
Mon 2 nd May	All Day	All	School Closed
Thu 5 th May	All Day	All	School Closed - In-Service Day
Thu 2 nd June	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 3 rd June	All Day	All	School Closed
Thu 9 th June	1.30pm	P1-3	Sports
Fri 10 th June	1.30pm	P4-7	Sports
w/b Mon 13 th June	All	All	Reports Issued
Tue 14 th June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Wed 15 th June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Thu 23 rd June	All Day	Tbc	Fischy Music Visit to School
Wed 29 th June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes

