

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
September 2022

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL**

We are delighted to welcome everyone back for Session 2022-23. We hope you had an enjoyable summer and got some time to relax and recharge. A special welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us across the school. The young people in P1 and in our Early Years Centre are settling really well into school life.



Queen Elizabeth II

We are extremely sorry in Forehill to learn of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I know many of you will share this sense of sadness and will watch with great interest, the events leading up to the state funeral next week. Although this is a sad national event, all teaching staff will use this context to provide rich learning for our young people. It is a period of living history with much to explore and discuss about Queen Elizabeth II, her reign and life, the Royal Family and also about our new monarch - King Charles III.

Staffing

We have had a few changes to staffing at the start of term, and extend a warm welcome to the colleagues who join us this session: Mrs McCloskey (P2), Miss Muir (P4), Miss Coull (P5) Miss Fleming (EYP), Mrs Nayokabi (EYP) Miss Kirkwood (EYP), Ms McGowan (EYP), Mrs Torbit (EYC Clerical), Mrs Trainor (School Assistant).

In addition, we have three staff members who will be leaving us in the next few weeks to begin maternity leave. I know you join me in wishing Mrs Dorman, Miss Mair and Miss McCullough all the very best. We look forward to hearing the happy news in the weeks ahead.

On the last day of term, Mr Daily was successful at interview for a new post within the authority. We are all extremely sorry to lose him from the Forehill team and he will be missed greatly. The contribution he made to Forehill over many years has been quite significant. I know you join me in wishing him well in his new role.

Communication

Communication is key to an effective partnership between school and home, and I am grateful to the large number of parents who support this. To ensure your query is dealt with appropriately, office staff will attempt to direct your requirements to the relevant promoted member of staff who has responsibility for your child's class. Where you have a query about your child's learning or behaviour, in the first instance the link would be with the class teacher. However, should you wish to speak to a promoted staff member, we each have departmental responsibility as follows:

Early Years Centre:	Mrs Carswell	P5:	Mr Watson
P1:	Mrs Carswell	P6:	Mrs McDowall
P2 & P3:	Mrs Mulholland	P7:	Mrs Baines
P4:	Mr McDowall		

Keeping Our Children Safe - PARKING and DRIVING AROUND THE SCHOOL

As we start a new session, can I once again please remind **ALL** parents and carers about the importance of safe and legal parking around the school? The main school car park should **NOT** be used to drop and collect children, as this is for staff and blue badge holders only.

The Early Years Centre car park is for parents collecting and dropping children at nursery. However, for everyone's benefit, we would ask that cars are **NOT** abandoned on grass verges, blocking gates, double parked or parked on yellow zig-zag areas.

I would ask that drivers show courtesy to residents, by ensuring driveways are left clear. Police Scotland and parking attendants will continue to make unannounced visits.



Following an incident last week whilst a crossing patroller was escorting children across Hillfoot Road - a driver completely ignored the stop sign and drove **AROUND** the patroller at speed. The registration number has been taken and Police have been informed. We have had reports of some children choosing to cross Caledonia Road nearer the Early Years Centre and without the crossing patroller. I would ask that parents remind children of how important it is to cross with the patroller. Despite some near misses and on-going reminders, some parents **still** take the view that requests for safe driving and parking around the school do not apply to everyone.

Unless certain drivers reflect on HOW they drive and WHERE they park around the school - a child or adult is going to be injured, with potentially ANOTHER death around our school. Act NOW!

Child Protection

Everyone has a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our communities. Should any parent or family member be concerned about the wellbeing of any child, this should be reported immediately to Mr Watson, our Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Keeping you Informed about Your Child Learning

Class teachers have outlined the learning focus for all classes for Term 1. This has been uploaded to the learning hub pages of the school website. I would encourage you to have a look. This should help you to support your children and talk about what they have been learning in class.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Mrs Cathcart, one of our teachers currently on maternity leave. She is now the proud mummy of a handsome little boy called Harris. I know you join me in sending many congratulations to Mrs Cathcart, her husband and of course big sister, Katie.

Communicating with Parents - GROUPELL Xpressions

We will continue to share all communication with parents by e-mail and text, through the Groupcall Xpressions App. If you do not have this App or are not receiving communication from us, we would ask that you contact the school office, who will be happy to assist in you setting this up.

Dogs in Playground

Our playgrounds can become extremely busy at the start and end of the school day. To prevent any child, adult (or dog!) being hurt, we would remind parents that dogs should NOT be brought into the playground. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.



School Uniforms

I am extremely grateful to our parents who make sure the young people wear the Forehill uniform with pride. I would respectfully ask that parents do not design or develop their "own take" on uniform. We are proud of our school colours, polo shirts, sweatshirts and ties which create a sense of belonging and identity for all our young people. We thank you in advance for your support in this area.

Uniform Bank



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. Following the success of the Forehill Primary uniform recycling event held during the summer holidays, we would like to continue to provide opportunities for families to make use of our uniform recycling service. In a couple of weeks, we will issue an

order form that families can use to request specific items of recycled school uniform. If anyone needs any items before this time, please contact the school office. This service will run throughout the year and we hope many more families will take advantage of the savings to be made.

We will always be looking for items to recycle, so should you have any pre-loved 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.

Cost of the School Day

I am acutely aware of the rising cost of living for us all, and the challenges this brings for many of our families in the school. The Cost of the School Day is a project that tackles financial barriers to learning and poverty stigma in schools. It is a whole school community project exploring the financial implications of school life for families. I am keen in Forehill to set up a short life group of parents/staff to explore what this may mean in our school/nursery.

If this is something you would like to be involved in, please let me know by returning to me, the form at the back of the newsletter. More information can be found at:



[The Cost of the School Day Toolkit, updated 2021 | CPAG](#)

Go Purple Event

Once again, our P7 classes with a great deal of help from their teachers and Mrs Gray, will be organising our fundraising Coffee Morning in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice "Go Purple" appeal. This will take place on the morning of **Friday 14th October - 10.00am till 11.30am**. I would encourage parents and friends to attend and look forward to welcoming you back to the school. Please put the date in your diary.



Christmas Activities

For the reasons outlined above, we are currently looking at the best way to offer some activities for children at Christmas time. We will have a visiting pantomime in school for our EYC and P1-3 classes. We will soon consult with P4-7 children to gather their views. We will keep you updated with decisions made.

Parent Helpers

Prior to covid, we were always delighted to have parent helpers in and around the school. Parents who were involved, assisted in classes, with school libraries, art, preparing resources, cycling and in a number of other ways. Should you be willing and able to get involved, even once per week for a short time, I would ask that you complete the response sheet at the back of the newsletter. We will then be in touch with you.

Using Skills & Interests

I am confident we will have many parents and grandparents who will have many skills and hobbies we would love to make use of, to widen what we can offer the children in our school. These may include sewing, art & craft, woodwork, chess, gardening, cookery - to name a few - I'm sure there will be many others! It would be great to hear from anyone who would be willing to assist and would be wonderful to have you on board. Please complete the slip attached, and we will be in touch!

Social Media



Across the school, we teach children about the safe use of internet and with senior pupils, remind them of rules for the appropriate use of social media. We work in partnership with Police Scotland to share important messages about this.

In school, children have **NO** access to any social media platform. However, we are becoming extremely concerned about the number of older pupils who are accessing at home, using them to send sometimes rude, abusive and upsetting messages and rumours about other children in the school.

This then creates problems with relationships in school. Where we receive reports of inappropriate use of social media, we will write to the parent(s) of the children involved, and share significant concerns with our community campus police officer. We would ask that parents take responsibility for checking how their children are using their phones, tablets and computers at home, as school staff cannot take any responsibility for this. Thankyou for your support as we work together to tackle this important issue. More information for parents can be found on our school website, or by following the link below:

[Online Safety Tips for Parents - Be Internet Legends](#)

Flu Immunisations

Once again, NHS colleagues will be in the school to provide flu immunisations to all P1-7 pupils. This will take place in Forehill on Wednesday 23rd November. Information for parents has been issued to all parents about this.

Supporting Learning at Home



As you know, all children across the school are given homework tasks to complete, to extend the learning which has taken place in class and as the children move through the school, the tasks

become more challenging. At the request of the majority of parents, homework is normally set on a Monday, to be returned on a Thursday/Friday. For P4-7 children this can be on Microsoft Teams and also in jotters. It is not normal practice to issue homework tasks over a weekend, as we recognise this should be family time. Asking children to complete homework tasks is helping to build good study habits as they move through school to secondary and for some, to university. We do recognise children have a number of clubs and activities they attend out-with school, and to assist, we offer homework clubs in the school over lunchbreaks. These are supervised by school staff, who also offer additional support and assistance.

Parent Council

Our parent council AGM took place last week with an amazing turnout of parents. Huge thanks to everyone who came along. The meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the great achievements of the group last session, raising over £10,000 - a fantastic amount in such challenging times.

The group are already started to plan a range of events for the children, parents and the wider community. Watch this space!

Our sincere thanks to those stepping away from the group - Dave McIntosh and Carolyn Rolph for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work.

The group are looking for any parent who may be an accountant or Book Keeper, to assist in keeping accounts. If you would be able to spare some time to do this, please do get in touch with the group.

As we prepare for the traditional Forehill Christmas Calendars, we are looking for the help of a Photographer who would be willing to take photographs of all class groups. Again, if you would be willing to assist, we would ask that you get in touch with the parent council using the e-mail address below.

The next meeting of the parent council will take place in the school on **Monday 25th November**. As always, all parents are encouraged and welcome to attend. Should you wish to become involved in any way, please e-mail our parent council at: forehillpcfrg@gmail.com



Drinking Water in School

Forehill Primary fully supports the Scottish Government's guidance around Healthy eating in schools, part of which is access to drinking water. Many parents provide a water bottle and all children have access to drinking water (**not** juice) throughout the school day. Some children choose not to drink water during class time and that is a personal choice and will not be monitored by class teachers.



Parents' Night - Thursday 17th November

Our Parents' Open Day will be held in the school on **Thursday 17th November** between **3.30pm and 5.00pm** and then again from between **6.00pm and 7.30pm**. This is an open day and no formal appointments will be issued for this round of meetings. You are invited to drop in at some point over the two sessions. You will still have the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher, see the work your child is doing and to ask any questions you may have.

You are encouraged to bring your children along. Parents' nights should not bring surprises to either parent or teacher. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, you should contact the school immediately, and not feel you have to wait to raise these at planned parent/teacher meetings.

Head Teacher Drop-In

As you may know, I like to operate an open-door policy in the school, and where possible, will happily meet with parents to discuss their ideas, celebrate achievements and to hear suggestions about how we could further strengthen home/school partnerships. I have arranged a couple of informal drop-in sessions, which will take place on **Wednesday 12th October** between **2.45pm - 3.15pm** and then again between **5.00pm - 6.00pm**. There is no agenda, but tea/coffee, and a warm welcome are on offer! Should you wish to attend, please complete the form at the back of the newsletter.



Photography & Recordings

From time to time throughout the year, photographs and video recordings of children are taken and used in the local press, media, on our website, in displays across the school and on the school facebook and twitter pages. If for any reason you do not wish your child to be included, I would ask that you put this in writing to me as soon as possible. **Please note, where no response has been received, we will presume parents/carers give full permission.**

Making Good Behaviour Choices

We continue to have high expectations in relation to pupil behaviour across the school and work a very structured and clear behaviour system of reminders, rewards and sanctions. The main aim is to encourage children, no matter the age, to take responsibility for the choices they make in relation to the way they behave. As you will appreciate, some young people's perception of situations doesn't always match that of others! The behaviour policy is available on the school website for you to read. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries about this.

Kyle Academy S6 Learning Ambassadors

We are delighted to have a number of senior pupils from Kyle Academy visiting the school each week to work with children in all classes across the school. The young people are sharing their knowledge and skills in a range of subjects including French, Spanish, Drama, PE, Art, Technology and Science. I know our children in Forehill will benefit greatly from these experiences.

