

*Forehill Primary School*

# **NEWSLINK**

**June 2022**



This has been a strange session, but as restrictions ease, we look forward to returning in August to a much more normal situation which will hopefully allow our young people, staff and parents to get back to the normal events which make Forehill so special. I cannot thank you all enough for the support you have shown us through the past couple of sessions. 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 taken by parents to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the school community.

## **Feeling Good Fortnight**

Our Feeling Good Fortnight starts on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June** and runs through to **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. This event provides all children, staff and parents with opportunities to engage in a number of activities which support mental and physical wellbeing. I am grateful to Mrs Baines for organising this for the school community.

## **Parent Event - Children's Wellbeing & Support - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 6.30pm**



Following a number of requests from parents, we have arranged an evening event which will be led by Jen Kemp. Jen is well known to us in Forehill, and has presented to parents a few times before. She is an engaging and inspirational speaker who leaves us with loads of thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how we can support our young people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. The evening will take place in the school on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June** from **6.30pm to 8.00pm**. Please come along - you will not be disappointed.

## **Sponsored Bounce**

As part of our Feeling Good Fortnight, we are working with our Parent Council to organise a **FUN**draising sponsored bounce. Children are invited to collect sponsors from family and friends. Children are reminded they should not go around doors asking for sponsors. This will take place on **Tue 21<sup>st</sup> June, Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. We are hoping for some sunny weather!

## **Pupil Reports**

Pupil reports will be issued to parents on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. We would ask that parents, along with children, complete the response sheet and return this to class teachers as quickly as possible.



## Session 2022-23

As mentioned before, some children in the infant department will change class groupings as they move through P1-3 classes. We continue to work through the staffing exercise for next session and hope to be able to issue final details around classes and teachers very soon. Whilst we enjoy the benefits to the children of three small P1 classes, this can only remain at the P1 stage. Due to numbers of pupils, I will as normal require to make some changes to class structures for next session:



P1C will become a P2 class, with a group of children from P1G.

P1T will become a P2 class, with a group of children from P1G.

P2C will become a P3 class, P2K will become a P3 class.

P2 children in the current P2/3 class will remain in the P2/3 class as P3 pupils.

A group of children from P1G will join the P2/3 class as P2 pupils.

P3S will become a P4 class with a group of P3 children from the current P2/3 class.

P3M will become a P4 class with a group of P3 children from the current P2/3 class.

## New Primary 1 Pupils

It has been so good to have our new P1 pupils working in the school each Friday afternoon taking part in our induction programme. The children are doing so well and getting to know staff and each other. More detailed information about classes and starting information will be issued soon.

## Summer BBQ & Fair



We are so excited to be able to go ahead with our first family event in two years! Our Summer BBQ and Fair takes place in the school on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June**. We look forward to seeing you there! More information on the advert at the back of the newsletter. Should you be able to offer any assistance at this event, our parent council would love to hear from you. Please drop them an e-mail at: [forehillpcfrg@gmail.com](mailto:forehillpcfrg@gmail.com)

## Parent Council News

Despite the challenges over the past session, our parent council have continued to create some great opportunities for children and families which have been fun and raise funds which benefit all children across the school. Their enthusiasm and creativity in making things happen has been outstanding - my sincere thanks to them all.

My personal thanks to Gillian Reid, who has been chairperson of the group over the past few years. Gillian's willingness, her contribution and enthusiasm has been outstanding. Gillian's daughter leaves us in June, but I am so delighted Gillian has offered to continue to support the group due to other family members remaining in the school community. The group is always looking for new members - please give this some thought, and if you can spare some time to assist, we would love to welcome you on board.

## Sports

We are hoping for good weather for our sports events.

These will take place as follows:

Early Years Centre	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	
P1-3 Classes	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June:	1.30pm
P4-5 Classes	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June:	11.00am
P6-7 Classes	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June:	1.30pm

Parents are welcome to attend these events, which will take place on the grass area at the rear of the school. Should the weather be inclement, we will try our best to reschedule.



## Assessments

All children across the school have been undertaking assessments, which have supported staff in making informed judgements about pupil progress. This information has also been helpful supporting staff when writing parent reports. Overall, we are extremely happy with the results across the school, but they have identified a few areas we would like to work on next session - particularly writing. Assessment information follows each child to their next class, to ensure learning continues at the appropriate level for each child.

## Uniform Recycling - 21<sup>st</sup> July



We are so proud of our school uniform and would want to ensure **all** our young people have access to uniform items which identify them as a member of the Forehill learning community. We are however very aware the cost of living is increasing at an alarming rate. Many of you may have uniform items which are nearly new but now too small for your children. Mrs McConnachie has kindly offered to run a Uniform Bank in the school playground on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July** between 1pm and 3pm where parents can attend and take items of uniform which have been donated. Should you have any shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, skirts, shorts, trousers, blazers or jackets which are now too small,

but in good condition - we would happily recycle these for you. We would ask that you send any donations to the school office by the end of the term.

