

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
March 2023



A very warm welcome to the many new children and families who have joined us in Forehill over the past few weeks. As we approach the Easter break, lots has been happening in our school, with lots more to follow. I would encourage you to take note of the many dates and events coming up. 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.

Early Years Centre Care Inspectorate Visit

Our Early Years Centre had a recent visit from the Care Inspectorate, which has confirmed for us, the very high quality of care and learning the staff work so hard to provide for all the young people who attend. Once the report is finalised, this will be shared with all parents and carers. I would like to congratulate the staff, young people and parents on a very well-deserved positive inspection.

School Uniform Reminder



Across the school we are grateful to the high number of parents who support us by ensuring children wear appropriate school uniform. A gentle reminder that black leggings, converse boots and sports tops are not appropriate uniform items. We would ask that all children wear dark trousers or skirt/pinafore, white shirt/tie or polo shirt, grey jumper/cardigan/school sweatshirt. Many thanks for your support with this.

Uniform Bank

Our uniform bank continues to be available in the school and has a supply of pre-loved uniform items for all ages. Should you wish to make use of this facility, you can do so by contacting Mrs McDowall at the school in complete confidence. Our thanks to those parents who have donated items to this - they are being put to great use. Thankyou!

Food Bank

As part of their learning about the local community, our P4 classes have been collecting donations of food to support the South Ayrshire Foodbank. As always, we thank all parents and friends for their kindness and generosity. Our friends from the food bank will visit the school next week to collect donations received.



Inverclyde Residential Visit - P7

Our P7 pupils head off for their residential visit to Inverclyde Sports Centre this week. It is great to be able to offer these opportunities once again. We know the children and staff will have an amazing time taking part in a whole range of new experiences. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Parent Council - URGENT!



As children and families move on, the number of parents involved in our parent council is falling, so to ensure the group continues to thrive, we urgently need to find new parents to become involved. The group is made up of parents who are genuinely interested in making a difference for the young people in Forehill - a friendly, welcoming group who share and enjoy many laughs together! As well as fundraising, there

are opportunities to have discussions about the wider life of the school, school improvement and how we can work together to support learning at home. I would ask that you consider coming along - don't leave it to everyone else.

Our parent council will next meet on **Thursday 4th May at 6.30pm** in the school. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come along to be involved, bringing new ideas and suggestions.

Plans are under way for Easter Craft Bags for EYC-P3 children and already a number of events are being planned for the summer term. Our Summer Fair will take place on **Friday 16th June** - please save the date! If you are willing to get involved, to continue the amazing work the group do - please return the parent response sheet at the rear of the newsletter.



Easter Activities

Our parent council have put together Easter Craft Kits which are available for children in the EYC, P1, P2 and P3 to purchase to have some fun over the Easter break. Each pack costs £3. Order forms have been issued to children in these classes. All orders should be returned with payment by 24th March.

Easter Trail

An Easter trail, similar to the Hallowe'en and Christmas ones will be in place over the Easter Break. This is free, and trail maps and sheets will be available to the children prior to the school closing on **31st March**.

Easter Celebration

Our P4 classes will lead our Easter Celebration in the school on Friday 31st March. Due to limited available space, we are unable to invite parents to this. However, as part of learning together, our P4 parents are invited to attend the rehearsal, which will take place in the school on the morning of **Thursday 30th March**, starting at **9.30am**.

P7 Leavers' Hoodies

Order forms and information about hoodies will be issued to all P7 children on their return from Inverclyde. Order forms should be returned to school by **Wednesday 19th April** and payment should be made through the ParentPay App by this date too. Unfortunately, any orders or payments made after 19th April cannot be accepted. Should you have any queries about the hoodies, we would ask that you contact Mrs Gibson in the school office.

Learning Together Dates

Our learning together sessions continue to be well attended - thank you! It is great to see so many parents in the school, learning alongside their children. The remaining dates for this session are listed below:

Class	Date	Time
P4	Thursday 30 th March	9.30am
P5	Thursday 30 th March	2.00pm
P6	Wednesday 29 th March	9.30am
P7	Tuesday 28 th March	2.00pm

Homework Tasks



A few parents have asked for some clarification around homework tasks. Following a parent survey a few years ago, the majority of parents were keen that pupil homework was set at the start of the week, to be returned the following week. This created a bit of flexibility for parents to support learning at home around the range of other family activities.

Class teachers will continue to provide a range of home learning activities which we would ask parents to ensure are completed and returned. In P1-3 this may be in jotters, on websites or a

reading task. In Primaries 4-7, homework tasks will also be set in jotters, but will also be set through Microsoft Teams. Homework tasks set via Teams are part of class learning and should be completed when set. These are normally uploaded at the start of the week, but there may be times they are not showing until the middle of the week. Homework tasks build on and extend learning in class and show the range of learning being done in class.

Forehill Family Forum

A reminder that this month sees the launch of our Forehill Family Forum which will bring parents from our EYC to P7 together to learn about the variety of supports that are available within our school community and beyond. It is hoped that this group will also build a supportive network for parents and carers who are living through similar experiences. Our first session will be held on Thursday 23rd March at 6pm and will focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Caroline Connell from the ASD Outreach Team will be on hand as well as Celine Dyer from Sassy Penguins, also known as the South Ayrshire Autistic Society.

Please email Jennifer.Mulholland@south-ayrshire.gov.uk to let us know if you plan to attend and don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions prior to the event. We look forward to seeing many of you there for an informal, informative session and a cuppa.

Talk for Writing

This session has seen us embark on a new process for teaching writing called 'Talk for Writing'. Our classes have been busy learning about different story types and elements of language and have been using their knowledge to up-level their own writing. Classes have also been orally learning quality texts, known as 'Model Texts', before using what they have learned from authors to create quality pieces of writing. I know from talking to some of our parents you may have heard versions of these at home! We will continue to keep you updated on our progress as we move forward with Talk for Writing.





Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Our P5, 6 & 7 pupils are working so hard during rehearsals for our school show, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which takes place in the Gaiety Theatre on **Thursday 8th** and **Friday 9th June**. Over 90 young people and countless staff members have already given a huge commitment to rehearsals, learning lines, dances, songs, costume making but most of all, having lots of FUN!

Children in P1-7 will have the opportunity to see the show on the morning of Thursday 8th June, with the EYC seeing the show on the morning of 9th June. Tickets are selling fast and are on sale directly from the Gaiety Theatre Box Office.

School Show Sponsorship

As you would expect, the costs involved in putting on a show in a professional theatre are quite incredible. The additional cost this year is our main star of the show - "Chitty." We are reaching out to parents who work for companies or own companies who may be interested in sponsoring the show, or the car? If you know of anyone in this position, we would ask that you contact Mr Watson at the school for more information.

Staged Intervention Plans

We have made some changes to our Staged Intervention process. In the past, plans would have been created for pupils in June, October and February and would have been sent home to parents at each of these periods. Moving forward, new plans will continue to be created in June and October with an interim Staged Intervention meeting taking place between teaching staff and Mrs Mulholland in March. These meetings will allow for staff to provide feedback on children's progress as well as the outcome of the targeted Staged Intervention parent teacher meetings that took place in February. Any changes to children's plans will be sent home to parents. As always, should you have any queries about any aspect of your child's support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Assessments

Children in P4 and P7 have started on-line 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. Children at other stages will also undertake assessments after Easter. Should you have any questions about these, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

How Do I know my Child is Making Progress?

Some parents have asked for more information about how we measure the progress children are making with their learning, and what the different levels mean. I am in the process of organising a short on-line session for interested parents, which will take place on **Thursday 27th April at 6.30pm via Microsoft TEAMS**. This will provide an opportunity to hear about this and to ask any questions you may have. Please keep the date free! A reminder will also be sent nearer the time, with the link to join the meeting.



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. We would welcome your feedback, by returning the parent response sheet attached at the back of this newsletter. The areas we may wish to consider include:

- *Nurturing the emotional wellbeing of our children
- *Additional support in Numeracy, Mathematics, Reading & Writing
- *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

World Book Day 2023

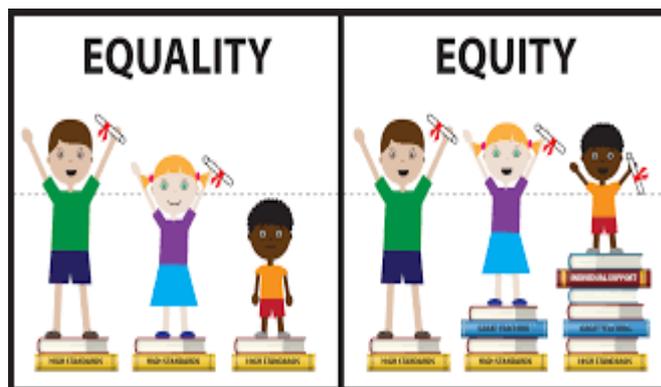
We recently celebrated world book day across the school and were delighted to have local children's author Marion Husband in school working with our Primary 6 pupils. The children had an amazing morning with Marion, learning about the writing process. Across the school, all other classes took part in a range of fun learning experiences linked to a number of books. This is helping to foster a keen interest in reading for pleasure. All photos of these events were shared on our Facebook page.

Road Safety Magic Show

Our P1-4 classes recently enjoyed a visit from The Road Safety Magic Show. This helped reinforce the road safety message to all our young people in a fun and engaging way.

Keeping Children Safe

We are seeing a significant increase in the number of parents coming to the school fence during breaks to bring children treats, but more recently - to issue medicine. Parents have also removed their children from the playground to speak to them. As we work hard to ensure the safety of ALL children, can I remind parents that this is not acceptable. Under no circumstances should medicine be issued to children over a fence, or should any pupil be removed from the playground prior to the parent speaking with a member of office staff, who would be happy to assist. It is important we know all children are safe at all times throughout the school day, and thank you for your support with this.





PE Kits

We would ask that parents ensure ALL children have a PE kit in school for PE days. This should include shorts, shoes and if outdoors - jogging trousers.

An increasing number of senior pupils are choosing to wear fitness fashion items like crop tops, tight vest tops. These are not appropriate for PE. We would ask that girls ensure hair is tied back on PE days. Thanks for your support.

Gymnastics

Our gymnastics team represented the school at the recent South Ayrshire Gymnastics Competition. The children returned with a number of medals, Well done to Mia, Layla, Poppy and Paige who achieved 2nd place in the third level team event, to Ollie, Juliette and Mya who achieved 3rd 4th and 5th for the best overall performance, to Ollie, Lilly and Holly for achieving 3rd place in the Pre-level team event and Mia, Leah, Juliette and Ilaria for achieving 2nd place in the pre-level team event. Well done to everyone!

Sports Hall Athletics

Huge congratulations to our P7 pupils who won the South Ayrshire Heats of the Sports Hall Athletics Competition. The group went on to represent South Ayrshire at the Scottish Final and were placed 5th out of 10. Well done to all young people involved and to Mrs Sutherland, their coach. A great achievement!

Football

Our football teams are playing exceptionally well - great skill and teamwork from all teams. Our main team is now through to the semi-final of the Mackie Cup. My thanks to the coaches - Mr McDowall, Mrs Ogilvie, Mr Daily and to the many parents who assist us by transporting the teams to away games. Watch this space for future scores!

Tennis

Congratulations to Charlotte M, P7R who came first in the Ayrshire Schools short tennis open championships girls' singles. An amazing achievement - well done Charlotte!

Alloway Burns Club Burns Supper

Four of our P7 pupils represented the school at the recent Alloway Burns Club Schools' Burns Supper in Ayr Town Hall. Mia B, Blair P, Anna M and Gemma C did an amazing job presenting the Immortal Memory. Well done to our young people on an amazing job, and to all friends at Alloway Burns Club for organising the event.

Music Festival

We are delighted to have so many children once again participating in the Ayrshire Music Festival. Congratulations to our music making group, which consists of over 90 young people singing and playing instruments. Well done to Laura P (3rd =), Charlie W, Blake M (2nd), Godwin S, Mia B, Emily G, Mia F (1st), Lucy B and Ayla T, who all played in the string competitions. Special thanks to Mr McDowall and all instrumental teachers for their support in preparing the young people for this competition. Well done everyone.





Baby News

Mrs Reith, one of our P1 teachers begins her maternity leave at the end of this week. I know you join me in wishing her and her family all the very best for the forthcoming happy event. Ms Cathcart, who has been on maternity leave for some time now will return to work after Easter.

Painter Volunteers

As the better weather hopefully appears, we are looking for a few willing parents or grandparents who would be able to assist us to paint some of the wooden furniture we have outdoors - to help protect and prolong its life. If you would be willing to assist by donating some time - we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office. My thanks to those who have already made contact. We will be in touch shortly.

Bikes/Scooters



It is great to see so many children coming to nursery and school on scooters and bikes and we know as the good weather arrives, there will be more children doing this. However, we would ask that children do NOT ride these in the playground, when other children and parents are around. **Children should enter the playground through their designated gate and NOT through the EYC car park.** There have been a few near accidents, which we would like to avoid. Walking or scooting to and from school helps in cutting down the number of cars trying to park around the school, and is a much healthier option. Please give this some thought!

School Meal Charges

As part of the 2023-24 Budget agreed by South Ayrshire Council, school meal prices will increase by 20p. Primary School meals will increase from £2.15 to £2.35. Price increases will take effect from 1st April 2023.

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.



Early Years Centre Car Park

Following previous requests to all parents, I would politely remind you that the Early Years car park is for staff use and blue badge holders only. Despite several requests and reminders, some parents still choose to abandon cars on verges or in front of gates to drop off or collect children from nursery or from school. This is not acceptable or indeed safe so would ask for your co-operation with this.

Feeling Good Fortnight

Following the amazing success last session, Mrs Baines is once again beginning to organise our Forehill Feeling Good Fortnight, which will take place from **12th June to 23rd 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 - 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.

Class Structures Session 2023-2024

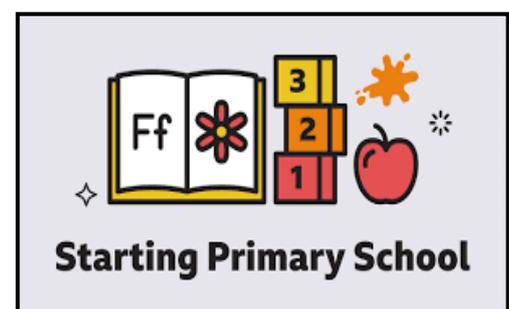
The school roll continues to grow quite significantly as we welcome many new children and families into the school community. We will soon begin to look at class structures for next session, and as you know, the structure of the classes in the infant department changes year on year due to the numbers of children we have in the school and the maximum class sizes. This year we also have an additional P6 class, and the structure at this part of the school may also change. In addition, there may also be a need to make an additional P4/5 class. 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 in term 4.

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, starting on **Friday 19th 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

A meeting for parents of children moving into Primary 1 in August will take place in the school on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30pm. This is a meeting for adults only and children should not attend. All information about children starting school will be provided, along with an opportunity for parents to ask any questions and meet P1 staff.



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 next session is planned for **Wednesday 24th May at 6.30pm**. This is an adult meeting and children should not attend. All information about children starting nursery will be provided, along with an opportunity for parents to ask any questions and meet the early years staff.

Social Media

In Forehill we continue to see 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 problems.



Group Photos - Early Years Centre

Tempest photography will visit the EYC on Wednesday 19th April to take group photos of all children. More information will follow.

Free School Transport - Session 2023-2024

If you think you meet the set criteria and may be entitled to Free School Transport and have yet to apply, applications should be submitted via www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/28205/Free-school-transport

All applications must be submitted by **30th April**. If you do not have access to complete this form online we can complete the online form on your behalf. This can be done by contacting our Central Education Transport Team on 01292 616634/612285 during the hours of 10:00am - 12:00pm and 14:00pm -16:00pm, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

Holiday Information

For children attending our Early Years Centre on a term-time basis, the nursery will close on **Friday 31st March at 2.30pm** and re-open on **Monday 17th April**. For those attending on a 52 week pattern our Early Years Centre will be closed only on **Friday 7th April** and **Monday 10th April** only. Our primary department P1-7 will close for the Easter break on **Friday 31st March at 2.30pm** and re-opens on **Monday 17th April 2023**.

It has been a busy term, but great to be able to have parents and friends back into the building again. The staff will join me in thanking you for your on-going support, and wish you all a pleasant and relaxing Spring break.

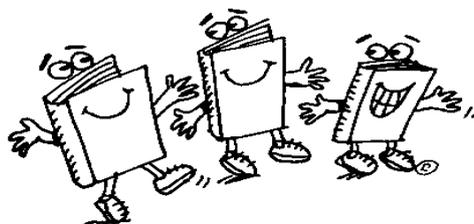
Many thanks &

Kind Regards,

David Watson
Head Teacher



DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Tue 21 - Thu 23 March	Days	P7	Inverclyde Residential Visit
Thu 23 rd March	6.00pm	All	ASN Family Forum Meeting
Thu 30 th March	9.30am	P4	P4 Parent Easter Assembly
Fri 31 st March	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 17 th April	9.00am	All	School Re-opens
Thu 27 th April (TEAMS)	6.30pm	All	Pupil Progress Q&A Session
Mon 1 st May	All Day	All	School Closed
Thu 4 th May	6.30pm	All	Parent Council AGM Meeting
Mon 8 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 19 th May	PM	New P1	Induction Visits Begin
Mon 22 nd May	Week	P1-7	Reports Issued to Parents
Wed 24 th May	6.30pm	New EYC	New EYC Parent Meeting
Wed 24 th May	7.30pm	New P1	New P1 Parent Meeting
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
Wed 14 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
Fri 16 th June	6.30pm	All	Summer Fair
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 - March 2023

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent Council

I would / would not like to become involved in the parent council, to ensure the group continues to run.

How do I know my Child's Making Progress?

I would / would not like to take part in the on-line discussion about levels, assessment and how we measure progress.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

My ideas for this are.....

Parent Learning & Support:

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

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: