

*Forehill Primary School*  
**NEWSLINK**  
**February 2024**



Welcome to term three! Please find attached, information I hope you find useful, along with dates of various activities and events. We will continue to send out information to parents through the Parent App and e-mail. If you are not receiving information, we would ask that you contact the school office, who would be happy to help.

**Children's Mental Health Week 2024**



In 2015, **Place2Be** launched the mental health awareness week for children and young people to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year our school will be participating in the event which will run from **5th - 11th February**.

This year's theme is **'My Voice Matters'**. Children and young people who feel their voices are heard can make a difference, and have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

Through participating in CMHW our children and young people will have the opportunity to talk about and explore:

- What matters to them
- How they and other young people can use their voice to bring about change/make a positive impact in the school/community.

Through the learning opportunities in school, we also want to enable our children and young people to **say - and believe - "My Voice Matters"**.

The Place2Be website provides information for families, parents and carers so you can take part at home. The link has been provided below.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/#resources>

**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 the remainder of this session are noted below:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	w/b 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Various	P3Z	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am
P1M	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	P3G	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am
P1T	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	P3C	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am
P1F	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	9.30am	P4 Classes	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am
P2L	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	P5 Classes	Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am
P2P	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	P6 Classes	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm
P2M	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	P7 Classes	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm

## P7 Family Burns Supper



Our amazing P7 family Burns Supper took place in the school recently, with around 180 young people, staff and guests attending. Our young people and staff worked so hard to provide an outstanding evening of entertainment to celebrate our bard, Robert Burns. Our huge thanks to all our young people for their hard work writing speeches, reciting poems, singing and dancing - it was a truly special evening. Well done everyone!

## Early Years Registration



Registration for our Early Years Centre is now open and runs till **11<sup>th</sup> February**.

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 first come first served.
- \*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)
- \*A separate application is required per child.
- \*All children even if currently in nursery will require to complete an application for next year.

If you have any questions about this or are unable to complete the registration form online, please contact the office on 01292 612461 (option 2).



### Staffing News

Many congratulations to Mr McDowall and his wife on the birth of their new daughter, Amelie. We can't wait to meet her!

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Reith back from maternity leave next week.

### Attendance & Arriving Late at School

We continue to be concerned about the poor levels of attendance of some children. We have written to parents where we are worried, and will continue to monitor this carefully.

Unfortunately, we still have a number of children arriving at school late each morning. Can I please remind parents that school starts at **9.00am**, and the expectation is that children should be in their line ready to enter the classroom with their class.

### Absence from School

We would ask for your support in making sure you call the school office by **9.15am** if your child is going to be absent from school for any reason. Thanks for your help.



### Assessments

We are about to undertake a range of literacy and numeracy assessments with all children in our P2-7 classes. This will provide us with more detailed information about the progress each child is making with their learning. A few parents in the past have asked for more information about these assessments. A parent leaflet about assessment is available on our website.

In the past, the results across the school have been very encouraging. However, we continue to reflect on our approaches to continually improve what we do. We are using the results 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.

### PARKING

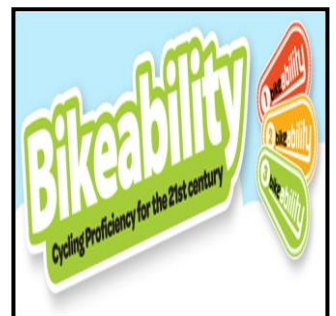
Despite our on-going requests for parents to park and drive respectfully around the school, many choose to ignore this and continue to drive and park as they please - causing significant danger to children and others.

REMINDER: parents should NOT be using the nursery or school car parks unless they are registered blue badge holders. Recently, we have had a number of parents of children with complex needs, who can't get into disabled spaces due to the inconsiderate behaviour of others. Act now!

### Bikeability Training

Each year, Mrs Baines provides the opportunity for senior pupils to participate in Bikeability programmes. In the summer term, we will be offering Bikeability part one to our P5 and P7 pupils.

Bikeability part two requires to be taught on road. However, due to the inconsiderate behaviour of drivers around the school, I have taken the decision not to run this programme. This is extremely disappointing, but I am not at this point prepared to put children or staff wellbeing at risk.





### School Show 2024

Rehearsals for our 2024 School Show, SHREK, are now under way. Our show will take place in the Gaiety Theatre in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> June. This is a huge commitment, but great fun. Tickets will go on sale directly from the Gaiety Theatre around Easter.



### South Ayrshire Girls' Football Trials

We are delighted to learn that three of our senior pupils: Ava, Emelie and Kayleigh have been successful in getting through to the second round of trials for the South Ayrshire Girl's football team. Well done to all three girls - watch this space!

### Strep A

We have had a couple of confirmed cases of STREP A in the school. As a result, we have contacted public health, who confirm there is no need to take any action at present other than reminding children about good hand hygiene, covering mouth when coughing etc.

More detailed information can be found on the NHS Inform website:

[Streptococcus A \(Strep A\) | NHS inform](#)

### Uniform



We are extremely proud of our school uniform, but have noticed some children are choosing to come to school wearing designer clothes and non-uniform items including leggings and hoodies. We would ask for your co-operation in ensuring children wear appropriate uniform to school. I have asked staff to remind children about the school's expectations about uniform. Thanks for your support!

As always, our Uniform Bank continues to operate and parents are invited to help themselves to items from the main reception areas. These are free, and some are brand new.

### Lost Property

We have gathered a significant amount of lost property, with no names. These items are being stored in the boxes at the main reception area. If your child has lost items of clothing, I would encourage you to have a look. These boxes will be cleared out after the February weekend break.

### Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that Lucas, one of our P5 pupils has now been signed by Ayr United Football Club. He has played for Troon Thistle for two years and moves to Ayr to continue his love of football. Well done Lucas!

### Youth Music Initiative

All our P3 pupils are currently working with Vicki Green, from South Ayrshire Youth Music, on the "Music Heroes" programme. The children will be developing their skills in singing and musicianship in a fun and creative way. The children are enjoying this programme.



### UWS Drama Workshops - P6P

Mrs Paterson and P6P are currently enjoying working with drama students from UWS. They will be working with the class over the next few weeks, exploring some interesting themes from our health and wellbeing programme

### P7 Parent Meeting - Inverclyde

A meeting for parents of children going to Inverclyde in March will take place in the school on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm**. At this meeting, more information about the trip will be shared, along with packing lists and the draft programme. Please put the date in the diary.

### Parent Council



Our Parent Council are delighted to have a number of new committee members, but are still very keen to have more parents involved in the amazing work they do to support the school.

".....We are very welcoming and open, appreciating any suggestions or ideas for future fundraising events. We normally hold four meetings per year and these are held in partnership with school staff, usually in the school staffroom. However, we are open to trying meetings via TEAMS if this would help to increase numbers and make it easier for people to attend.

We also have a small fundraising group who take the lead with events etc. We are very keen to hear from more people about what they might like to take place within the school.

We are a very friendly, welcoming and open group of parents covering the Primary and Nursery settings. If you have anything you would like raised, then please let us know via our email, or better still - please come along to our next meeting, which will take place in the school on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 6.30pm....."**

### Holidays

The school will be closed to all children on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**.

### 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  
School Twitter: @ForehillPrimary

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

As always, should you wish more information on anything in our 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 Baines
Primary 3:	Mrs Mulholland
Primary 4:	Mrs Mulholland
Primary 5:	Mr Watson
Primary 6:	Mr McDowall
Primary 7:	Mrs McDowall

Many thanks &  
Kind Regards,



David Watson  
Head Teacher



# Diary Dates

Date	Times	Who	Details
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	P5-7	Auditions - Shrek
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	6.30pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> February	TBC	P7	Ayr Schools Burns Supper
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	P7	Inverclyde Parent Meeting
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	All	World Book Day
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	P5	Visit to Stirling Castle
18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am	P7	Visit to Inverclyde
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	All	Seniors Spring Tea
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	P6	Visit to New Lanark
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm	EYC/P1-7	School Closes
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	AM	EYC	EYC Re-Opens - 52wk Children
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April	AM	All	School Re-Opens
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am	All	Family Forum
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> April	1.30pm	P1-3	Sports
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Various	EYC	Sports
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	11.00am	P4-5	Sports
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	1.30pm	P6-7	Sports
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	EYC & School Closed
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Am	EYC	Visit to Maritime Museum
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	P7	Live & Learn Visiting P7
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Am	EYC	Visit to Maritime Museum
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30pm	EYC	Meeting for New EYC Parents
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	P1	Meeting for New P1 Parents
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	School Closed
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	School Closed
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	PM	P1-7	Reports Issued
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> June	TBC	All	Parent Appointments
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	TBC	All	Parent Appointments
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15am	All	Family Forum
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Various	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	All	Closing Service - Castlehill
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes