

Forehill Primary School
NEWSLINK
November 2023



I can hardly believe we are in Term 2, beginning to think about and plan events in the lead up to Christmas. I would encourage you to make a note of the dates of the many things happening in the life of the school in the weeks ahead, and where possible, get involved.

Junior Leadership Team



Congratulations to our senior pupils appointed as our Head Pupils and House Captains for Session 2023-24. I know each and every one will be a great ambassador for the school and undertake all that is asked of them with great enthusiasm and pride.

Head Pupils:

Lois C, Ellie B, Blake Mc, Charlie W, Taylor-James E, Lucy D

House Captains:

Joel Mc, Hayden D, Beth P, Jack N, Riley Mc, Ruaridh W, Mya D, Charlie L



Open Morning - Parents - Tuesday 14th November

Between 9.15am & 10.45am, our gym hall will be host to a marketplace of stalls set up with information on different organisations. Family members will be welcome to wander round and speak with any representatives to find out more information as to what they can offer you and your young person/people. This will hopefully provide valuable information on what support is out there for you to access. It really will be a great way to find out more about health and wellbeing support in Forehill and the wider community. A number of partners will be in attendance, and include:

ASN Outreach Team	Thriving Communities
Nurture Outreach Team	Sassy Penguins
Penumbra	Forehill Library
Barnardos	Women's Aid
Young Carers	Quit Your Way
Sleep Scotland	Ayrshire Hospice
Active Schools	Aberlour
ASN Family Support	School Nurse and Campus Cop



Learning Together Dates

Each session, we invite parents into classes to participate in learning activities with the children. These have been very successful in the past and allow parents to see the range of learning taking place. The dates for this session are noted below:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	w/b 6 th November w/b 4 th March	Various Various	P3Z	Wed 6 th December Thu 25 th April	2.15pm 9.15am
P1M	Tue 5 th December Thu 25 th April	2.00pm 9.30am	P3G	Tues 5 th December Fri 26 th April	2.15pm 9.15am
P1T	Thu 7 th December Thu 25 th April	2.00pm 2.00pm	P3C	Tues 5 th December Fri 26 th April	2.15pm 9.15am
P1F	Mon 4 th December Tue 23 rd April	2.00pm 9.30am	P4 Classes	Tue 21 st November Tue 5 th March	9.30am 9.30am
P2L	Tue 5 th December Thu 25 th April	9.30am 2.00pm	P5 Classes	Fri 24 th November Tue 5 th March	9.30am 9.15am
P2P	Tue 5 th December Wed 24 th April	9.30am 2.00pm	P6 Classes	Thu 23 rd November Thu 7 th March	11.15am 2.00pm
P2M	Tue 5 th December Thu 25 th April	9.30am 2.00pm	P7 Classes	Wed 22 nd November Wed 6 th March	2.00pm 2.00pm

Christmas Fair

Our 2023 Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 1st December, starting at 6.00pm. As always, there will be a range of stalls, activities and perhaps a few special visitors. 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. If you are able to offer some help - setting up, manning a stall for a short time or helping to tidy up, please drop the parent council an e-mail: forehillpcfrg@gmail.com or phone the school office with your availability. Together, we can achieve great things!



Many Hands Make Light Work



I am disappointed to hear a number of parents are being quite vocal about events and activities we are **not** running in school. As you will understand, staff will organise and run what they are able to, but many of these activities also require parental support. Unfortunately, that support is not always available or forthcoming. We do have a number of parents including our parent council who do so much for the school, going above and beyond to help and support in a number of ways - but **they** cannot do everything. Instead of taking to social media to complain, I would encourage you to consider what **you** could offer as we work in partnership to provide the best experiences we can for all our young people and families.

Book Week Scotland: 13th November 2023

Reading has such a positive impact on all aspects of learning. In Forehill, we work extremely hard to encourage our young people to read as much as possible. As part of this, all classes will work with Mrs Wright, one of our school assistants who will talk about our school libraries and will focus on "author of the month"

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, and have lots of simple suggestions for activities to undertake at home. Each P1 child will be presented with their bag next week and will open it with their P7 buddy who will read the books with them.



Reading Survey

As part of our School Improvement Plan for Session 2023-2024 we are focusing on building upon our culture of reading. Part of this is understanding the reading patterns of our pupils to allow us to offer experiences tailored to suit the requirements of our learners and their families. We would appreciate it if you could follow the link <https://forms.office.com/e/tksWWWbqc4> and complete our short questionnaire.

Night Before Christmas Campaign 2023



Along with our pupil council, Mrs Fyfe and Miss McAlindon are inviting everyone in Forehill to contribute to the **Night Before Christmas Campaign** which helps children in poverty across South West Scotland by providing them with a 'red bag full of joy' for the night before Christmas.

If you can, we are asking for donations to be sent into the school. These donations will then be passed onto the Night Before Christmas Elves who will make up the red bags and then distribute them to local families. Let's make children and families smile this Christmas.

You may wish to send in a few items for a specific age of child. The suggested items which **must be new** are toys (e.g. cuddly toy, lego, doll), toiletries, a storybook, a colouring book and stationery, hot chocolate, sweets, pyjamas, hats, scarves and gloves etc. In a similar way, you can focus on gifts for a teenager or a vulnerable adult. Gifts could be sets of toiletries, perfumes, candles, hats, scarves, gloves, handbags, games etc.

'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'.

We are conscious many families are struggling at the moment, but know our Forehill families are always so kind in supporting others. We would ask that any donations are sent into school by **Tuesday 28th November**.

As always, any help is so greatly appreciated. More information can be found on their website: www.nightbeforechristmas.co.uk

Scottish Poetry Week



Our Scottish Poetry week takes place in the week commencing 27th November. All children in all classes will explore a poem and will be asked to learn this as part of on-going classwork. Those who wish, can then enter the class competition to identify 6 finalists from each class. Judges will visit classes on Wednesday 29th November and select a winner and runner-up from each class. These children will perform their poems to the whole school at our special celebration assembly later in the same week.

Bikeability Training

Mrs Baines is always extremely keen and willing to run Bikeability for pupils in P5, P6 and P7. However, this is becoming more and more challenging due to the number of adults which need to be present and the number of sessions required to reach each level.

We are beginning to plan this for the new year, but we require a number of adult helpers in order to proceed. If this is something you would be willing to get involved in, I would ask you to contact Mrs Baines through the school office. We are able to offer full training for what I am confident you will find an enjoyable and rewarding experience.



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. 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.

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 2023

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 12th November**. The children will lay a wreath on behalf of the school community. This is always a very special and moving event. My thanks to the parents of our head pupils for allowing them to participate in this.

Medicines in School

We have a number of pupils across the school who require medicine during the school day including inhalers, insulin etc. It is important that parents do not send medication of any sort (including paracetamol, calpol etc) to school in pupil bags or give medication to pupils over the school fence during breaks. We would ask that the relevant paperwork is completed and parents contact the school office with any queries around medicine of any kind. We appreciate your support as we work to ensure all young people are cared for and safe.



Sportshall Athletics

Many congratulations to our Sportshall Athletics team, who won the first South Ayrshire heat at the Citadel on Friday. We are delighted for Mrs Ogilvie and our young people.

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. Thanks to generous donations, we now have a stock of new and pre-loved uniform items parents are welcome to take. We hope many families will take advantage of the savings to

be made. Items are available from the trays and stands at the main entrance. 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 throughout the month of 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 the Christmas Fair and 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.



Lost Property

We are once again, gathering a significant amount of lost property, with no names. These items are being stored in the boxes at the main reception area. I would encourage parents to have a look in these boxes for any lost items. These are usually cleared out at the end of each term.

Staff News

A very warm welcome to Mrs Heather Ball, who joins our school assistant team. Congratulations also to Miss Kerr, one of our teaching staff who is now the proud mummy of a gorgeous baby girl.

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 £2297 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 2024

Following the huge success of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, we are looking forward to starting rehearsals for our 2024 School Show, which will take place in the Gaiety Theatre in June. Rehearsals will start early in the new year. Watch this space for more information.

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. We have already contacted parents of children where attendance is causing concern.

Informing School About Pupil Absence

We would ask that parents inform the school office as early as possible when their child will be absent from school for any reason. Where parents choose to inform us by text through groupcall, this must be done by 9.15am, otherwise a telephone call to the office should be made to ensure the absence is recorded in the correct way.



Dogs in School Grounds

Can we please remind parents that dogs should not be brought into the school playground.

We have had reports from some parents and local residents about the number of dog-walkers who are not removing dog mess from public paths around the school. We would ask that you continue to report this to the local council by contacting: 01292 618222 or e-mailing: environmental.health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Primary 7 Science Ambassadors

We are proud of our first group of primary 7 Science Ambassadors Skye, Lucy, River, Rii, Darcie, Blake, and Poppy who are helping to organise and run a Science Club for Primary 3 pupils on a Tuesday after school. Some great fun and great learning taking place.

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.

McDougalls Christmas Show: EYC - P3

Children in our EYC and P1-3 classes are going along to the McDougall's Big Christmas Show in Troon Town Hall on the morning of Wednesday 13th December. More information for parents will be sent separately.

Pop-Up Cinema Visit: P4-7

Our P4-7 children voted to visit the local cinema as a Christmas Treat, but unfortunately, the company who have purchased the Odeon have now informed us they are unlikely to be open in time for Christmas. We have however, invited a company into the school on the morning of Tuesday 12th December. They will transform the hall into a cinema and children will have a choice of films. Children will be welcome to bring along cushions, blankets etc for this activity. More information will follow.

Primary 1 Nativity

Our P1 classes are beginning to rehearse our Nativity, which they will perform at the church as part of our Christmas Service on the morning of **Friday 22nd December**.

Parents are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal, which will take place in the school hall on **Wednesday 20th December**, starting at 10.00am.

Church Service

Our Christmas Service will take place in Castlehill Church on **Friday 22nd December** at 9.45am. EYC and P1-7 Children will walk to and from the church. Parents and friends are welcome to attend. We would invite all children to bring a collection along.

Holidays

The school will close for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December at 2.30pm. Our EYC will remain open till the normal closing time for parents who require this due to work commitments. The EYC opens for children who attend a 52-week pattern, on Wednesday 3rd January 2024. The new school term begins for all other pupils on Monday 8th January 2024.

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.

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

We have a busy but exciting 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
Sun 12 th November	AM	P7	Head Pupils - Castlehill
Mon 13 th November	All Week	EYC-P7	Scottish Book Week
Tue 14 th November	9.15 - 10.45	EYC - P7	Parents' Wellbeing Marketplace
Thu 16 th November	2.00pm	All	Family Forum Meeting
Fri 17 th November	Various	P1-7	Shared Learning - Home
Wed 22 nd November	2.40 or 3.40	P1	Reading Workshop - Parents
Mon 27 th November	Various	All	Scottish Poetry Week
Fri 1 st December	1.45pm	All	Poetry Winners' Concert
Fri 1 st December	6.00pm	All	Christmas Fair
Sat 2 nd December	10.00am	Choirs	Hospice Fair - Racecourse
Sun 10 th December	6.00pm	Jr Choir	Hospice - Light Up A Life
Tue 12 th December	10.00am	P4-7	Pop Up Cinema Morning
Tue 12 th December	7.00pm	P6&7	Cluster Christmas Concert
Wed 13 th December	AM	EYC-P3	McDougalls - Troon Town Hall
Thu 14 th December	1.30pm	P6	Christmas Party
Thu 14 th December	7.00pm	P7	Christmas Party
Fri 15 th December	1.30pm	P5	Christmas Party
Mon 18 th December	1.30pm	P4	Christmas Party
Tue 19 th December	1.30pm	P3	Christmas Party
Wed 20 th December	10.00am	P1	Nativity for P1 Parents
Wed 20 th December	12noon	All	Christmas Lunch
Wed 20 th December	Various	EYC	Christmas Party
Wed 20 th December	1.30pm	P2	Christmas Party
Thu 21 st December	1.30pm	P1	Christmas Party
Fri 22 nd December	9.45am	All	Christmas Service - Castlehill
Fri 22 nd December	2.30pm	EYC/P1-7	School Closes
Wed 3 rd January	AM	EYC	EYC Re-Opens - 52wk Children
Mon 8 th January	AM	P1-7	School Re-Opens
Mon 15 th January	Various	EYC	Shared Learning - Home
Wed 31 st January	7.00pm	P7 Parents	P7 Family Burns Supper
Wed 7 th February	3.30pm	EYC- P7	Parent/Teacher Discussions
Mon 12 th February	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 13 th February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Tue 27 th February	TBC	P7	Ayr Schools Burns Supper

Thu 7 th March	6.30pm	P7	Inverclyde Parent Meeting
18 th -20 th March	8.30am	P7	Visit to Inverclyde
Thu 28 th March	2.30pm	EYC/P1-7	School Closes
Tue 2 nd April	AM	EYC	EYC Re-Opens - 52wk Children
Mon 15 th April	AM	All	School Re-Opens
Fri 26 th April	9.15am	All	Family Forum
Tue 30 th April	1.30pm	P1-3	Sports
Wed 1 st May	Various	EYC	Sports
Thu 2 nd May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Fri 3 rd May	11.00am	P4-5	Sports
Fri 3 rd May	1.30pm	P6-7	Sports
Mon 6 th May	All Day	All	EYC & School Closed
Wed 8 th May	All Day	P7	Live & Learn Visiting P7
Fri 24 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 27 th May	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 31 st May	PM	P1-7	Reports Issued
Tue 4 th June	TBC	All	Parent Appointments
Wed 5 th June	TBC	All	Parent Appointments
Fri 7 th June	9.15am	All	Family Forum
Mon 17 th -Fri 21 st June	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Fri 28 th June	9.45am	All	Closing Service - Castlehill
Fri 28 th June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes

