

*Forehill Primary School*  
**NEWSLINK**  
**May 2024**



The summer term is well under way, with lots happening. I would ask that you take careful note of the information attached, including dates of various events. We look forward to seeing you at some of these.



### **Pupil Reports**

Pupil reports will be issued to parents of P1-7 classes by **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**. We would ask that parents, along with children, complete the response sheet and return this to class teachers as quickly as possible. Final reports for pre-school children within the Early Years Centre will be issued to parents in the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Parent' Night – Early Years Centre**

Our parents' night in our Early Years Centre will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** between **6.30pm and 7.30pm**. No appointments are needed for this, as key workers will be available to chat to parents about their children. We look forward to welcoming you to the school.

### **Parent' Night – Primaries 1-7**

Our parents' night for P1-7 classes will take place on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 3.30pm – 6.00pm** and then on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00pm till 8.30pm**. Those parents who have already requested an appointment will receive notification of their appointment times this week. Where parents did not respond to the original link sent out a few weeks ago, no appointment has been allocated.

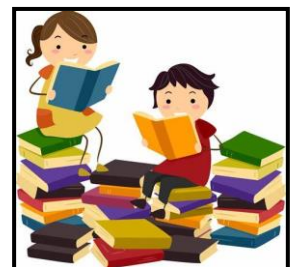
### **Book Fair**

As you know, we are keen to continue to encourage a love of reading at all stages across the school. At our parents' nights, the book fair will run in the main hall. All children will have had the opportunity to preview books with their class teacher. I would encourage you all to have a look and if possible, make a small purchase. The school library also benefits from all book sales.

### **Catching Children Read**

We are continuing to work extremely hard to encourage our young people to read as much as possible. This can include novels, comics, newspapers, fiction books, 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)



### **National Standardised Assessments for Scotland**

All children in P1, P4 and P7 have been undertaking standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy, which will support staff in confidently making judgements about pupil progress. These are computerised assessments and will be supported by class teachers and School assistants. Primary 4 and Primary 7 children have already completed these, and Primary 1 children will complete these over the next few weeks.

## Summer BBQ & Fair

Our Summer BBQ and Fair takes place in the school on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**, from 6.00pm till 9.00pm. This is always a great evening but relies on the support of many helpers to make it happen.

We still need more volunteers to help set up, run, and tidy up on the night. If you can spare an hour or so, please get in touch.

Time slots for volunteering are 5.00 - 6.00, 6.30 - 7.30, 7.30 – 9.00.

Should you be able to offer any assistance at this event, our parent council would love to hear from you. Please drop them an e-mail at: [forehillpcfrg@gmail.com](mailto:forehillpcfrg@gmail.com) Don't leave it to everyone else – please take your turn to benefit your child and their school.



## Strong Culture of Respect

Within our school, we always encourage our young people to treat each other with respect, and we presume this message is reinforced at home. Sadly, I have been made aware that certain parents are making use of class whatsapp groups to make highly inappropriate and extremely upsetting comments about other children. I find this particularly concerning and if honest, totally unacceptable. I'm sure you'll agree it shows a total lack of respect, with no regard to the upset and distress this causes.

## Class Structures Session 2024-2025

We have started to look at class structures for next session and 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.

I am keen to keep classes as small as we possibly can, and for next session, we are looking to re-organise our current P3 and P4 classes into smaller classes by creating an additional P4/5 class next session. This would be done with a particular focus on the learning needs of each learner and NOT solely by friendship groups. I would of course welcome any

feedback from parents, and we will encourage children to have some input to this process too.



## Staffing Information

We are currently working through the staff exercise for next session. As you will appreciate, this is not an easy task. Once we have all staff in post, I will then begin the task of allocating teachers to classes for next session. Once confirmed, I will then share this with parents in advance of our bump up morning.

## Primary 1 Induction Programme

Our new P1 children are already visiting us each week in preparation for starting Primary 1 in August.

Further visits will take place on Friday 31st May 1:35pm, Friday 7th June 1:35pm and Wednesday 12th June at 9:30am Children should attend nursery as normal and will be taken to these sessions by key workers. If your child does not attend on these days, they should register in the school gym hall.

## Bump Up



Our bump up morning will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June from 9.15 – 10.45am. Where possible, children will have the opportunity to meet their teacher for next session and take part in a few learning activities together.

P7 pupils will spend **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** at their secondary school as planned. Information has already been issued to P7 parents about this.

### School Show 2024: Shrek

Children in P5,6 & 7 are working hard in preparation for their production of Shrek, which will take place in the Gaiety Theatre in June. 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 are 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**.



### School Show Cast Information

Please note, there will be no school show rehearsal on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** due to parents' night. The rehearsal planned for **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June** will go ahead between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Rehearsal information thereafter is as follows:

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am – 2.00pm	All Cast	Forehill Primary
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	All: 3.15pm – 4.00pm Principals: 3.15pm – 5.00pm	All Cast	Forehill Primary
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm – 8.30pm	All Cast	Gaiety Theatre
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm – 8.30pm	All Cast	Gaiety Theatre
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	9.00am – 4.00pm	All Cast	Gaiety Theatre

### School Uniform

We continue to appreciate the support from parents in making sure ALL children wear school uniform. We are proud of this and would want this to continue. For a significant number of years, we have enjoyed a positive relationship with BE uniforms who have an online service and a shop in Dalblair Road. The quality of the uniforms is always very good. I have however been made aware of other suppliers who have started to produce uniform items branded with our school badge. These suppliers may be a lot cheaper, but we are uncertain about the quality of their products. I would ask that you ensure you are happy with the quality of any you purchase and that the items are the correct colour and style of our uniform. I would encourage you to make use of our current supplier, BE uniforms. Many thanks for your support.

### Lost Property

We have a significant amount of lost property, which is stored in boxes at the main reception area. We would encourage parents to have a look and reclaim any lost jackets or other uniform items. These will be on display at the parents' nights and will then be recycled or disposed of.



### Uniform Bank

Once again at Parents' Nights, our uniform bank will be available for parents to access. Please feel free to take and use any preloved or new uniform items you need.

As the summer approaches, we would love to receive any uniform items which you no longer need for your child. We would ask that these are in good condition and washed before being passed in. Many thanks for supporting this well used resource in the school.

## School Improvement 2024-2025

Each year, we produce a plan which outlines the things we want to change, develop, and improve. As a result of our self-evaluation, discussions with staff, parents, and pupils, I can confirm our main areas of focus for session 2024-25 include:



\*Reading – reviewing our approaches to the teaching of reading across the school.

\*Writing – continuing with our new programme Talk for Writing to support writing skills.

\*Maths & Numeracy – developing further staff approaches to this at all levels.

We will of course continue to provide opportunities for parents to be involved, contribute and participate in sessions which help you to support your child's learning at home.

## Happy Retirement

As you may have heard, Shirley Scott, one of our catering staff left Forehill on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to begin retirement. Shirley has worked in our school kitchen for many years and leaves huge boots to fill. I know you join me in wishing her well for a long, healthy, and happy retirement spent with family and friends.

## 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.



## Countdown to Summer

Mrs Baines is currently planning for our countdown to summer event, which runs from 3<sup>rd</sup> June through to the end of term. As part of this, our young people will have the opportunity to participate in a range of learning activities about mental health, physical wellbeing, being active, healthy eating and many more. As part of this event, children are invited to take part in a sponsored bounce.

## Celebrating Achievements

Once again, this year, we are proud to have a huge number of achievements across the school. These include Heartstart, Junior Sports Academy, Award of Ambition, Digital Leaders, Maths Challenge, STEM Engineering Awards, Wellbeing Bees, Lunch Buddies, and Playground Buddies. We plan to have a celebration assembly in the school hall on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. Due to the number of children, we have in the school, we unfortunately do not have the space to open this event to parents and friends.

Our nursery celebration day, for children moving to P1 will take place on **Wednesday 19th June**.

## Care and Community Fund

A huge thank you to Urquhart Opticians who have helped to support the EYC with a range of health and wellbeing opportunities through obtaining a successful grant application. Thank you for your support in the community.

## Outstanding People Awards

We are delighted to share that one of crossing patrollers, Mr Kenny Lucas, has received a Bronze Award as part of the South Ayrshire Outstanding People Awards 2024. This nomination was made by a parent, who recognises the contribution Kenny makes to the Forehill community. His commitment, cheery and helpful approach to keeping children safe is appreciated by many parents within Forehill. Well done, Kenny!



### **South Ayrshire Energy Calendar**

Many congratulations to Niamh Magee, P2L who has been identified as a winner in the South Ayrshire Energy Agency Calendar competition. Niamh will attend an awards ceremony in County Buildings later in the term.

### **Internet Awareness Information for Parents**



Our internet awareness session for parents took place on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> May via TEAMS. My thanks to Mrs Christie, our school development worker for organising this and to Paul Scully from the community learning and development team for running the session. The turnout was extremely disappointing, but we hope those who attended found it informative and helpful as we work together to keep our young people safe on-line.

### **Baby News**

Congratulations to Mrs Dixon, one of Early Years staff on the birth of her beautiful daughter Acé Anne Dixon, born on 13th April 2024. Also, we extend our congratulations to Mrs Dorman, one of our teaching staff, who will begin her maternity leave in the summer.

### **End of Term Celebration – 28<sup>th</sup> June Castlehill Church**

Our Closing Celebration will take place in Castlehill Church on the morning of **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June** at 9.45am. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend this celebration, which our P7 children will lead. This is normally a very busy service. Due to the growing size of the school, there is limited space. We would ask that no prams are brought into the church. Thanks for your support!



### **Auld Lang Syne**

As normal, our P7 pupils will finish the school year on **28<sup>th</sup> June** singing “Auld Lang Syne” in the playground. This will take place at **12.50pm** in the upper playground. Parents are welcome to attend.

### **Dogs in School Grounds - FOULING**

Can I please remind parents that dogs should NOT be brought into the playground at the start or end of the school day. I would also ask that dogs are not exercised in the playground or grass areas in the evenings. Sadly, more and more owners are allowing their dogs to foul in the playground and on the grass. Please share the message – this is a school, where children play. Their wellbeing is our concern. Many thanks for your support.

### **Parent Council AGM**

Our parent council AGM will take place in the staffroom on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm**.

Your input is important to us, please come along and play your part. It would be great to see some new and additional faces.

### **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

## Holidays

Please note the primary department will close to all pupils on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm**.  
The EYC will remain open throughout the summer for children who attend on a 52-week pattern.  
The school reopens to pupils on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

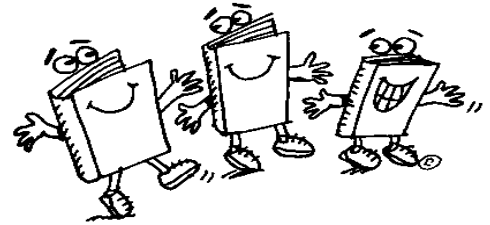
As always, my sincere thanks to all parents and staff who continue to offer their support to ensure Forehill is a school striving for excellence and continues to provide the best learning and opportunities possible.

Kind Regards,



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

# DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	PM	P1-7	Reports Issued
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> June Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	P1-7	Parent/Teacher Appointments
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm	EYC	Parent Drop In Session
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	6.00pm	All	Summer Fair/BBQ
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	P7	Secondary Visits
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15am	All	Bump Up Morning
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm	All	Parent Council AGM
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June	All Day	All	Sponsored Bounce
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Various	P5-7	School Show – Gaiety Theatre
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	EYC	Nursery Celebration Day
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm	P7	P7 Leavers' Party
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	All	Closing Service – Castlehill
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	1.00pm	P1-7	School Closes
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00am	P1-7	School Re-Opens