

*Forehill Primary School*  
**NEWSLINK**  
**November 2022**



Welcome to our November edition of Newslink. I hope you find the information included informative and helpful. I would encourage you to make a note of the dates of the many things happening in the life of the school between now and Christmas. It is lovely to be able to welcome parents back into the school again and look forward to seeing you at Parents' Night, which takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### Junior Leadership Team



Congratulations to the P7 pupils appointed as Head Pupils and House Captains for Session 2022-23. I know each and every one will be great ambassadors for the school and will undertake their duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm and pride.

#### Head Pupils:

Luke R, Sam H, Charlotte M, Ava C

#### House Captains:

Isla H, Millie-Jay Mc, Tess B, Lhana A,  
Max D, Blair Mc, Andrew S & Zach G



### New Staff Welcome

A very warm welcome to Fiona Keating, who joins us as our new Depute Manager within the Early Years Centre. We also welcome Eryn Fleming and Sarah Braund to early years practitioner posts within the nursery. Following recent interviews for school assistants, Jane Barr and Carol-Ann Wright were appointed to the posts. We look forward to welcoming them both to the school very soon.



### Parents' Night - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Our Parents' Open Day will be held in the school on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Parents of P1-7 pupils are invited to visit classes between **3.30pm and 5.00pm** or **6.00pm and 7.30pm**. Parents of children in the EYC are invited to visit the playrooms between **6.00pm and 7.00pm**. This is an open event and no formal appointment times will be issued. You are invited to drop in at a time that suits and will still

have the opportunity to speak to staff, see the work your child is doing and to ask any questions you may have. Our Book Fair will be available in the main hall, Tea and Coffee will be served, information about Phunky Foods and healthy eating - and there will be information available on how to apply for your child's free NEC travel card. We look forward to welcoming you back into the school.

## Parent Council



Our next parent council meeting takes place in the school on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.30pm**. Our parent council group continue to work hard supporting the school and raising significant additional funds for the school - used to purchase additional items for children and subsidising costs of outings. I am extremely grateful to them all for their hard work, which has resulted in a donation of **£8,000** being made to the school. I'm sure you will agree this is simply outstanding. This will be used to benefit all children in the school in a range of ways.

## Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the school starting at 6.00pm. There will be a range of stalls, a visit from Santa and of course all the normal fun. As always, our parent council would love to hear from you if you could offer some assistance at this. It is always an amazing night, but relies on the assistance of a huge number of people. Please consider playing your part and not leaving it to others. Many hands make light work. If you are able to offer some assistance - setting up, manning a stall for a short time or helping to tidy up, please drop the parent council an e-mail: [forehillpcfrq@gmail.com](mailto:forehillpcfrq@gmail.com)

## Learning Together Dates

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. Due to circumstances beyond our control, there have been a couple of small changes to dates. These are now noted below for all classes:

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



## Planned Learning Term 2

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

### Pupil Attendance

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

### Pupil Progress in Learning

Staff across all classes continue to track and monitor children's progress, working closely with colleagues to ensure children are supported and challenged in all aspects of their learning. Members of the senior leadership team are currently meeting with individual class teachers to discuss the progress of all children. Staff will be able to update you on your child's progress on 17<sup>th</sup> November. As always, should you have any concerns around your child's learning, please do not hesitate to make contact in the first instance, with your child's class teacher.

### Night Before Christmas Campaign 2022



This year Forehill Primary would like to help contribute to the Night Before Christmas Campaign. This campaign helps children in poverty across South West Scotland by providing them with a 'red bag full of joy' for the night before Christmas. We are inviting our Nursery and P1-7 children to

help us with this and any help you feel you could give would be greatly appreciated. Information has already been sent out through Xpressions.

*'Select gifts that will bring a sparkle to the eyes of those opening the bag on Christmas Eve and focus on the magic that the gifts contained within can bring'.*

Any donations you feel you would like to make can be sent into school by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. We are conscious many families are struggling at the moment, but know our Forehill families are always so kind in supporting others. As always, any help is so greatly appreciated. More information can be found on their website: [www.nightbeforechristmas.co.uk](http://www.nightbeforechristmas.co.uk)

### Lost Property

We are once again, collecting a significant amount of lost property, with no names. This will be on display at Parents' Night - please help yourselves! I would ask that names are on all items of uniform.

### Photographs of Children

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



### Remembrance 2022

Once again, we are extremely proud of our Head Pupils, who along with Mrs Baines, will attend the Remembrance Day Service at Castlehill Church on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. The children will lay a wreath on behalf of the school community.

## Primary 6 - Youth Music

All our P6 Children have been working with Mrs Nelson, from Youth Music Initiative and have been invited to perform at the Hospice Winter Fair at Ayr Racecourse, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Letters have already been issued to all P6 children. We are hoping for a good turnout of children. It is great to be able to get our young people back doing these kinds of events in the community. Please support this!

## Uniform Recycling



We are so proud of our school uniform and would like to ensure all our young people have access to uniform items which identify them as a member of the Forehill learning community. We are pleased to be able to tell you that, thanks to generous donations, we now have a stock of new and pre-loved uniform items. A letter will be issued soon with 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 families will take advantage of the savings to be made.

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

## Christmas Jumper Recycling

With more and more children choosing to wear Christmas jumpers to school in December, we are aware this brings with it, additional costs. We are conscious of the fact that Christmas is an expensive time of year and we would like to offer to run a Christmas jumper recycling service to try to help keep costs down. We would like to ask that if you have a Christmas jumper that is too small for your child but still in reasonable condition, that you consider donating it to the school. We are hoping that if we receive enough donations we would have some available at Parents Night where parents can simply pick one up and it could be something ticked off the Christmas to-do list with no charge. Any donations can be handed into the school office or your child's class teacher. Please note there is **no expectation** from the school that children should wear a Christmas jumper to school in December.

## Cost of the School Day

A few parents recently met with some school staff to look at how we can reduce to a minimum, requests the school makes for money and how we can support parents with the significant increases to the cost of living. This was a very positive and productive meeting. We hope to be able to share with all parents, some further information and ideas soon. As always, it will remain our policy that no child in Forehill misses out on any experience due to financial reasons.

## Go Purple

With the help and support from so many people, our P7 pupils and Mrs Gray have once again excelled themselves by raising the fantastic total of £3000 at our recent Go Purple Day in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice. Our grateful thanks to all staff, parents and friends who continue to support the great work of this local charity.



### School Show

Our School Show 2023 will take place in the Gaiety Theatre in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> June - a fantastic opportunity open to all children in P5, 6 & 7. This year, we are so excited to have secured the performing rights for the musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" - also a favourite Christmas film!

A brief meeting will take place early in December for all children interested, with rehearsals starting early in the new year. Watch this space!

### Book Week Scotland

Staff across the school work extremely hard to encourage our young people to read as much as possible. Reading has such a positive impact on all aspects of learning. As part of Book Week Scotland, our P1 children will receive a Bookbug Pack and P2 and P3 children will receive a Read, Write & Count pack to keep at home and use. Read, Write, Count is the Scottish Government initiative which encourages parents, carers and children to share and be involved in literacy and numeracy activities together. These packs have lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Have fun! A reading ideas workshop will take place for P1-3 parents. More detailed information about this will follow.



### Baby News

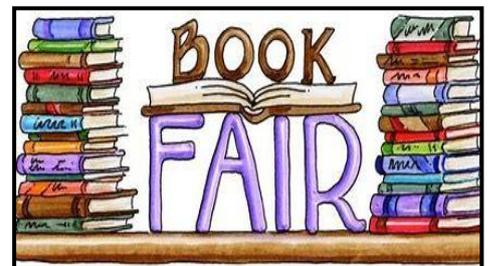


It's all happening in Forehill.....

Many congratulations to Miss McCullough, one of our Nursery staff who is now the proud mum of a gorgeous baby girl - Freya, born on 18<sup>th</sup> October. We were also delighted to hear Mrs Dorman is also the proud mummy of a handsome little boy - Thomas, born on 26<sup>th</sup> October, and Miss Mair, the proud mummy of a beautiful baby girl - Elise, born on 30<sup>th</sup> October. I know you join me in sending many congratulations to all these staff members and their families. Great news!

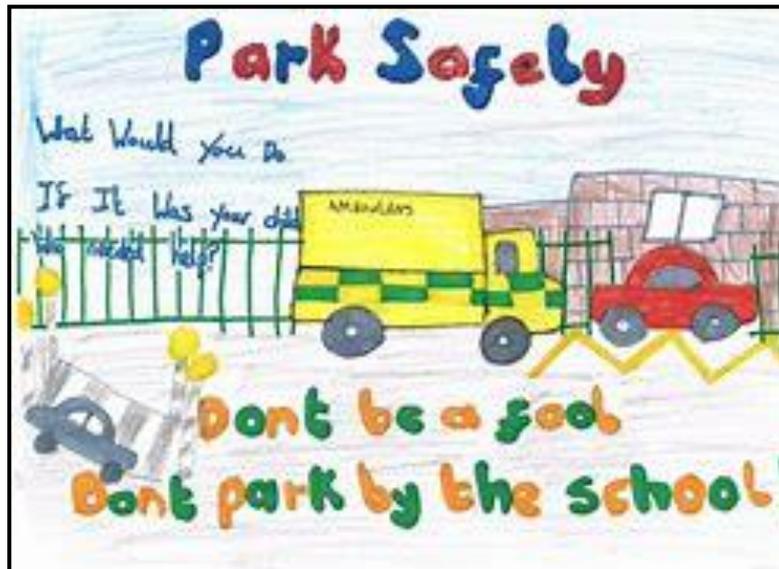
### Book Fair

During Parents' Night on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, our book fair will take place in the main hall. We are keen to encourage children to read as much and as often as possible, as this has the biggest impact on children's learning. All classes will have the opportunity to view the book fair prior to parents' nights on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. As always, there is no obligation to buy books, but we are providing the opportunity for parents who wish to encourage reading for pleasure.



### Winter Weather

As the winter weather approaches, and mornings are becoming darker and wetter, I would ask that children, particularly on wet mornings arrive at school just in time to enter their classroom at 9.00am. Unfortunately, supervision is limited, and we will only be able to allow access to the building for pupils from 8.55am onwards. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this.



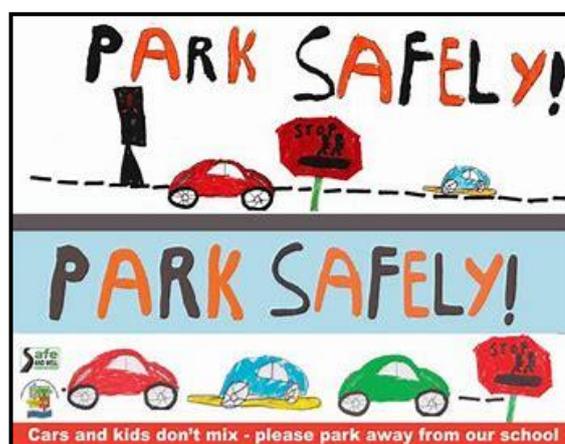
A few members of our parent council along with myself, met with Police Scotland and representatives of Ayrshire Roads Alliance to consider possible additions to roads around the school. The following key areas are being explored:

- \*Designated road markings as safe crossing areas for crossing patrollers
- \*CCTV cameras
- \*Vehicle activated signage/speed signs in Hillfoot Road
- \*Flashing crossing patroller lights were installed at both sites
- \*Unannounced visits from Police Scotland re speeding and parking
- \*Unannounced visits from Parking Attendants

Ultimately, unless certain drivers reflect on **HOW** they drive and **WHERE** they park around the school - sadly, it is only a matter of time before a child or adult will be seriously injured.  
**DON'T LET IT BE YOUR FAULT!**

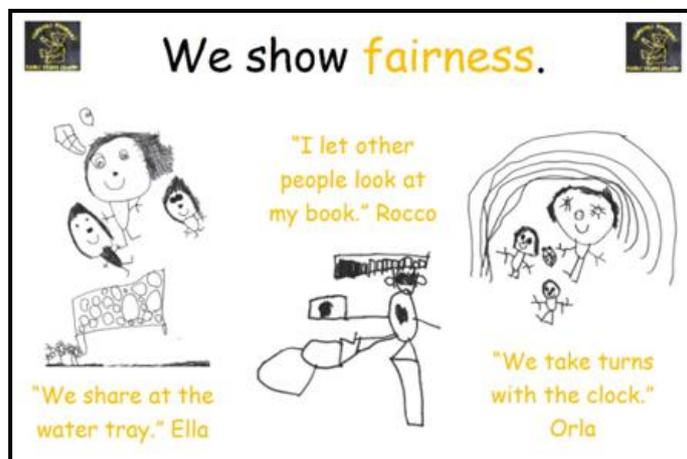
**Showing Respect to Each Other**

Sadly, I have had a number of reports from parents and crossing patrollers about the way they are being spoken to by other parents. I know people are trying to assist us with the parking issues, but being abusive to others is not helpful or indeed in any way acceptable.



## Our School Values

The children in our EYC have been discussing our school values and made these fantastic posters which are proudly displayed in the school and Nursery. Please take time to look at these the next time you are in.



## Pantomime Visit

This year, we are looking forward to having M&M productions in the school with their Pantomime "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" This will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** for our EYC and P1-4 classes. Donations from our parent council will allow us to keep the charge for this as little as possible. More information about this will follow.

## Cinema Visit

On **22<sup>nd</sup> December**, our P5-7 classes will make a visit to the Odeon Cinema. The children are currently voting on the film they would like to see. Donations from our parent council will allow us to keep the charge for this as little as possible. More information about this will follow.

### Party Dates

Due to the additional holiday on **23<sup>rd</sup> December**, our P1 Party will now take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at 1.30pm, and our P5 Party will now take place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

### Church Service

Our Christmas Service will take place in Castlehill Church on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** at 9.45am. P1-7 Children will walk to and from the church. Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

### Holidays

The school will now close for the Christmas break on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** at 2.30pm

### Keeping in Touch

Regular updates on what is happening across the school can be seen on the Groupcall Xpressions App, our Facebook Page and on our twitter pages.

Facebook: @forehill50  
Website: [www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk)  
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary  
Nursery Twitter: @ForehillN

As you see, we have quite a busy term ahead.

Should you have any queries in relation to any aspect of your child's learning or wider school life, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks &  
Kind Regards,



David Watson  
Head Teacher

# Diary Dates

Please find attached, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, I will keep you informed of other important dates.

Date	Times	Who	Details
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	6.30pm	Parents	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> November	All	P1-3	Shared Learning - work home
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> November	All	P4-7	Shared Learning - work home
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00am	P6	Hospice Winter Fair - Choirs
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Head Pupil	Remembrance Service
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Various	All	Book Week Scotland
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Various	EYC	Nursery Rhyme Week
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Various	EYC	Phunky Food Parent Drop In
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> November	3.30pm - 5.00pm	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
	6.00pm - 7.30pm	Parents	Parent & Teacher Meetings
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	11.30am	P6 Parents	YMI Showcase - Hall
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	All Day	All	Flu Immunisations
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> November	All Week	All	Scottish Poetry Week
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	6.00pm	All	Christmas Fair
w/b Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Various	EYC	Family Stay and Play Sessions
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	Choirs	Cluster Concert - Town Hall
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	P2 & P3	Christmas Party
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.45am	P1-7	Christmas Service - Castlehill
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> December	12.00	All	Christmas Lunch
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> December	7.00pm-9.00pm	P7	P7 Christmas Party
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.00am	EYC - P4	Pantomime in School
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.00am	P5-7	Visit to Cinema
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Various	EYC	Nursery Re-opens (52wk attendance)
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm	P7	P7 Family Burns Supper
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	All Day	All	World Book Day

Tue 21 - Thu 23 March	Days	P7	Inverclyde Residential Visit
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> March	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Week	P1-7	Reports Issued to Parents
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> May	6.00pm	All	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> June	3.45pm	All	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Two Weeks	All	Feeling Good Fortnight
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Visits to Secondary School
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am	P1-6	Bump Up Morning
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Visits to Secondary School
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm	P1-3	P1-3 Sports Afternoon
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	11.00am	P4-5	P4-5 Sports
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	1.30pm	P6-7	P6-7 Sports
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	All	Closing Service - Castlehill
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes