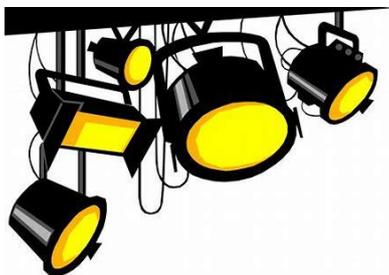
Family Links - Nurturing Programme for Parents

We are very aware the last couple of years have been extremely challenging for many of our families. Mrs Mulholland has been working with "Family Links" to offer a Nurture Programme to interested parents of children in P1-3 classes. This is a ten-week programme, and would run in the Lifelong Learning Suite of the school each **Friday** morning between **9.15am and 10.15am** after the October break. The programme aims:



- ▶ To help parents understand and manage feelings and behaviour while becoming more positive and nurturing in their relationships with their children and each other.
- ▶ To give children and parents an emotionally healthy springboard for their lives and their learning.
- ▶ To promote emotional literacy and emotional health.
- ▶ To develop communication and relationship skills.
- ▶ To enhance self-esteem, self-awareness and empathy
- ▶ To provide effective strategies to encourage co-operative, responsible behaviour and manage challenging behaviour in children.

If this is something you would be keen to hear more about, please complete the slip at the back of the newsletter and Mrs Mulholland will be in touch. We suspect this may be quite popular, and spaces are limited - don't miss out!



School Show

We are delighted once again to be able to begin preparing for our school show, which will take place in the Gaiety Theatre in the week commencing 5th June. This is always a fantastic opportunity open to all children in P5, 6 & 7. Rehearsals will start after Christmas. This year, our show is sure to go off with a Bang! Watch this space for more information.

PE Kits & Learning Outdoors

In order to participate fully and safely, all pupils must have the correct PE kit. This should include indoor gym shoes or trainers, shorts and a t-shirt. When appropriate, PE will take place outdoors. We would ask that a pair of jogging trousers, warm jacket and outdoor trainers are brought to school for this purpose on PE days. For health & safety reasons, all jewellery should be removed for gym and long hair tied back.

Health & Safety - Medication

Please note that children should **NOT** be sent to school with medication in schoolbags. Any requests for children to take medication at school should be discussed with myself or one of the Depute Head Teachers via the school office. The necessary paperwork must be completed before we are able to administer any kind of medication or inhaler.

Wet Mornings & Supervision in Playground

Can I please remind parents that children will not have access to the building before 8.55am on wet mornings. I would ask that children remain at home as long as possible on mornings where weather is inclement. Please note, there is no adult supervision in the playground prior to the bell at 9.00am.



Nut Free Zone

I would ask for the support of parents in ensuring that morning snacks and lunches sent to school do not contain nuts. We have a number of children in the school who can take a severe allergy to nuts and products containing nuts, so would ask for your co-operation in helping us keep everyone safe.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to:

- *Mr Daily, who has won a national sports award for his work in Forehill. We are delighted and extremely proud of his achievement.
- *Willow S (P5) and Mia F (P5), who have been chosen to dance in the Palace Theatre pantomime this Christmas - I know the girls will have an amazing time!
- *Lucy H (P6) - who danced at Cowal Highland Games in the Highland Dancing World Championships. She achieved 1 gold medal, 7 silver medals, a trophy and a shield giving her an overall placing of 2nd out of a very tough 9-year-old group.

Learning Together Sessions

Each session, we invite you as parents into classes to take part in learning activities alongside your children. These have been very successful in the past and allow you to see the range of learning your child is involved in. At parental request, we are able to provide dates well in advance for the learning together sessions. The dates for this session are as follows:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	w/b 5 th December w/b 13 th March	Various Various	P3Z	7 th December 15 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm
P1	5 th December 13 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm	P4	24 th November 30 th March	9.30am 9.30am
P2S	8 th December 14 th March	9.30am 2.00pm	P5	22 nd November 30 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm
P2K	8 th December 16 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm	P6	23 rd November 29 th March	11.30am 9.30am
P2/3	7 th December 15 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm	P7	22 nd November 28 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm
P3C	9 th December 17 th March	9.30am 9.30am			



Shared Learning

Each session, we will send home samples of children's learning from different areas of the curriculum. This provides you as parents, with an opportunity to see what work your child has been undertaking in class, and to talk with them about work in jotters and folders. It also allows you to provide feedback to us on your child's work. Samples of classwork will be sent home on a Friday, and should be returned to school on the Monday. Dates for this are:

P1-3 Classes:	4th November	12th May
P4-7 Classes:	11th November	19th May

The school will be closed to all pupils and staff on **Friday 16th and Monday 19th September**.

The decision in South Ayrshire around a date for the additional holiday following the Queen's passing will be taken at Cabinet on 27th September. This will give parents time to plan for childcare and also council services to plan ahead. Information has been shared via social media directly from the Council and the date will be confirmed and shared after the meeting on 27th September.

As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

It is our intention to issue future newsletters via e-mail and Groupcall.

I look forward to your support as we work together to provide the very best for the young people in our school.

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
Fri 16 th September	All Day	All	Holiday
Mon 19 th September	All Day	All	Holiday
Tue 20 th September	9.00am	P7	Head Pupil Interviews
Wed 12 th October	2.45pm & 5pm	Parents	Head Teacher Drop in Sessions
Fri 14 th October	10.00am	All	Go Purple Fundraising Morning
Fri 14 th October	3.15pm	P1-7	School Closes
Mon 24 th October	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Tue 25 th October	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Mon 31 st October	All Day	All	Dress Up for Hallowe'en
Thu 3 rd November	6.30pm	Parents	Parent Council Meeting
Sat 12 th November	TBC	P6	Hospice Winter Fair - Choirs
Thu 17 th November	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
	6.00pm - 7.30pm	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Mon 28 th November	All Week	All	Scottish Poetry Week
Friday 2 nd December	6.00pm	All	Christmas Fair
Tue 13 th December	7.00pm	Choirs	Cluster Concert - Town Hall
Thu 15 th December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Fri 16 th December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Mon 19 th December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Tue 20 th December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Wed 21 st December	12.00	All	Christmas Lunch
Wed 21 st December	7.00pm-9.00pm	P7	P7 Christmas Party
Thu 22 nd December	9.00am	EYC - P3	Visiting Pantomime
Thu 22 nd December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Fri 23 rd December	9.45am	P1-7	Christmas Service - Castlehill
Fri 23 rd December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 9 th January	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Thu 26 th January	7.00pm	P7	P7 Family Burns Supper
Fri 10 th February	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 13 th February	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 14 th February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Thu 2 nd March	All Day	All	World Book Day
Tue 21 - Thu 23 March	Days	P7	Inverclyde Residential Visit
Fri 31 st March	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 17 th April	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Mon 22 nd May	Week	P1-7	Reports Issued to Parents

Fri 26 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 29 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 30 th May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Wed 31 st May	6.00pm	All	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Thu 1 st June	3.45pm	All	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Mon 5 th - Fri 9 th June	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Mon 12 th - Fri 2 nd June	Two Weeks	All	Feeling Good Fortnight
Tue 13 th June	All Day	P7	Visits to Secondary School
Tue 13 th June	9.30am	P1-6	Bump Up Morning
Wed 14 th June	All Day	P7	Visits to Secondary School
Fri 16 th June	1.30pm	P1-3	P1-3 Sports Afternoon
Thu 22 nd June	11.00am	P4-5	P4-5 Sports
Thu 22 nd June	1.30pm	P6-7	P6-7 Sports
Fri 30 th June	9.45am	All	Closing Service - Castlehill
Fri 30 th June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes



PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET - September 2022

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent's Name: _____

I would / would not be keen to be part of the parent & staff discussion group to explore the "Cost of the School Day"

I would / would not like to offer some time as a parent helper. I would like to help:
(please tick)

in classes *library* *art & craft* *displays of work* *plants* *other: _____*

I can help:

Mon pm *Tue am pm* *Wed am pm* *Thu am pm* *Fri am pm*

I would / would not like to get involved in the work of the parent council.

I would / would not like to attend the Head Teacher's drop in on 12th October.

I would / would not like to offer some time to share a skill or interest with the children.
My skill is _____

I would / would not like more information about the Family Links Nurture Programme for parents.

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