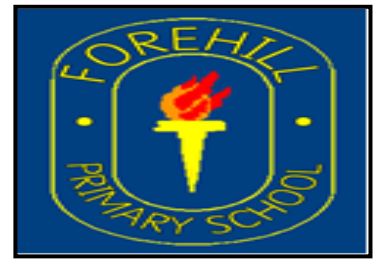


Forehill Primary School

NEWSLINK

February 2023



It seems no time since we returned from our Christmas break, and we are already in February. Please find included in the newsletter, some important information about what is happening in our school in the weeks ahead.

Primary 1 Registration

Primary 1 registration took place recently. This year again there has been high demand for places in Primary 1 for August 2023. More information will be issued to parents when the whole registration and placing request process is complete.

Early Years Registration

On-line registration for places in our EYC for session 2023-24 will be open **6th March 2023**.

In Forehill we are able to offer a range of attendance patterns, which can be viewed on the website. Parents should register on the South Ayrshire Website by using the link below:

[Register for Early Learning and Childcare - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

We would ask that parents note the following points:

- *Places for Early Learning and Childcare are not allocated by school catchment areas.
- *Places are allocated according to our admissions priorities and not on a first come first served basis.
- *To complete the application, you will need to have: a scan or photo of your child's birth certificate and a scan or photo of Proof of residence (current council tax notice or recent utility bill)
- *All children even if currently in nursery will require to complete an application for next year.
- *When will my child be eligible to start early learning and childcare?

4 Year Olds: If your child's date of birth is on or between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 He/she will be eligible for a funded early learning and childcare place from August 2023

3 Year Olds: If your child's date of birth is on or between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021 He/she will be eligible for a funded early learning and childcare place as follows:

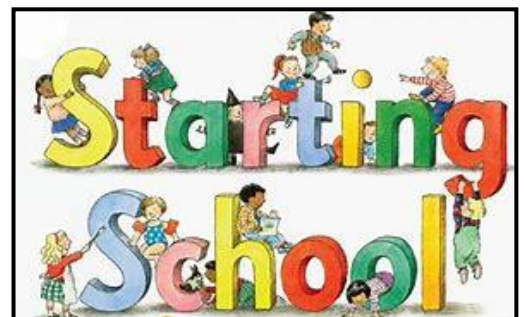
1st March-31st August - from August 2023

1st September - 28th February 2024 - First Monday after their third birthday.

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

Meetings for Parents of New P1 and EYC Children

We normally hold meetings for parents of children starting EYC or starting P1. This session, these meetings will take place on the evening of **Wednesday 24th May**. Parents of children starting Nursery will meet at 6.30pm. Parents of children starting P1 will meet at 7.30pm



Parent Pay

All parents should have now received information about Parentpay which is an app for you to manage any payments being made to the school for lunches, trips etc. If you have experienced any problems with this, please contact the school office for assistance. It is important that **all** parents have access to this as we will soon be unable to accept cash for trips, outings etc.

Parent Council

Our Christmas Fair in December was a huge success, raising £3,900. A fantastic total. It was great to see the hall so busy and a Christmas Buzz back in Forehill again. The next meeting of the parent council will take place in the school on **Thursday 2nd March at 6.30pm**. All parents are invited to take part in this meeting and it is always great to have new faces and new ideas. Should you wish to attend, please contact the parent council for more information. The e-mail address is: forehillpcfrg@gmail.com

Assessments

Teaching staff continue to assess children's progress on an ongoing basis. This is based on classwork, homework, discussions and of course formal assessments. The information gathered helps us to measure your child's progress in line with what is expected nationally. Over the next few months, we will be undertaking a number of computerised assessments with children in Literacy & Numeracy. We will then use the results of assessments to ensure all children are supported and challenged in their learning at their own pace. Children develop at different rates, and staff will continue to ensure learning is relevant and appropriate for each individual child.



Learning Together Dates

Our learning together sessions before Christmas went really well and it was great to see so many parents in the school, learning alongside the children. The next set of dates for all classes is noted below. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible:

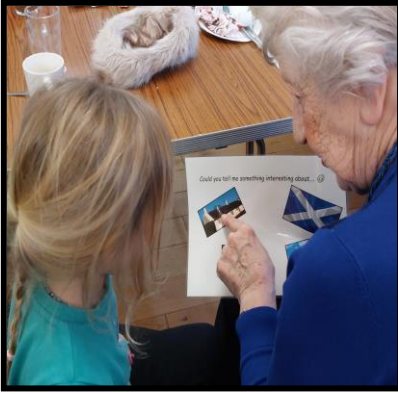
Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	w/b 13 th March	Various	P3Z	15 th March	2.00pm
P1	13 th March	2.00pm	P4	30 th March	9.30am
P2S	14 th March	2.00pm	P5	30 th March	2.00pm
P2K	16 th March	2.00pm	P6	29 th March	9.30am
P2/3	15 th March	2.00pm	P7	28 th March	2.00pm
P3C	17 th March	9.30am			



Sports Hall Athletics

Our Sports Hall Athletics team recently won their heat in the South Ayrshire Competition. This secures them a place in the event final, which takes place soon. Well done to all children involved and also their coach, Mrs Sutherland.

Early Years Centre - Intergenerational Working



Some of our children from the EYC have been undertaking some intergeneration work with our friends at Castlehill Church. The children have had the best time singing, chatting and learning from many of the senior citizens who attend the groups. We hope to be able to continue these visits in the weeks and months ahead.



South Ayrshire Food Bank - Primary 4

As part of their work on the local community, our P4 classes are once again making collections for the South Ayrshire Foodbank. Donations can be sent to the school between **Monday 27th February** and **Friday 17th March**. Donations of UHT milk, fruit juice, tins of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, custard, packets of sugar, boxes of cereals, rice, potatoes, biscuits, pasta etc. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Staffing Update

The number of Forehill babies continues to rise! We are delighted for Mrs Reith and her husband and for Mrs MacGibbon and her husband, who are expecting new additions to their respective families later in the school session. Mrs Reith will begin her maternity leave on **27th March** and Mrs MacGibbon will follow nearer the end of term. Further information for parents of children in these classes will follow.

Primary 1R Parents' Night

Due to Mrs Reith beginning her maternity leave in March, an opportunity for P1R parents to speak to her about their child's progress will be provided on **Monday 6th March** between 3.30pm and 5.00pm or **Tuesday 7th March** between 6.00pm and 7.30pm. More detailed information for parents in P1R has been issued.

Senior Citizens' Spring Tea

We are opening our doors to invite senior citizens within the community to a Spring Tea, which will take place in the school on the morning of **Monday 20th March**. All children have received a letter about this, asking them to identify local senior citizens and relatives they would like to invite to this event. Please ensure any names and addresses are passed back to the school by Friday 24th February.

Football Teams

Mr McDowall, Mrs Ogilvie, Mr Reid and Mr Daily have been working hard with both our football teams who continue to have outstanding success in many of the games they have played. The sportsmanship, skill and teamwork shown by the boys and the girls in their respective teams is outstanding. Well done to them all, and of course the coaches who work with the teams each week and the parents who assist with transport to away games. Fingers crossed our successes continue.

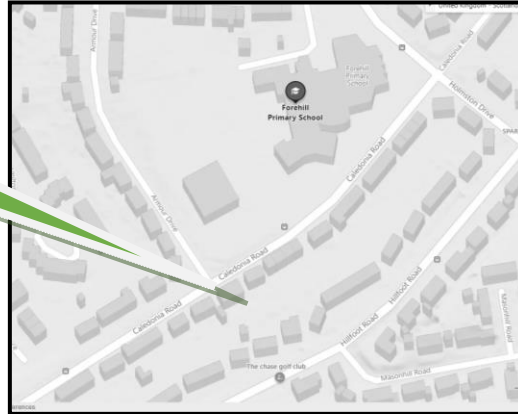


Early Years Centre Car Park

Due to the number of drivers driving with no consideration for the fact children are about, double parking, parking on pavements, grass etc, I have taken the decision as from **Monday 9th January**, the car park will be for staff and blue badge holders only.

As of Monday 9th January, we would ask that parents park legally beyond the junction for Armour Drive and Caledonia Road, and enter the EYC by the entrance from the pavement at the corner of Armour Drive/Caledonia Road. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

Please enter and leave the EYC by path here.....



Parking

We continue to work with colleagues within Ayrshire Roads Alliance to look at ways to address the ongoing traffic issues around the school. Following a number of meetings, it has been agreed that new red zones would be painted on roads at the designated crossing sites on Hillfoot Road and Caledonia Road. Flashing signs will also be installed at these sites to control speed and alert drivers that children are crossing. However, the main problem continues to be the inconsiderate and dangerous parking by some parents when collecting children from school. I am indebted to those who DO park legally, ensuring everyone's safety. Please stop and reflect - which do you do?



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Rehearsals have now started for our school show - Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which takes place in the Gaiety Theatre on **Thursday 8th** and **Friday 9th June**. We have an amazing, enthusiastic group of 90 young people and countless staff members taking part and who have given the huge commitment to many rehearsals, learning lines, dances, songs but most of all - having lots of FUN! Tickets will be on sale soon, directly from the Gaiety Theatre box office.

Cycling Helpers

Mrs Baines is soon to organise our Bike Ability Sessions for P5-7 pupils. The success of this programme relies heavily on adult support. We are looking for any parents, grandparents or friends who would be willing to give up some time to assist. Please feel free to contact the school office, and someone will get in touch with you.

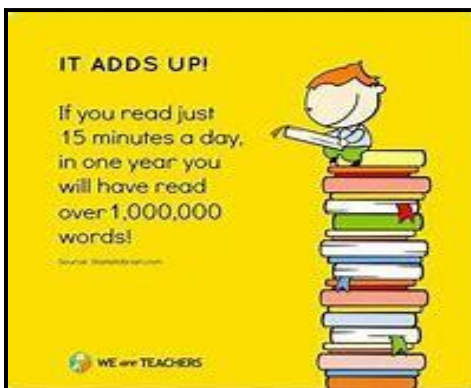
Family Burns Supper

Our P7 family Burns Supper took place in the school last Thursday evening. This was really well supported, with over 160 people attending. Mrs Paterson, Miss Price and the young people in P7 did a fantastic job of organising this. The children chaired the evening, wrote and delivered speeches, performed poems and songs and generally had a fantastic night. It was great to be able to have parents and friends back in the school for events like this. Well done everyone!



Church Collection - Ayrshire Cancer Support

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas celebration at Castlehill in December and contributed to the amazing £223 collected at the door. Our Head pupils have been discussing this and have decided to donate this to Ayrshire Cancer Support. One of our staff, Mrs McSheffery is a loyal volunteer for this charity, transporting local people to hospital appointments. Well done and thanks everyone!



Reading at Home

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

P7 Visit to Inverclyde

Our P7 classes will take part in a residential visit to Inverclyde Sports Centre from Tuesday 21st March through to Thursday 23rd March. This is normally a fantastic opportunity for our young people, who get to participate in a range of sports activities. A parent meeting will take place on **Tuesday 7th March** at 6.00pm. Parents of all children participating are asked to attend this.

Homework

We are sadly seeing a slight decline in the number of children satisfactorily completing homework tasks and would ask for increased parental support in this area - particularly in upper stages. Homework is an extension of learning undertaken in school and provides an opportunity for parents to see the kinds of things children are learning during the day. We would not expect children to spend unreasonable amounts of time on homework as we recognise family life is busy, and children have a range of other activities out with school. However, we would ask that parents support us in ensuring set homework tasks are completed and returned on time. This also helps to create good work habits in children, which will extend to secondary school and beyond into the workplace in later life.



We are trying to develop different ways to help and support children and families within Forehill. We greatly appreciate the donations of Christmas jumpers and Hallowe'en costumes and know that they will be well received when offered out later in the year. We have a good stock of school clothes and jackets in our uniform bank, ready for recycling. If you feel your child would benefit please either drop us a note, phone or ask at the school office if you would like to see what is available. We have also made links



with South Ayrshire Council's Information and Advice Hub which is committed to giving **free, confidential and impartial** information and advice to people living in South Ayrshire. We have offered the staff from the Information and Advice Hub the use of our Lifelong Learning Suite with the hope that this will provide families within our school community a more personal and responsive support service. Information on the Advice Hub was sent, with a link to request an appointment, via the Xpressions app. **Please be assured that anything discussed with advisors will be confidential and information will not be shared with school staff.** We understand that the cost of living crisis will be affecting many of our families and we have a few, discrete ways of supporting children in the school - if you have anything worrying you regarding this, please get in touch and we will try our best to find a way to help.

PE Kits

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

Golf

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



Early Years Centre Swimming

Some of our pre-school children from our EYC have been offered the opportunity to participate in a block of swimming lessons at the Citadel Leisure Centre. This is a great opportunity for some of younger children in Forehill.

New School Nurse

We are delighted that Jolene Wilson has been appointed as our new School Nurse. We look forward to working with Jolene, who I know will be keen to support children and families where possible. Should you wish to speak to Jolene for any advice, please contact the school office in the first instance.



Ordering School Meals

All children in P1-7 will, on arrival at school have the opportunity to choose what they would like for lunch each day. This will be done using the active panels in classrooms. Alternatively, parents can also order using the parent pay app. Information about this has already been e-mailed to all parents.

Sharing Information With Parents

Can I please remind all parents the majority of communication is sent to parents through Groupcall and by e-mail? If you are not receiving information from the school on a regular basis, please let the office know so we can ensure you receive all letters and information being sent out.

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

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

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

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

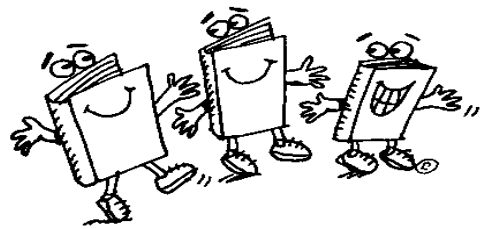
Many thanks &
Best Wishes,



David Watson
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Class	Details
Mon 6 th February	All Day	P5-7	School Show Auditions
Tue 7 th February	2.30pm/ 6pm	P1-3	Parent Reading Roadshow
Fri 10 th / Mon 13 th Feb	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 14 th February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Fri 24 th / Mon 27 th Feb	All Day	P1, P7	Dental Checks
Thu 2 nd March	All Day	All	World Book Day
Thu 2 nd March	6.30pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Mon 6 th March	3.30pm	P1R	Parent/Teacher Meeting
Tue 7 th March	6.00pm	P1R	Parent/Teacher Meeting
Tue 7 th March	6.00pm	P7	Inverclyde Parent Meeting
Mon 20 th March	10.00am	-	Seniors Spring Tea
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 1 st May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 8 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 22 nd May	Week	P1-7	Reports Issued to Parents
Fri 26 th / 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 23 rd 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