## Playground at Rear of School - FASC

Can I please ask that parents do not use the area at the rear of the school at the blue sports court at the end of the day, as this area is regularly used by our after-school club. Many thanks for your help with this.

## Bump Up

We are looking forward to our bump-up morning, which will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**. Children will move to their new classroom and spend some time with their teacher for next session. P7 pupils will spend Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at their secondary school.



## End of Term Celebration - 29<sup>th</sup> June



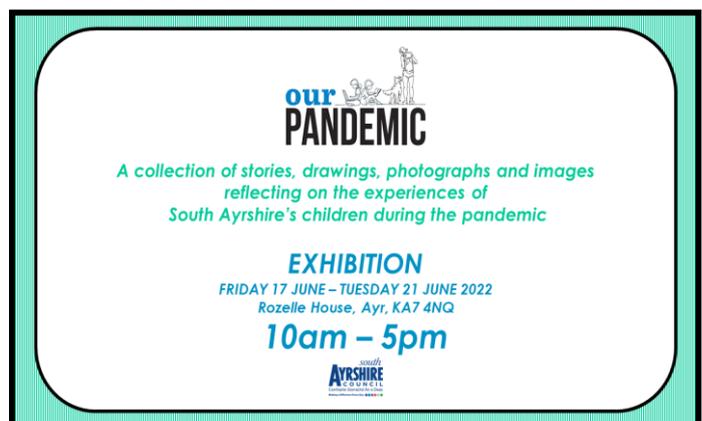
We will hold our Summer Closing Celebration in Castlehill Church on the morning of **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. Normally parents would be invited to attend, but this year we are limiting this to children and staff only. However, the church has the facility to be able to stream live and we would plan to stream the celebration to allow all parents and friends to join us remotely through Castlehill Church Facebook Page.

## Universal Free School Meals - Delay in Expansion to Primary 6 and Primary 7 Pupils

The expansion of the provision of free school meals to all primary school pupils in Scotland has been delayed. From 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the expansion of the free school meals programme was extended to include pupils in primary 5. Although a further expansion of universal free school meals for pupils in primary 6 and primary 7 is planned for later in this Scottish Government's parliamentary term, pupils transitioning into primary 6 or primary 7 for the beginning of the new school session in August 2022 will not receive a free school meal unless qualifying through other eligibility criteria. More information for Parents and Carers can be found on the Council's website and pages will be updated prior to the new school term.

## Our Pandemic Exhibition

Along with a number of other South Ayrshire Schools, Forehill has been working on pieces of Art, Poems, Journals and a song, which mark the challenges of the pandemic. This work will form part of an exhibition which will take place at Rozelle between **17<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> June**. We would encourage you to go along to view this.



## School Book Fair

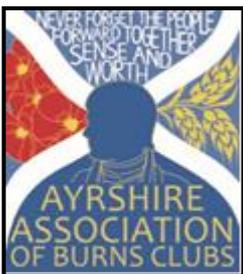


We are always keen to encourage children to read for enjoyment. My thanks to Mrs Carswell and our office staff for running our recent Book Fair. This year we sold £1700 worth of books. The school will receive commission on this, which we will use to restock our libraries. Well done to everyone, as we work together to reinforce the importance and value of reading.

## Celebrating Achievements

Throughout the year we love hearing what our young people achieve out of school. These are also shared and celebrated through social media. Our congratulations to:

- \*Alfie T, Aidan M, Jack L, Hayden C, Daniel B, Sienna S, Sophie C and Katy M in our Early Years Centre, who have had their "riddles" chosen for inclusion in a book.
- \*Mia, in P7 who has achieved amazing results in Skating - competing in the British Novice Championships and won a silver medal - placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 40 British Skaters.
- \*Sam Gilmour in P7 who received a Bronze Award in the Scottish Mathematics Challenge 2022.
- \*Archie in P3 and Jenna in P2 who had their poster selected for inclusion in the South Ayrshire Energy Calendar 2023.
- \*Emily, one of our P7 pupils moving to Bellahouston Sports Academy to follow her passion and skill in Gymnastics.
- \*To our gymnastics team who were placed third in the level 2 South Ayrshire Competition
- \*Rubie, one of our P3 children who was a winner and had her work on show at the Scottish Engineering Leaders Event at Strathclyde University.



## Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs - School Competition

We are delighted to have a few pupils representing the school at the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs Competition on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June**. Blake Mc & Lois C, both P5 pupils will recite "Willie Wastle" Charlotte M, P6 will recite "To a Mouse" and Lewis B, P7 will recite Address to the Haggis. I know you join me in wishing these young people lots of luck!

## Celebration of Awards

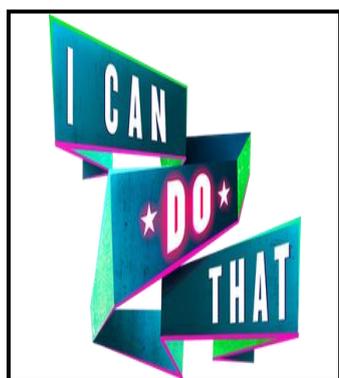
We are delighted to have a number of P5-7 children who have completed a range of achievements including Heartstart, Junior Sports Academy, Award of Ambition, Digital Leaders, Junior Librarians, Wellbeing Bees, Lunch Buddies and Playground Buddies. We plan to hold a brief celebration event for these children in the school on the afternoon of Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## P7 The Ark - 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Our parent council have arranged a Disco for our P7 children leaving us at the end of term. This will take place on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** at 7.00pm. Information has been already issued to P7 parents, along with a ticket, which should be taken along on the night, with contact information added. Can I remind parents that all children should be collected at 9.00pm by an adult. Many thanks!

## 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.



## Positive Mindset in Early Years

Mrs Warlow, one of our practitioners at Forehill took part in the winning Scotland Mindset Teams programme. This has helped identify a range of activities to build children's confidence in numeracy. This amazing work has been recognised nationally as an example of good practice. A recording of some of the work undertaken can be viewed by following this link:

<https://www.winningscotland.org/store/p57/forehill-growth-mindset.html>

## Dogs in School Grounds

Can I please remind parents that dogs should NOT be brought into the playground at the start or end of the school day. I would also ask that dogs are not exercised in the playground or grass areas in the evenings - for obvious reasons. Many thanks for your support with this.

## Auld Lang Syne

As normal, our P7 pupils will finish the school year on **29<sup>th</sup> June** singing "Auld Lang Syne" in the playground. This will take place at 12.50pm in the upper playground. Parents are welcome to attend.

## Retirement of Mrs Muir

It is with great sadness I inform you that Mrs Muir, one of our clerical staff will retire from Forehill at the end of term. Mrs Muir has worked in Forehill since August 2016 and has been a tremendous asset and huge support to me and to the school. I know you join me in wishing her many healthy and happy years of retirement.



## 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**.

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.

Care and learning appointments will take place on **24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June** and **1<sup>st</sup> July**. Nursery parents are asked to sign up for an appointment time at drop off or pick up.

The EYC Teddy Bear's Picnic will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> June** and the celebration event will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. More detailed information is provided in the EYC newsletter.

## Vandalism



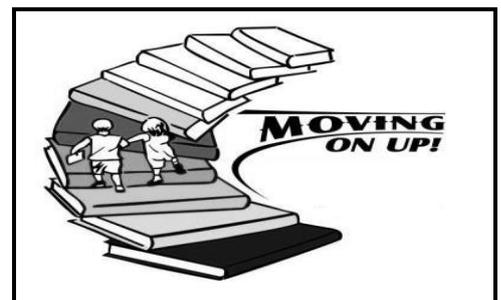
I am indebted to the parents and neighbours in our local community, who keep an eye on the school in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays. We have had a few episodes of vandalism over the past couple of months. I would encourage parents and neighbours over the summer period, to report 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.

## 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.

## Moving On

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our young people moving to secondary school every success for the future. As always, we will continue to follow their progress and journeys with great interest and pride.



## Holidays

The school will close at 1.00pm on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> 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. All children who attend on a 52-week pattern have been issued with a letter regarding summer attendance. We would ask that parents return this as quickly as possible.

School re-opens to all pupils on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** at 9.00am.

On behalf of everyone in Forehill I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support and patience through the extremely challenging circumstances we have faced this session. I am indebted to all our brilliant parents, to my wonderful staff and of course to our amazing young people, who have had to adapt to deal with what we had to face. We got through it - but because we pulled together!

I am looking forward to returning in August, restarting the whole range of activities for children and parents which enrich our school community.

On behalf of all my staff, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Wherever your travels take you, - stay safe and have a great family time. My fingers are crossed for lots of sunny, dry weather!

As always, should you have any 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

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# DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> June	AM/PM	EYC	Sports
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P5-7	Cross Country Event
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm	P1-3	Sports
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00am	P4-5	Sports
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm	P6-7	Sports
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> June	AM	P5-7	Burns Competition
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	EYC - P7	Feeling Good Fortnight
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> June	AM	P1-6	Bump Up Morning
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Visit to Secondary School
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	EYC	Teddy Bears' Picnic
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> June	All	P1-7	Reports Issued
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	EYC	New Nursery Children Visits
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> June	6.00pm	All	Summer Fair & BBQ
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> & Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	All Day	All	Sponsored Bounce
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> June	6.30pm	All	Parent Evening - Jen Kemp
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Various	EYC	EYC Celebration Day
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	7.00pm	P7	Leavers' Disco - "The Ark"
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	All Day	Tbc	Fischy Music Visit to School
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Various	EYC	New Nursery Children Visits
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	P1-P7	Church Service
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> August	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> August	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	9.00am	All	Pupils Restart

**Forehill Primary Parent Council  
Fundraising Group**



# **Summer BBQ fayre**



**Friday 17th June  
Open 6:30pm – 9pm  
Forehill Primary School  
£2 per adult/kids free**