

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
March 2022



As we approach the Easter break we hope the better weather will continue and the number of positive covid cases will reduce, leading to more positive, healthier times! We trust you will find the information in the newsletter helpful and informative. As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Paper Copy of Newsletter

In addition to the newsletter being sent through Groupcall, we have issued a paper copy for this month only, to allow you the opportunity to provide feedback on the parental response page at the back of the booklet. Your feedback is important to us and would welcome your suggestions and ideas.



Parent Teacher Meetings & Written Reports

Parent & teacher telephone discussions took place earlier in the week. I hope those of you who requested an appointment found this useful as we work together to support your child's learning and progress. Written pupil reports will be issued to parents in the week commencing **13th June**.

United for Ukraine - Friday 25th March

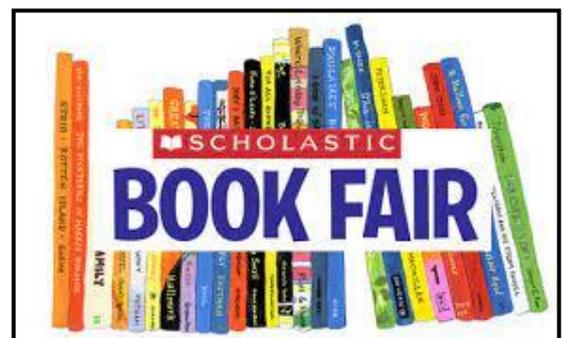
Our head pupils have asked to organise a fund-raising day to support the Ukrainian people who are having to flee their country and their homes. Children in the school are invited to dress in the Ukrainian colours in turn for a donation of £1. In addition, cupcakes, priced at 20p will be available to purchase at break time. Thankyou in anticipation of your support. Information has already been sent out through the app.

Inverclyde Residential Visit - P7

Our P7 pupils head off for their residential visit to Inverclyde Sports Centre next week. It is great to be able to offer these opportunities once again. We know the children and staff will have an amazing time. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Book Fair

The book fair will be in school from Friday 25th March through to Wednesday 30th March. Each class will have the opportunity to preview the books prior to seeking permission from parents to buy these! We are keen that all children continue to read in school and at home on a regular basis. There is strong evidence to show this has a really positive impact on all aspects of a child's learning.



Assessments

In term four, all classes P1-7 will undertake assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. These assessments will be done as part of on-going learning and will assist class teachers in making judgements about the progress of all children across the school. Should you have any questions about these, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Food Bank

Our P4 classes have been collecting donations of food from P1-4 classes, to support the South Ayrshire Foodbank. As always, we thank all parents for their kindness and generosity.

Easter Celebration

Our P4 children and staff normally lead our Easter celebration in Forehill. Although we will not be meeting together, our children are working hard with their teachers to prepare some Easter reflections and songs to share with other classes and parents prior to the Easter Break. Well done, and thank you to P4.

Castlehill Church Easter Bunny Hunt



Saturday 26th March 9.30am - 11.30am

Register your family then go on the bunny hunt through Castlehill Woods - please wear suitable footwear & clothing. Once you've found all the bunnies, return to the church to enjoy a filled roll and refreshments. (£2 per person). All children participating receive a 'crème egg'. Craft table and raffle too - a fun day out for all the family.

Parental Engagement Survey

Many thanks to those parents who took the time to respond to the parental engagement survey sent out recently. We are currently pulling together the results and will provide feedback to you as soon as we can. Your feedback is important in helping us to improve and develop what we do here in Forehill.

Parent Council

Our parent council will next meet on **Monday 25th April at 7.00pm** in the school. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come along to be involved, bringing new ideas and suggestions. As well as fundraising, there are opportunities to have discussions about the wider life of the school, school improvement and how parents can support learning at home. Our parent council are already busy planning events for the summer term. Plans are under way for Easter Craft Bags for EYC-P3 children, and we are delighted to be able to run our Summer Fair on **Friday 17th June** - please save the date!



Parent Support

We are keen to explore some opportunities for parents to link with other parents to explore issues affecting their children. This may be about an aspect of your child's learning eg: reading, numeracy or, their behaviour at home, their wellbeing, or something else. If this would be of interest, please provide your feedback on the attached response sheet and we will try our best to arrange an opportunity to offer some advice and support.

Retirement

It is with sadness, two members of the wider school team - Mrs Ritchie, one of our cleaning staff and Ms Williamson, one of our crossing patrollers have both decided to hang up their mop and lollypop! I am indebted to both ladies for their many years of faithful and loyal service to Forehill and know all children, parents - past and present, join me in wishing them both a long and relaxing retirement.

School Crossing Patroller Vacancy

Due to the retirement of one of our crossing patrollers, we are on the lookout for a replacement. If you know anyone who has a few spare hours a week and would be willing to help in keeping our young people safe on the way to and from school, we would love to hear from you. More information can be obtained from Mr Watson by telephoning the school office.

P7 Leavers' Hoodies

Immediately after the Easter break, order forms and information will be issued to all P7 children about ordering leavers' hoodies. Orders and payment should be returned to school by Monday 25th April. It will not be possible to order hoodies after that date. Should you have any queries about this, we would ask that you contact Mrs Gibson in the school office.

Toys in Infant Playground

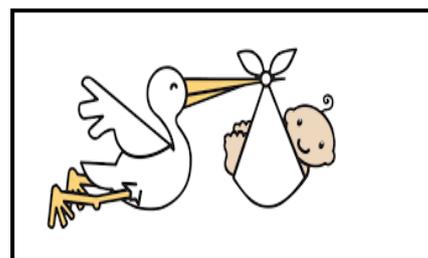
We are noticing an increasing number of children bringing a range of toys to school. While we have no objection to this, we would remind parents that staff cannot take responsibility for any toys that are damaged, dropped, lost if left lying in the playground. Thanks for your support with this.

Wearing of Make Up

A number of our senior girls have started coming to school wearing a considerable amount of make-up. We do not encourage the wearing of make-up in school and would ask for your co-operation in limiting this. Many thanks!

Baby News

Ms Cathcart, one of our P2 teachers will begin her maternity leave on **Monday 16th May**. I am currently working on staffing for P2C in her absence, and will write to P2C parents when arrangements are confirmed. I know you join me in wishing Ms Cathcart and her family all the very best. We look forward to sharing the good news when baby appears!



Feeling Good Fortnight

Mrs Baines is in the process of organising our Forehill Feeling Good Fortnight, which will take place from **13th June to 24th June**. This is a fortnight long event which provides a host of learning experiences to support child, staff and parent physical and mental health. We are keen to involve members of our local community in providing a variety of experiences for pupils and staff. This can be in the form of:



- *Local sports/dance clubs providing taster sessions in school.
- *Community organisations coming in to raise awareness of support groups which run within our community.
- *People who have a role within the NHS to provide career advice/raise awareness of issues locally and nationally relating to: healthy lifestyle, mental health and wellbeing etc.
- *Practitioners in team building, music therapy, mindfulness/yoga/relaxation techniques to provide information/deliver sessions in the school.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could share this information with family/friends and community groups and organisation. If you know of family/friends, community clubs, groups or organisations who would be interested in supporting our event please ask them to contact Mrs Baines for further details on [01292 612461](tel:01292612461) - e-mail julie-ann.baines@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or complete the parental response sheet at the back of the newsletter, and we will be in touch.

Free Sanitary Products

We would remind parents that Forehill has in the school, a range of **free** sanitary products which we would encourage parents to take. If this would be helpful and you would like access to these, please contact Mrs Baines at the school and she will arrange for these to be made available to you in a sensitive and confidential way.

Wellbeing Bees

Our Primary 7 Wellbeing Bees have worked hard to write our Mental Health and Wellbeing Pledge:

“AT FOREHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL WE PROMISE TO RESPECT YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AND TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH IS HEALTHY. WE WILL ENCOURAGE AND HELP EVERYONE TO RECOGNISE AND UNDERSTAND HOW TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN MENTAL HEALTH.”

Signing the pledge is our promise that as a school we will work together to promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of everyone within the Forehill School Community.

Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC)

Forehill Primary School and Early Years Centre will become part of Trauma Informed Contact and Care from March 2022. Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC) is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding and wellbeing partnership, which supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse.

Being part of Trauma Informed Contact and Care means that our school will receive a notification from Police Scotland before the start of the next school day when a child or young person in our school has been involved in or exposed to a domestic abuse incident in the previous 24 hours. The information is given in strict confidence to school designated contacts, who in our school are Mr Watson, Mrs Mulholland and Mrs Carswell. This will enable support to be given dependent on the wellbeing needs and wishes of the child.

We have received additional information about Trauma Informed Contact and Care and the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people. This notification process will be subject to an evaluation process at the end of the school term and should you wish any further information please request this from one of the above designated contacts. Trauma Informed Contact and Care supports us to get it right for every child.

Allergies - Snacks & Lunches

As you would expect in a school this size, we have a number of children who have a range of allergies. We have many who have quite severe allergies towards any products containing peanuts. I would ask for the full support of parents in making sure that the school is a **PEANUT FREE ZONE**, by not sending any spreads, nuts etc into school for snacks or packed lunches. As you will understand, we are eager to ensure the safety of all children in our care.



Class Structures Session 2022-2023

We will soon begin to look at class structures for next session, and as you know, the structure of the classes in the infant department change year on year due to the numbers of children we have in the school and the maximum class sizes. The new classes are put together through consultation, with the focus on the learning needs of each learner, **rather than parental preferences**. I will of course keep parents informed as we work through this.

Additional Class at P6-7

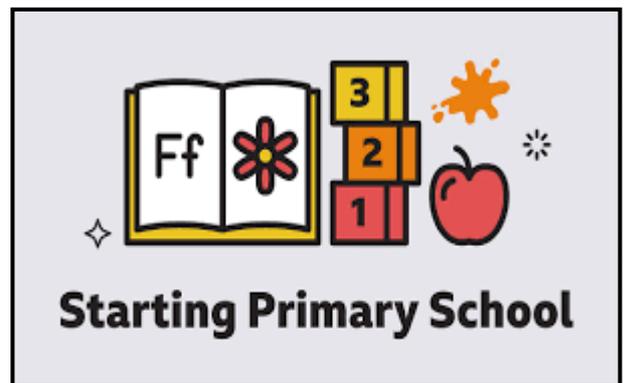
Due to the numbers of children registered across the school, and the additional space we now have, there **may** be a need to make an additional P6/7 class next session. This will be formed through consultation, taking account of the needs of all learners. We will keep parents informed as we work through this process.

P1 Induction Dates

As part of their induction, children starting P1 in August will be invited to visit the school for a number of sessions each Friday afternoon, starting on Friday 6th May. They will have the opportunity to work with early years staff, P1 staff and current P1 children. Details will follow.

New Primary 1 Parent Meeting

We hope restrictions will continue to lift, enabling us to hold a face to face meeting in the school for parents of children moving into Primary 1 in August. At the moment, the meeting will take place in the school hall on Wednesday 18th May at 7.00pm. This is a meeting for adults only and children should not attend. We would ask that only one adult attends per child.

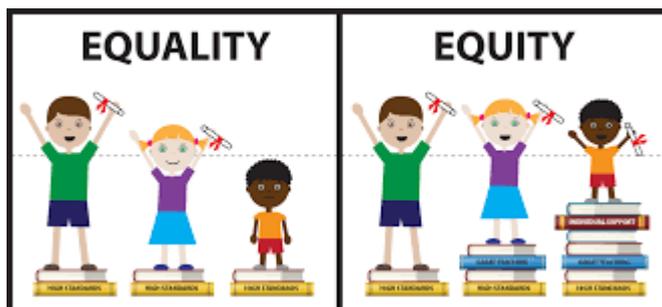


Early Years Centre Places & Parent Meeting

Parents who have registered for a place in our Early Years Centre will receive an e-mail on 12th May, with the outcome of their application.

A meeting for parents of children starting in our EYC in August is planned for Tuesday 31st May in the school hall. This is an adult meeting and children should not attend. We would ask that only one adult attends per child.

Pupil Equity Funding



Schools across Scotland continue to receive funding (PEF), which will enable us to provide additional support where it is needed most, and help support poverty related underachievement. I'm sure you will agree, it is unacceptable for children from the poorest backgrounds in our community to have their chances limited by circumstances

outside their control. The additional budget we receive has been based on the number of pupils in the school who are registered for free school meals. As a staff, we continue to look closely at the attainment and achievement of children who receive free meals and families who live in postcodes indicating highest levels of deprivation. An important part of the process is to consult carefully with staff, parents, partners and of course, the learners. I am keen once again to seek your views as parents, as to how we can best use and target this additional budget. The areas we may want to consider are:

- *Additional support in Numeracy, Mathematics, Reading & Writing
- *Increasing opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles
- *Nurturing the emotional wellbeing of our children
- *Increasing partnership working with parents to support achievement
- *Looking at alternative ways for some children to learn in and out of school
- *Increasing opportunities for family learning

We would welcome your feedback, by returning the parent response sheet attached at the back of this newsletter.



Issues with Social Media

Sadly, we are seeing a significant increase in the number of disagreements and issues emerging amongst children due to the increased **unsupervised** use of social media, live chats and internet at home. The school's role is to educate and support children in the safe use of ICT and therefore unfortunately will be unable to spend any further time unpicking and solving disagreements which have resulted from inappropriate social media use at home.

We would ask that you are confident you know what your child is doing on social media and take appropriate steps to eliminate any potential issues. Thank-you for your support.

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.

Parking Information

We are currently working with Police Scotland, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and the community to look for solutions to the parking challenges around the school. The easiest solution is for parents and carers to park safely and considerately! Other suggestions we have received include:

- Identified drop-off / pick up point
- Alternative transport options - walking, scooters, bikes
- Increased restrictions on waiting/loading during certain times
- Increased Police and Parking Attendant presence

We would welcome your ideas and suggestions on possible solutions and would ask that you return the parental response sheet attached to the newsletter.

Walking to and from School

Now that the better weather is coming, we would ask that parents consider, if possible, walking to and from school. This will assist in cutting down the number of cars trying to park around the school, and is a healthier option. Please give this some thought!

