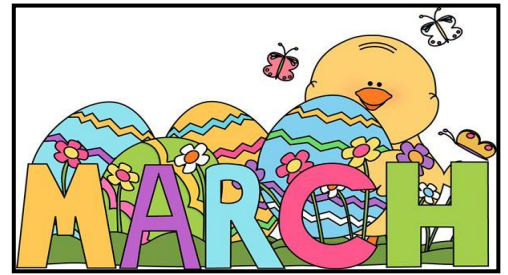


*Forehill Primary School*  
**NEWSLINK**  
**March 2024**

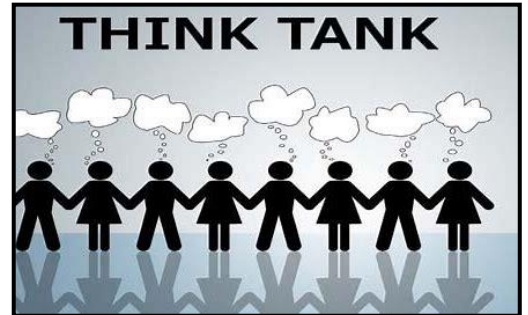


Welcome to our March edition of Newslink. I hope you find the information in it useful in keeping you updated about past and future events in our school. As always, we would encourage you to get involved where you possibly can.

**Parental Think Tank – Cuppa & Scone**

We are always keen to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in supporting the work of the school, as your views are important to us. As we begin to explore improvement priorities for next session, we would invite you along for a cuppa a scone and a “Think Tank” where you would be invited to share your thoughts and ideas which will help us shape our plans for next session. We Are running two of these, and they will take place

**on: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 9.15am**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm**



**Parent Council Easter Events**

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.00am – 1.00pm	Easter Egg Hunt
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.15pm – 7.15pm	P1-3 Easter Disco
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.45pm - 8.45pm	P4-7 Easter Disco

Our Parent Council have organised a few events at the school in the lead up to the Easter break. Information about these has been shared

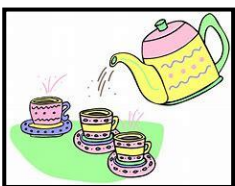
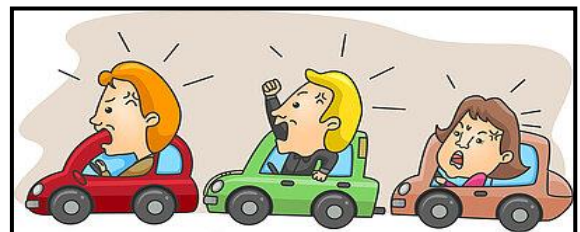
through pupil schoolbags and on social media. I would encourage you to support these if possible. The group have had offers of help for the Discos, but still require some assistance for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you can help, even for a short time, please contact the school office.

**End of Term Service**

Our Primary 4 children and staff will once again lead our Easter Assembly in the school, but due to the number of pupils in the school and limited space, we are unable to open this service to parents and friends. However, parents of our P4 children are warmly invited along to the school to see the final rehearsal on the afternoon of **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm.**

**Dangerous Parking Around the School**

Sorry - No lengthy appeal about dangerous parking this month – please, just **STOP IT!**



**Senior Citizens’ Spring Tea**

Our Spring Tea for Senior Citizens will take place in the school at **10.00am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.** Our Choirs, music making group and instrumentalists will perform at this event. Please note this is by invitation, and only for senior citizens.

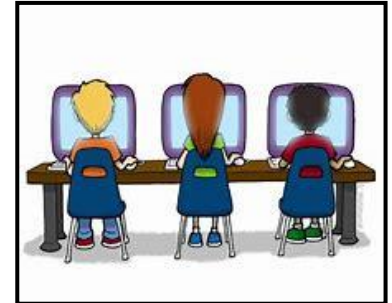


### Senior Choir and Music Making Group

Parents of children in our Senior Choir and Music Making Group are invited along to the school to hear the children perform at **11.45am** on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. Mr McDowall has already issued information to parents about this.

### Assessments

Children across the school are currently undertaking a range of electronic assessments to assess progress in reading, writing and mathematics. These are undertaken as part of normal class learning activities and the results will support teacher judgements about pupil progress. They will also provide useful information to teaching staff as they begin to write pupil reports. Should any parent have any queries about these assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.



### Alloway Tunnel Project

We were delighted so many of our young people were involved in films to support the Alloway Tunnel Project. Information about this and the recordings can be found by following the links below:

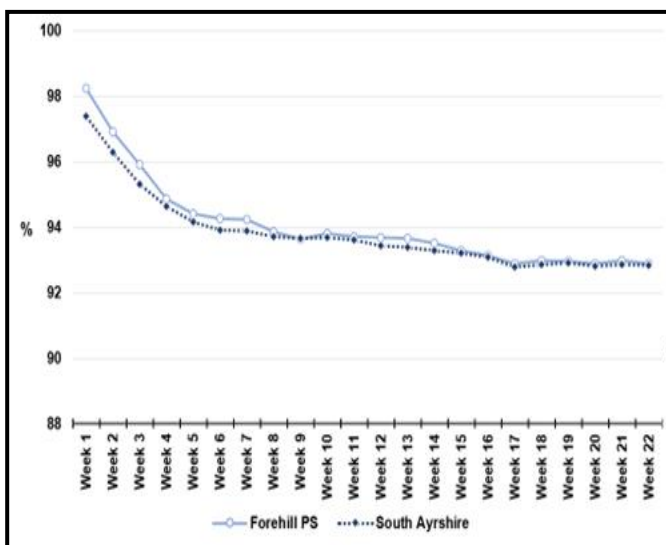
[www.allowaytunnel.org.uk](http://www.allowaytunnel.org.uk)

[www.youtube.com/@AllowayTunnelProject/featured](https://www.youtube.com/@AllowayTunnelProject/featured)

### Approaching Children in the Playground

As you would expect, the safety and wellbeing of our young people when in the school is of paramount importance to all staff and of course all parents. All our P1-3 children are brought and collected each day and I am aware that a few parents also bring their P4-7 children to school and wait in the playground. There is no problem with this. However, can I please highlight it is **NOT** appropriate for any parent to be challenging or giving any other child into trouble in the playground for something they **may** have said or done. Should you have any concern, this should be reported to a member of staff who will deal with the issue appropriately. Thank you for your support.

### Attendance & Arriving Late at School



We continue to be concerned about the poor levels of attendance of some children and families. As you will see from the graph attached, attendance in Forehill continues to fall, and this is alarming.

This has an impact on the progress children can make with their learning.

I would ask that parents work with us to ensure children attend school each day, unless they are genuinely unwell. Several children and families have regular days off, meaning gaps begin to show in learning. I would ask for your support as we work together to improve this in Forehill.

**Uniform**

My thanks to parents who ensure their children wear school uniform daily. As you know, we are proud of our school uniform and would ask that parents support us by not allowing children to wear leggings, hoodies, and jeans to school. As a gentle reminder, the expected uniform is as follows:

Grey or Black school trousers or skirt, school polo shirt and Forehill Sweatshirt or white shirt, school tie and grey school jumper.

**Catching Children Read**

Staff across the school are continuing to work extremely hard to encourage our young people to read as much as possible. This can be reading novels, comics, newspapers, fiction books, diaries, magazines etc. Reading has such a positive impact on all aspects of learning and is the key to help children access all other areas of the curriculum.

We are asking parents to send us photos of their children reading at home. This can be on the couch, under the kitchen table, in bed, in the car, in the garden and... and ... and... We are planning to build up a display of these photographs and to run a competition to search for a photo of the most unusual place a child was caught reading! Please e-mail your photos to: [Forehill.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Forehill.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Forehill Library**

Awesome Reads @ Forehill Library  
(March 2024)



Luna Wolf, animal wizard, and her amazing powered-up animals return in an action-packed, wildly magical adventure! (7-10 years)



George and Harold, and their doubles, Yesterday George, and Yesterday Harold, have discovered something rotten in the state of Ohio, and it's smellier than a pile of putrid gym socks! (7-11 years)



Remi is frustrated and bored with fairy tales. They are all the same! But when she falls into the sleeping Beauty Fairy tale, she realizes she has a chance to make some important changes! (7-10 years)



Yoga Frogs love to have fun trying all the different yoga poses. Can you count the different yoga frogs, and try out all the yoga poses? (1-4 years)



This is the story of how May, Eric and Nuala uncovered a Nazi spy in England, solved a murder and joined the Ministry of Unladylike Activity. (8-13 years)



Emily and Birch explore a mysterious mansion in the woods! (5-7 years)

As part of our drive to improve reading across the school, all children will have the opportunity to visit Forehill Library – an amazing resource on our doorstep! The librarian there, Lisa Masiello is very keen to help us with this. She has highlighted a few good reads which some of our children may be keen to find.

**Learning Together Dates**

Our Learning Together sessions so far have been well attended by parents. The dates for the remainder of this session are noted below:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
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	P2P	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm
P2L	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	P2M	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm
P3Z	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am			



### Euroquiz Team

Mrs Paterson has been working with our Euroquiz Team to help them prepare for the South Ayrshire Euroquiz Competition, which takes place on **26<sup>th</sup> March**. I know our young people will work hard and will do our school proud.

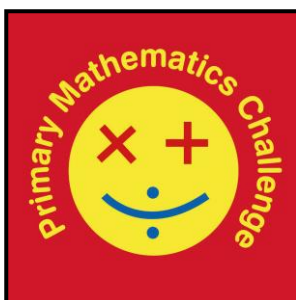
### Advance Notice: Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place in the school on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**. A few parents have asked about the possibility of telephone appointments as this worked best for them. This year, we are offering **both** options. A Microsoft form will be sent out via Groupcall and shared via Facebook. We would ask parents to select their preferred day and style of appointment. Exact times will be confirmed nearer the time. Where parents do not respond, an appointment will NOT be allocated.



### Pupil Equity Funding

Schools across Scotland receive additional funding, which enables us to provide additional support where it is needed most to help support poverty related underachievement. 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. An important part of the process is to consult carefully with staff, parents, partners and of course, the learners. I am keen to seek your views as parents, as to how we can best use and target this additional budget. An information leaflet has also been e-mailed to you today. We would welcome your feedback either in writing, by e-mail or at the Parent Think Tank mentioned above.



### Scottish Primary Maths Challenge

Several Primary 7 pupils have been working with Mrs McDowall to participate in the Scottish Primary Maths Challenge 2024. This engages children in a range of quite tough maths activities. Our P7 group have done extremely well this year with some currently sitting with full marks. Many congratulations to:

Jack N, Blake Mc, Skye Mc, Adam H, Mya D, Skye B, Thomas S, Megan S, Laura P, Zak M, Taylor-James E, Cameron K, Beth P & Lewis B.

### Staffing Information

We are delighted to welcome Miss Clark to our early years centre to replace Mrs Dixon, who has now started her maternity leave. I know you join me in sending Mrs Dixon our best wishes and look forward to meeting the new arrival.

### New Primary 1 Parents

Information about successful placing requests will be issued to parents once these have been processed at County Buildings. I am however, providing advance notice of a meeting for parents of children moving into Primary 1 in August. This meeting will take place in the school on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**. At this, all information about starting Primary 1 will be shared.



### Meeting for New Nursery Parents

Parents who have registered for a Nursery place in session 2024-2025 will receive confirmation of places offered on 19<sup>th</sup> April. If successful in securing a place, parents are invited to attend an information meeting, which will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm**. At this meeting, all information about starting nursery will be shared.

### School Show 2024: Shrek

Rehearsals for our production of Shrek are well under way. Children are working hard to produce what I think will be another wonderful show in the Gaiety Theatre.

Children in P1-7 will have the opportunity to see the show on the morning of **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. Our nursery children will get the same opportunity on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June**.

Tickets will soon be available for public performances directly from the Gaiety Theatre Box Office. Performances will take place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**, **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 10.00am** and **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm**.



### Ayrshire Music Festival



Many congratulations to the many young people in the school who participated in and had success at this year's Ayrshire Music Festival. I am indebted to the children, their teachers, instructors and parents for the work they do in supporting this area of learning in Forehill. Congratulations to:

Junior Choir – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Ruby & Laura – 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Violin)      Lucy & Blake – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Violin).

Laura was also selected to play in the final concert of the festival – a great achievement!

### Bikes/Scooters in Playground

To ensure the safety of all adults and children in the playground at the start and end of the school day, can I please ask that parents remind pupils they should NOT be riding bikes or scooters in the playground at these times. We would ask that children dismount at the gates.



### Beat the Street

You may have seen lots of information through social media about the South Ayrshire Beat the Street initiative. This is a fun, free game to encourage children and families to walk or cycle more. We are delighted that Forehill Primary is taking part in this so would encourage parents to support their children to take part – helping Forehill to climb up the leader board. Get walking and cycling whenever you can.

### Lunch Choices

After choosing lunch at home or in the class each morning, many children are changing their mind and asking for something different. We have reminded children at assembly recently they should not change their mind, as this may result in certain items not being available for other children coming after them. We would ask that parents reinforce this message at home too. Many thanks!

## Class Structures Session 2024-2025



We are beginning to look at class structures for session 2024-25. As many of you will know, the structure of the classes in the infant department often changes year on year due to the numbers of children we have and the maximum number of children we can have in each class.

This year, we are also exploring the option of re-organising our P4 and perhaps P5 classes into smaller classes. This would be done through consultation with teaching staff, but always with a particular focus on the learning needs of each learner. I will of course keep parents informed as we progress with this and would welcome any thoughts of feedback from parents.

## Primary 7 Residential Visit

Our P7 children and six staff members head off on their residential trip to Inverclyde on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The children will have the opportunity to participate in cycling, watersports, gymnastics, team building and a range of other sports. We are hoping the weather is kind.

## ASN Family Support Network

The South Ayrshire ASN Family Support Network will next meet in Troon Town Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> May from 11.00am till 3.00pm. The theme this year is "Transitions" There is no need to book for this and all parents are welcome to pop along to link with a range of agencies and supports including Barnardos, Penumbra, DWP, Scottish Book Trust and many more. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/asn>

## Bookbags and Ties

This year our parent council have taken the decision to give each new P1 pupil a Forehill tie and each P7 pupil moving to secondary, a secondary tie. We have decided not to purchase book bags this year due to the significant increase in price.



## Keeping in Touch – Facebook and Twitter

We often post news, updates, and features on the school facebook and X (twitter) accounts. I would encourage you to follow us, to receive regular updates and information about what is happening in the life of the school:

Website: [www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk)  
Facebook: @forehill50  
X: @forehillprimary @forehillN

Our primary department closes for the Easter Holiday at **2.30pm** on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. We look forward to welcoming the P1-7 and children who attend the EYC on a term time pattern back to school on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** at the normal times. For children attending the EYC on a 52-week attendance pattern, the nursery will be open from **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** onwards as normal.

Once again, the staff will join me in thanking you for your on-going support and wish you all a pleasant and relaxing Easter break.

Many thanks,  
Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Watson'.

**David Watson**  
**Head Teacher**



# Screens Awareness Week 18 – 22 March 2024

## Spark a change for children, young people and their families



Screens awareness week aims to raise the profile of the impact screen use has on child development, health and well-being.

### Increased screen time:

can cause less time sleeping, poor sleep quality and excessive daytime sleepiness for children and young people

can cause lower levels of fitness and greater risk of obesity in children aged 0-18 years

can cause low mood and low self-esteem in children aged 0-18 years

can impact negatively on social skills and behaviour in children aged 0-7 years

can impact language development when used during the early stages of a child's life

is associated with a smaller vocabulary in children aged 2 when parents or carers spend long periods of time watching TV or on other electronic devices

Screen awareness week is an Ayrshire wide campaign led by Speech and Language Therapy, NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Public Health team in collaboration with the Health & Social Care Partnership's in East, North and South.

Scan the QR code here and tell us what activities you are planning without screens.



For more information visit our website

<https://www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/allied-health-professionals-ahps/speech-and-language-therapy/>



south ayrshire  
health & social care  
partnership



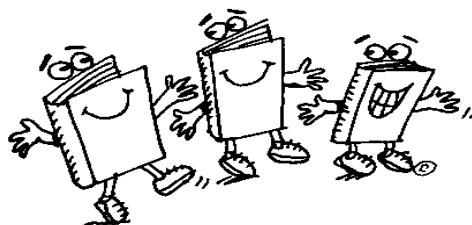
Follow us on Twitter @NHSaaa

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nhsaaa](http://www.facebook.com/nhsaaa)

Visit our website: [www.nhsaaa.net](http://www.nhsaaa.net)

All our publications are available in other formats

# DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	EYC	Visit to Rozelle
18 <sup>th</sup> –20 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am	P7	Visit to Inverclyde
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	AM	EYC	Forest School – Castlehill Woods
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	All	Easter Egg Hunt – P. Council
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	Various	Gymnastics Competition
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> March	AM	P6	Euroquiz Competition
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> March	PM	P7	Easter Maths Event – Kyle
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	P6	Visit to New Lanark
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm	P4	Parent Invitation to Assembly
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	All	Senior Citizens' Spring Tea
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	11.45am	Music	Choir/Music Making for Parents
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm	P1-7	School Closes
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	6.15pm	P1-3	Easter Disco
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	7.45pm	P4-7	Easter Disco
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	AM	EYC	EYC Re-Opens - 52wk Children
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April	AM	All	School Re-Opens
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April	AM	EYC	Tempest Photographer in EYC
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	All Day	EYC	Forest School – Castlehill Woods
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15am / 6.00pm	All	Scone & Cuppa Think Tank
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
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> May	6.00pm	All	Family Quiz Night
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
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	P2	Visit to Science Centre
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> May	7.00pm	P7	Kyle Info Evening – P7 Parents
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	P1-7	School Closed
Tu 28 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	All Day	P5-7	School Show Blitz Week
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	PM	P1-7	Reports Issued
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> June Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	TBC	All	Parent/Teacher Appointments
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Secondary Visits
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	AM	All	Bump Up Morning
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