

# Forehill Primary School

## Welcome to Primary 1



Forehill Primary School  
Information Evening for Parents

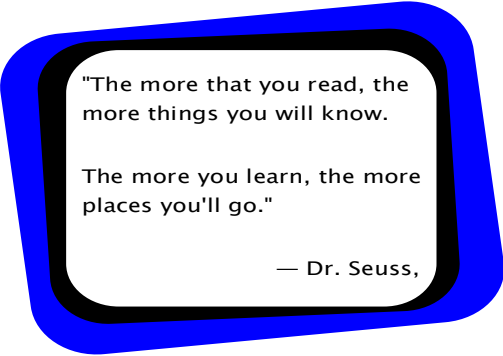
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

*School Blog - Information Hub*

<http://forehillprimaryschool.edublogs.org/>

# Contents

1. Welcome
2. General Housekeeping
3. How to support your child's early reading skills
4. Jolly Phonics / Literacy Approach
5. Future Developments and Important Dates
6. Question and Answer Session
7. Learning Resources Exhibition
8. Questionnaire for Parents and Volunteering



"The more that you read, the more things you will know.

The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss,

## 1. Welcome

The purpose of this booklet is to welcome new Primary 1 parents to Forehill Primary School and to relay some general information. We will introduce some of the learning approaches and materials that we use at Early Level and focus upon supporting Literacy with your child.

Please feel free to ask any questions during the meeting or you may wish to wait until the end for an open question and answer session. There is a questionnaire sheet at the back of this booklet that you can return to school if you wish to give us feedback/suggestions.

## 2. General Housekeeping

Over the last three weeks your child has had the opportunity to settle in and become familiar with the class teacher. Your child is now getting to know the class routines and has hopefully made a number of new friends.

We will continue to support each child and build upon the independence and organisation skills that your child has acquired from their nursery experience.

Here are some familiar ways that you can help;

- Please ensure that all items of clothing/shoes are named (it is particularly helpful if this applies to packed lunch boxes and water bottles as there can be many duplicates that look exactly the same!).
- Increasing opportunities are considered to use the Outdoor Environment for learning experiences. This is only possible if all pupils are prepared for all weathers – e.g. warm/waterproof outdoor clothing.
- Lunch Time arrangements (particularly on bad weather days) - If children go home for lunch then we would ask that you return your child to school via the front office door just before 1pm.

### 3. How to support your child's early reading skills

It is important that children feel stimulated by the books we read to them. Our use of books and storytelling is an essential tool to ignite the interests of children and help to foster a love of reading. We hope that each child finds reading enjoyable and that we can promote playful ways to engage with any story.

Parents play a vital role in their child's reading development. In fact, schools build on the successful learning which has been provided in the home. Our aim is to work in partnership with you to help your child achieve success.

This table should help you to recognise your child's early reading achievements (please refer to the full handout which you may find useful).

Examples of emerging skills	
ROLE PLAY READING	EXPERIMENTAL READING
Copies adult reading behaviours e.g. holding a book, turning pages, looking at words/pictures, talking about pictures, making up and retelling stories as the pages are turned.	Realises that the words of print stay the same and will tell adults if they miss a word or page out when reading
Selects favourite books	Sees themselves as a reader and talks about own reading
Prompted by a picture to talk about the story	Focuses on the meaning of the story – not concerned with accuracy
Is curious about print e.g. What does this say?	Recognises distinctive words that capture the imagination e.g. dinosaur, helicopter
Enjoys stories and asks for them to be read and re-read	Attempts to identify some words using the first letter
Knows print carries a message but might read the print differently each time	Uses previous knowledge and background pictures as an aid to meaning
Recognises some common words	Recognises familiar words and letters, especially letters from their own name and print they see around
Is beginning to recognise and name some letters	Is beginning to match some spoken words with written words
Talks about own experiences relating to the story being read e.g. That looks like my dog	Is beginning to use words relating to books such as letter, cover, page
Reacts to print in the environment e.g. sees a fast food sign – says I want a burger	Has an increasing knowledge of letter names and the link between the letters and sounds they represent
Knows that writing and drawing are different e.g. Dad reads the black bits	Points as an aid to reading

## 4. Jolly Phonics /Aberdeen City Learning and Teaching Strategy

This scheme is used to investigate sounds. From understanding these sounds, the children can decode words and discover new sounds, blends and words. An 'ACTIVE LITERACY' approach has also been promoted city-wide which introduces active approaches to learning. The school is also committed to the 'CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING' approach which promotes children building their learning and social skills through practical group work.

The Jolly Phonics approach is fun and appealing and involves learning through play and actions as well as developing phonological awareness and how to form or make the sounds using the voice, mouth/lip shape etc. This phonics programme will remain a core part of the Literacy strategy and changes will be introduced over time in relation to pace of learning, approaches to reading, home learning and emerging writing skills.

## 5. Future Developments and Important Dates

As the term progresses we will be introducing a number of features to promote parent/family involvement in school. After the October break we will be introducing 'Class Visits/Soft Toy Theme Project' (The teachers will explain this one as long as no children are present at the meeting – it's a surprise!).

We will also be looking to invite parents into school as volunteers – there are a number of initiatives in school that we hope to develop across the school and would be keen to hear from any parent that may be willing to offer some time to help in school.

If you are interested in becoming a school volunteer please sign up your details on the other side of the questionnaire sheet.

### DATES

Please note that a class newsletter has been issued which will provide further details and information of what will be happening in class as the term unfolds.

During this term, we would like to make you aware of the following dates;

<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	-	<b>Parent Consultations (from 3.30pm onwards)</b>
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	-	<b>Parent Consultations (from 6.00pm onwards)</b>
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	-	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b><i>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October (October Holidays)</i></b>		
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	-	<b>School Resumes</b>

## 6. Question and Answer Session / 7. Learning Resources Exhibition

As discussed earlier, a great deal of learning comes through play and 'hands on' experiences. Different forms of play are vital at this early stage to engaging and developing the learning of our children.

Mrs Gordon and Miss Munro have prepared a selection of activities and resources to give you an idea of the kinds of approaches, activities and tools used in a Primary 1 setting.

Please feel free to browse these learning areas/resources, have a play and chat to staff about the activities on display. Thank you for coming along to tonight's P1 workshop evening.

## 8. Questionnaires for Parents

Please complete, tear off and return at your leisure

We hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn a little more about life in school. In order to improve this process, we would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes giving responses to the questions below.

Please tick the box you feel best describes your response to each statement.

Guide to responses:

4 = Very Good

3 = Good

2 = Fair

1 = Unsatisfactory

Statement	4	3	2	1	Any Comments / Feedback / Ideas
This event was informative, useful and welcoming for parents.					
The activities provided opportunities to understand how children learn through play and the active learning approach in school.					
The guides and resources on display were useful and of interest to me.					
The information leaflets were helpful for me to engage with my child and support them in Literacy activities.					
Please feel free to comment or add any suggestions regarding the P1 lunch event held last week.					
Please feel free to comment on the overall induction to school experience and add any other suggestions or comments on the back of this sheet.					

We hope this experience has been fun and thank you for your support!

☺ The Early Stages Team and Head Teacher☺



## PARENT VOLUNTEERING

*Over the course over the year, there are a number of initiatives we would be hoping to develop, particularly with our 'parents as partners'.*

*We also have some well established roles which parents can become involved with. It should be noted that some of these initiatives may be in relation to whole school development and may not necessarily be directly related to your child or their class.*

Please complete this form if you would be interested and available to volunteer at Forehill Primary.

(Please note we would extend this invitation to available family members such as parents and grandparents).

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to help in school on:

(Shade / Highlight)

Monday AM	Tuesday AM	Wednesday AM	Thursday AM	Friday AM
Monday PM	Tuesday PM	Wednesday PM	Thursday PM	Friday PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Please tick below...*

*I am interested in helping with Reading/Library activities*

☐

*I feel I have skills to share which would help the children in the school*

☐

*I am interested in helping with outings/trips*

☐

*I am interested in helping to develop/maintain resources*

☐

*I already have a PVG check*

☐

*I would be willing to complete a check (required)*

☐