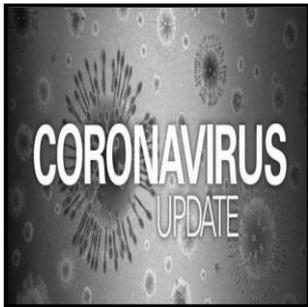


End of Term Celebration - 29th June

We are planning to hold our Summer Closing Celebration in Castlehill Church on the morning of **Wednesday 29th June**. Normally parents would be invited to attend, but this year we are limiting this to children and staff. However, Castlehill Church have the facilities to be able to stream live from the church and we would plan to stream the celebration to allow all parents and friends to join us remotely. More detailed information will be issued nearer the time.

Our Pandemic

All South Ayrshire children and young people are being given the opportunity to reflect on their experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the chance to submit work to a South Ayrshire exhibition which will display the wide-range of experiences we have collectively had over the last two years. Schools are invited to submit pieces of art, writing, recordings to feature in a showcase at Rozelle in June. Forehill will participate in this, and look forward to submitting some work from each stage.



Although restrictions are lifting and we are able to do more of what we normally did, we are still proceeding with caution. We are continuing to ensure procedures followed in school minimise spread of any infection. 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 Lateral Flow Testing, especially if family members are complaining of sore throats, coughs, colds, headaches or have a temperature. Thanks for your support.

Vaccination Programme for Children Aged 5-11

We have received some initial information about the vaccination programme for children. NHS Scotland is offering children two doses of vaccine twelve weeks apart, or closer if they have underlying health conditions or sharing accommodation with someone with a weakened immune system.

NHS are making plans to invite children for vaccination, and parents should wait to be contacted. This is a personal choice, and parents will have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss benefits and risks of the vaccine with NHS professionals.

More information can be found at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccinechildren>



Holiday Information

Our primary department P1-7 will close for the Easter break on **Friday 1st April at 2.30pm**. Our Early Years Centre will close for children who attend term-time, on Friday 1st April at the normal time. The Early Years Centre will be closed to **ALL** children on **Friday 15th April** and **Monday 18th April**.

We look forward to welcoming all children and staff back to school on **Tuesday 19th April**.

Once again, the staff will join me in thanking you for your on-going support through extremely challenging times, and wish you all a pleasant and relaxing Easter break.

Many thanks &

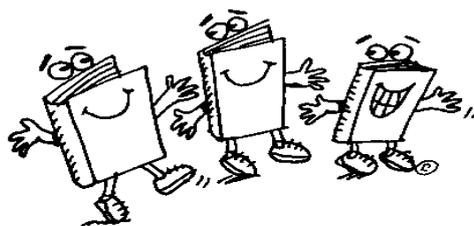
Kind Regards,



David Watson
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Fri 25 th March - Wed 30 th March	All Day	All	Book Fair in School
29 March - 1 st April	All Day	P7	P7 at Inverclyde
Fri 1 st April	2.30pm	P1-7	School Closes for Easter
Fri 15 th April	All Day	EYC	EYC Closed
Mon 18 th April	All Day	EYC	EYC Closed
Tue 19 th April	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens
Mon 25 th April	7.00pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Mon 2 nd May	All Day	All	School Closed
Thu 5 th May	All Day	All	School Closed - In-Service Day
Fri 6 th May	1.30pm	New P1	New P1 Pupils - Induction Wk1
Wed 18 th May	7.00pm	New P1	New P1 Parent Meeting
Tue 31 st May	7.00pm	New EYC	New EYC Parent Meeting
Thu 2 nd June	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 3 rd June	All Day	All	School Closed
Wed 8 th June	AM/PM	EYC	Sports
Thu 9 th June	1.30pm	P1-3	Sports
Fri 10 th June	11.00am	P4-5	Sports
Fri 10 th June	1.30pm	P6-7	Sports
w/b Mon 13 th June	All	All	Reports Issued
Tue 14 th June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Tue 14 th June	AM	P1-6	Bump Up Morning
Wed 15 th June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Fri 17 th June	6.00pm	All	Summer Fair
Mon 20 th June	7.00pm	All	Parent Council AGM
Wed 22 nd June	7.00pm	P7	Leavers' Disco - "The Ark"
Thu 23 rd June	All Day	Tbc	Fischy Music Visit to School
Wed 29 th June	9.45am	EYC-P7	Church Service
Wed 29 th June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes



PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET - March 2022

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

My ideas for this are.....

Parent Learning & Support:

In order to help my child, I would like more information about.....

Parking Around the School

To help the current situation, we should think about.....

Parent Council

I would like/would not like to get involved with the parent council.

I would like to suggest.....

Feeling Good Fortnight

I have a particular skill and knowledge in this area and would be willing to offer.....

Any other feedback or suggestions you would like to provide on any aspect of our school: