

*Forehill Primary School*

# **NEWSLINK**

**February 2018**

"Together we Learn  
Together we Achieve"

Welcome to the first edition of Newslink for 2018. This edition covers January and February and I hope you find the information useful and informative. As always, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## **Early Learning Centre - Registration - Session 2018-2019**

Registration for children requiring pre-school or ante-preschool places in Forehill Early Learning Centre, beginning in August 2018, will take place in the school Lifelong Learning Suite (accessed from main school entrance) on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** between **8.30am and 12noon** and then **2pm - 3.30pm**. Please note, children who attend as ante-preschool children this year are required to re-register for their pre-school year. Please share this information with friends and neighbours too.

***Birth certificates and proof of address must be presented.***

## **Thinking About Our School**



As you know, we are always interested to hear parental views on how we could do things differently. Pupil views are also valued and gathered. At a recent assembly, we were exploring some questions about the school with the children. These questions were:

**\*What is it that makes Forehill Unique?**

**\*If you could change one thing to make learning better, what would it be?**

I am keen to hear the views of parents on these two questions too, and would welcome any feedback on the slip at the back of the newsletter.

## **Showing Kindness to Others**

We were extremely touched at Christmas Time, when one of our Primary 6 pupils - Matthew Doolan, decided that instead of buying and sending Christmas Cards, he would donate the pocket money he would have used to buy cards, to the Salvation Army Foodbank. Well done Matthew - a really thoughtful gesture. This is just one example of the kinds of things the young people in Forehill do to show how caring and responsible they are. Well done everyone!

## **Children In Need**

A huge well done to Mrs Carswell and our pupil council in raising the magnificent sum of £1019 for children in need, just before Christmas. Well done - an amazing amount!



## Use of Social Media



We are aware that a large number of young people in the school are making use of social media including facebook, snapchat, Instagram, twitter etc. Whilst these tools can be useful, we are conscious that we are having to take time to deal with an increasing number of incidents where social media is being used inappropriately to send rude, threatening or unpleasant messages to others. Whilst the

school has a role to support parents by educating children in the safe use of these tools and in raising awareness of on-line safety, the parent is still fully responsible for what, how and when their child access these social media tools. The school has no control over this.

## Scottish Poetry

We were delighted to welcome Miss Richardson and Mrs Muir back to the school once again to judge our 2018 Scottish Poetry Competition. The class winner and runner up performed at our celebration event and certificates were presented to all winners. Once again, the standard was extremely high - setting Miss Richardson and Mrs Muir quite a challenge. Congratulations and well done to:

<u>Early Years Centre</u> Lily Paterson, Niamh Black Ayla Kelly, April Graham,	<u>Primary 4</u> Rhona McKinnon, Millie Morrison, Poppy Laing Ellie McCann, Craig Innes, Chloe Neil
<u>Primary 1</u> Mya Doolan, Blake McIntosh, Eve Swanson River Fox, Megan Scobie, Rylan McCulloch, Lewis Brown, Emily Sives, Beth Paterson, Israel Iroegbu	<u>Primary 5</u> Carter Kotze, Hannah Scobie, Katie Jopp, Stephen Fallon Kaitlyn Blane, Neve Paterson, Jamie Alexander
<u>Primary 2</u> Isla Howie, Mia Bersales, Charlotte Meek Ava Rodger, Daniel O'Loone, Abigail Jopp Lori Thorburn	<u>Primary 6</u> Elissia Love, Fraser Foakes, Daniel Meek Matthew Doolan, Erin Hughes, Sarah Strang
<u>Primary 3</u> Cody Prendergast, Jonathan McClung Hazel Peacock, Katie Reid, Lewis Brand Isla Payling, Nathan Clydesdale, Clara Sakeld	<u>Primary 7</u> Sajeel Tufail, Chloe Cairns, Murray Graham Holly Mackie, Chloe Reid, Aodan McGeechan

## Appointments During School Time

In our bid to improve attendance, we are noticing a significant increase in the number of children being taken out of school to attend a range of appointments - including dentist and hair appointments! Can I ask for your co-operation in making appointments where possible out-with the school day, at weekends or for holidays. This ensures children are not missing out on learning.

## Attendance & Late Coming

As part of the school's monitoring process, we track carefully the attendance and late-coming of all pupils. Where attendance levels drop below 90% for any reason, it is policy to write to parents to inform them of this. Equally, where children are consistently late, we write to parents about this. Good attendance and arrival at school on time has a positive impact on pupil attainment and achievement. Where attendance or late-coming falls below expected levels, Mr Daily, our development worker will make a home visit and work with parents to improve attendance levels. Where the situation does not improve, parents will be invited into the school to meet with the HT to discuss how we can support each other to improve late-coming and attendance of the young people.



## Developing the Young Workforce



To raise awareness with senior pupils, about the world of work, Mr McDowall is organising an event in the school on **19<sup>th</sup> March**. We are inviting parents from across the whole school and members of the community to come along, set up a small "stall" and speak with groups of 5/6 senior pupils at a time about their job, career and what skills they need for that line of work. We have done this before and this has been a really worthwhile event. I would encourage you to become involved as we try to get as wide a range of jobs and careers covered as possible. Please complete the slip at the back of the newsletter and return it to the school office. We will then be in touch.

## Learning Together Dates

We continue to invite you as parents into classes to take part in learning activities alongside your children. These have been very successful in the past and allow you to see the range of learning your child undertakes. Parents should report to the reception area of the school:

Class	Date	Time	Class	Date	Time
EYC	5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Various	P4	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00am
P1	Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> March	2.15pm	P5	Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm
P2	Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00pm	P6	Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2.00pm
P2/3	Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am	P7	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> April	11.15am
P3	Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am			

## Learning in classes

An outline of the learning being undertaken in each class this term can be found in each class page on our website, ([www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.forehill.sayr.sch.uk)) I would encourage you to look at this and talk about the learning with your child. Should you have any questions about any aspects of your child's learning please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

### **Forehill Family Fun and Fitness (FFFF)**

Our Family Fun and Fitness sessions continue to run in the school between **6.00pm and 7.00pm** each Wednesday evening. The aim is to provide an opportunity for parents and children together, to get involved in some fun activities to support health and wellbeing. Please come along and give it a try!



### **Outdoor Play Area / Trim Trail**

We are currently working with our Parent Council to raise funds to install a trim trail/play area in the playgrounds of the school. These cost a significant amount of money. Mrs Sykes, one of our parents is also supporting us in exploring possible grants and financial support from other areas. If this is something you could assist with, we'd love to hear from you!

### **Baby News**

Many congratulations to Miss Collins, who is now the proud mummy of a gorgeous baby girl. Lucy was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We look forward to welcoming them to visit the school soon!

### **Appeal for Help!**

Mrs Hamrouni, one of our teaching staff undertakes some art and craft work with pupils and is on the lookout for broken and unwanted jewellery, beads etc for an activity she is about to start with the children. If you are having a clear out and have some, please send these to school, where they will be gratefully received.

### **Bike-ability Cycle Training Assistants**



We are looking for parents/ guardians/grandparents/ adults from across the school to volunteer to help support Bike-ability Cycle training in the school. Each year as part of our Wider Achievement Programme and Health and Wellbeing curriculum we provide P5/P6 pupils with the opportunity to take part.

Primary 5 pupils take part in Level 1 training which takes place in the playground. Primary 6 pupils take part in on-road training. Due to the high numbers of pupils taking part in Bike-ability, training can only take place with the help of volunteers to ensure that we have the correct number of adult to pupil ratios. Ayrshire Roads Alliance will be running sessions for volunteers to take part in CTA training. On successful completion of the one day course, as a qualified Cycle Training Assistant, you will assist the school in delivering Bike-ability training to our P5/6 pupils with support from the school. Please see accompanying flyer for further information and details of how to volunteer to become a Bike-ability Scotland Instructor. Please contact Mrs Baines should you wish to discuss in more detail how we run Bike-ability training in the school.

### Five Minute Box

As you know, our teaching and support staff work extremely hard to ensure all children are supported to achieve their best. One approach we take is to make use of a resource called "The 5 Minute Box" which is an easy to use resource for any child who needs extra time to learn or to consolidate basic skills, and is used alongside the school's phonic reading and spelling programme. Mrs Hartley and Mr Daily are organising short information workshops for interested parents of children in P2-4. These will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2pm and 6pm. Should you wish to come along to this and see how you can best support your child, please indicate this on the slip at the back of the newsletter.

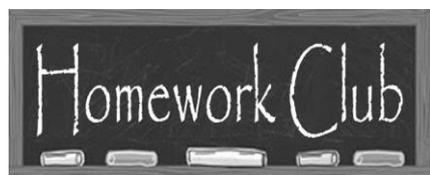
### Euroquiz

We are delighted that some pupils from our Primary 6 classes are preparing to participate in the South Ayrshire Euroquiz 2018, which takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. I know you join me in wishing our young people every success. Watch this space!

### Ayr Schools Burns Supper

Our head pupils will represent the school at the Ayr Schools' Burns Supper, which will take place in Ayr Town Hall on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**. They will join pupils from other Ayr Schools for an enjoyable evening.

### Homework Lunchtime Club



We continue to provide a Homework Lunchtime Club once a week for P4-7 pupils. P4-P5 can access the homework club on a Wednesday from 1.00pm - 1.30pm and P6-P7 can access the homework club on a Thursday from 1.00pm - 1.30pm. Teaching staff are in attendance at both clubs, to

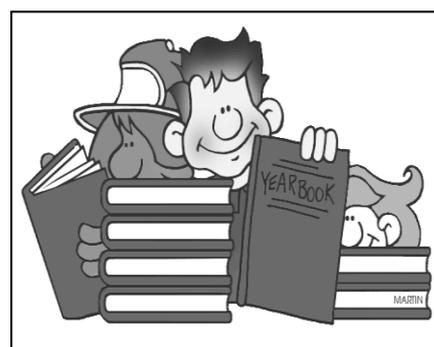
support the children in completion of homework tasks.

### On-Line Payments

You may have heard in the media of our move to introducing an on-line payment system, meaning parents, should they wish, can make direct payments for lunches, trips etc from their bank account to the school account. This should help to make things easier for everyone as well as reducing the risk of money being lost in transit to school. Further information will be issued later in the session.

### Year Book

As this is our 50<sup>th</sup> Year, we have decided to look at making a Year Book with some of the pupils across the school. We are delighted that Mrs McCubbin, one of our parents with a particular interest and skill in this area, has offered to assist. Should you be willing to get involved in working with some of the children to produce this, we would love to hear from you - please do get in touch!



## Film Stars

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Year, our P6 children and their teachers are currently working with Prancing Jack Productions to learn about film-making with the aim of working towards a finished DVD about the school -past, present and future! Should you, or anyone you know be willing to come into school to speak to the children about life at Forehill Primary in the past, we would love to hear from you.

## South Ayrshire Dance Competition

Well done and congratulations to our three Dance Groups who represented the school at the South Ayrshire Dance Competition on 12<sup>th</sup> December at Troon Concert Hall. During the event P2-7 pupils had the opportunity to watch and compete against schools from across South Ayrshire. We are extremely proud of all the pupils who took part and it was very clear that each and every one of them had worked hard during the lead up to the competition to ensure that they performed to a very high standard and made it possible for them to return to school with 2 trophies!

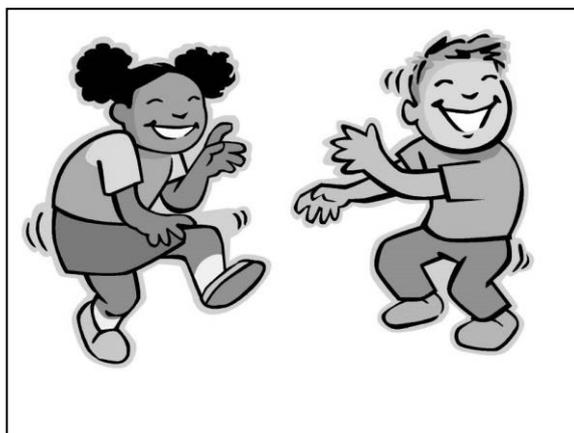
Group1, which was organised and run by our Primary 7 Dance Leaders won the Primary 1-3 category. Group 3 organised and run by Kyle Academy Dance Leaders achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the same category.

Our Primary 7 Dance leaders deserve a special mention. Ellie B (7M), Lauren S (7M), Holly M (7M), Sophie M (7M)), organised and ran a lunchtime Dance Club for P2/3 pupils. During this time they demonstrated excellent leadership and organisational skills and were committed to ensuring that their group of dancers performed to a very high standard. To return to school with the Winner's Trophy is an outstanding achievement. CONGRATULATIONS!

**Group 1 - "We Go Together" Forehill Primary 7 Dance Leaders- Ellie B (7M), Lauren S (7M), Holly M (7M, Sophie M (7M))** with: Lilly B (P2/3),Charlotte D (P2/3),Rebecca M (P2/3), Amelia F (P2/3), Aimie G (P2/3), Ellie R (P2/3), Zoe H (P3M), Ailey J (P3M), Amelia K (P3M), Zoe H (P3M), Ava B (P3P), Melissa D (P3P), Tia J (P3P), Sophie N (P3P) Tyler R (P3P)

**Group 2- "Better Together" Lynn Christie -Alloway Performing Arts** with: Hannah D (P4H), Amelia L (P4H), Josh M (P4H), Molly M (P4H), Sophie M (P4H), Jessica D (P4W), Chelsea G (P4W), Jasmine G (P5J), Lilly H (P5J), Caoimhe K (P5J), Cara M (P5J), Abbey M (P5J), Neve P (P5J), Molly T (P5J), Sophie W (P5J), Holly B (P6K), Abbie H (P6K), Freya L (P6K), Charlotte A (P6R), Niahm H (P6R), Lucy M (P6R), Sarah S (P6R), Jasmine G (P7M)

**Group 3-"You're Welcome" Kyle Academy Dance Leaders-Cassy K, Niahm B** with: Poppy B (P2G), Sophie M (P2G), Ava C (P2G), Ava M (P2G), Lhana A (2G), Tess B (2G), Gemma C (P2G), Ava R (P2C), Daisy W (P2C), Lilly B (P2/3, Amelia F (P2/3), Aimie G (P2/3), Ellie R (P2/3), Katie R (P3P), Amelia K (P3M), Zoe H (P3M)



### Hi-Viz Vests

We are extremely grateful to Specsavers Opticians for their kind donation of Hi-Viz vests, which can be used by our infant classes on educational visits.

### Health Information

From time to time, children are absent from school or are sent home from school due to sickness bugs. Can I please remind parents that children should not be sent back to school unless they have been **sickness free for at least 48 hours**.

We have a few children in the school who have medical conditions, which are made worse through spread of infections. I would ask that you consider this before sending children back to school following illness. Many thanks for your support.

### Medication at School

Can I please remind parents of the school's policy around parents sending medicine to school. It is **not** safe practice in a primary school to allow children to carry in their bag, medication of any type - Calpol, Paracetamol, Hedex, cough bottles, antibiotics etc. The school will not routinely administer medication and individual enquiries about this should be made to the head teacher in the first instance. Many thanks for your co-operation as we work together to ensure the safety of all children.

### Dyslexia Friendly School Award

We were recently delighted to achieve our Gold Award and recognised for the work we do in the school to support young people at risk of not achieving due to dyslexia. Huge congratulations are due to the staff, parents and young people who work hard in this area. We will continue to take forward the work we are doing in this area. Well done everyone!

### Ayrshire Music Festival

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March, many of our young people will be taking part in the Ayrshire Music Festival either as solo musicians or as part of our choirs or orchestra. We wish them all the best of luck and know they will do themselves proud. Dates and times will be issued to all children involved by separate letter. I would encourage you to come along and support our young people where possible.

### P7 Family Burns Supper

Sincere thanks to the many parents and friends who came along to our P7 Family Burns Supper last week. This has now become a well-established part of our school calendar and just gets better each year. Well done to all our young people, who showed great confidence and talents through their speeches and entertainment, and of course to the many staff who assisted our young people in their preparations. We were delighted to have performances by Jamie McGeechan and Mr Ken O'Hara, and we extend our thanks to them also for giving their time and talents so freely.



## Parent Council News

Once again, our parent council are running discos for our pupils on the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> February. P1-3 Pupils: 6.00 - 7.00 and P4-7 Pupils: 7.30 - 8.30pm. Tickets are on sale at school now priced £2. The parent council are asking for the support of some other parents to assist with supervision, otherwise these cannot go ahead. If you are able to assist, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

**Please note ALL children should be collected at the end of the disco by a responsible adult.**

Sally Buxton and Friends Psychic Night Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - doors open at 7 pm sharp. Tickets are priced at £8 and there will be a fully licensed bar with all profits going directly to the school. There are a limited number of tickets for this event. Please purchase your ticket early to avoid disappointment and support your Parent Council, remember all funds raised go directly to the school for all the children to benefit. Strictly over 18s only.

Tickets can be purchased from parent council members, via the Facebook page Forehill Primary Parent Fundraisers or alternatively email [forehillpcfrg@gmail.com](mailto:forehillpcfrg@gmail.com).

## Holidays

Please note that the school will closed to pupils on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.**

Many thanks as always for the range of ways you support our school community. It is much appreciated.

Many thanks &  
Best Wishes,



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

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



# DIARY DATES



Date	Times	Classes Involved	Details
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All Day	All	School Closed
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	All	In-Service Day
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> February	6.00pm / 7.30pm	P1-7	Valentine Discos
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30 - 12.00 2.00 - 3.30	EYC	Nursery Registration
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> February	All Day	P5-7	Wizard of Oz Auditions
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	2pm / 6pm	All	Five Minute Box Workshops
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	All	Parent Council Meeting
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	All	Skills for Work Day
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm	All	School Closes
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am	All	School Re-Opens
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 20 April	All Day	P7	Inverclyde Residential
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> April	3.15pm	All	Pupil Reports Issued
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> May	3.45 - 6.00pm	All	Parent /Teacher Meetings
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> May	All Day	All	50 <sup>th</sup> Year Open Day
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	6.00pm - 8.30pm	All	Parent /Teacher Meetings
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> May	1.45pm	P7	Road Safety "The Journey"
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day	All	School Holiday
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm	N-P3	Sports Day
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm	P4-7	Sports Day
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 28 May	All Day	All	School Holidays
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 / 7.30pm	P5-7	School Show - Gaiety Theatre
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> June	9.45am	All	Summer Service - Castlehill

## Balancing the Budget 2018 - 2020

Have your say on the Council's budget and savings proposals for the next two years.

Complete our online survey or come along to one of our drop-in sessions.

Take part and let us know what you think.



[south-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://south-ayrshire.gov.uk) 0300 123 0900  #SACbudget

*south*  
**AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL



# PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET - February 2018



Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a former pupil, I would / would not be willing to come into school to speak with/be interviewed by P6 pupils about Forehill Primary in years gone past.

I have a family member, neighbour who is willing to be involved:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would/would not be interested in coming into school on 19<sup>th</sup> March to speak about my job with our senior pupils at their Skills for Work Day.

My job is \_\_\_\_\_.

**P2 - 4 Parents:** I would/would not like to come along to the "5 Minute Box" workshop sessions on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. My preferred time would be: 2.00pm / 6.00pm

I would / would not be interested in finding out more information about becoming a Cycling trainer in the school.

What is it that makes Forehill Unique?

If you could change one thing to make learning better, what would it be?