

Forth Primary School and ELC

January 2026 Newsletter

‘Our vision at Forth Primary School and Nursery is that every member of our Forth Family contributes towards a safe and nurturing learning environment in which everyone is encouraged to be the best version of themselves.’

HONESTY AMBITION RESILIENCE KINDNESS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy New Year; hopefully this will be a happy and healthy one for you all. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the gifts received at Christmas and while these are greatly appreciated I would like to gently remind you that we are trying very hard to cut the additional costs for families so please do not feel that gifts are required.

The weather has definitely become more winter like and the cold snap is upon us – please ensure your child is dressed for the weather and has appropriate footwear for the wet, snowy days.

As always should you have any concerns or questions please contact the school office and these will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Best wishes,

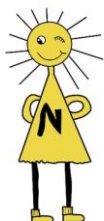
Elizabeth Steele
Head Teacher

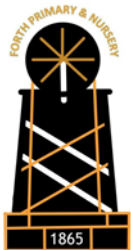
Staffing Update

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR BRAND
NEW JOB
WISHING YOU LOTS
OF GOOD LUCK

Congratulations to Mrs Kirsten Griffiths who has now secured the post of Principal Teacher at Forth Primary and Nursery on a permanent basis. Mrs Griffiths remains in her seconded position at Carstairs Junction until recruitment checks are completed. In the interim Mrs Vicky Whyte will be stepping into the role of Acting Principal Teacher working closely with myself while overseeing the learning and teaching for Primary 7.

On Mrs Griffiths' return Mrs Whyte will return to her Principal Teacher (Equity) role and class commitment with Primary 7. Thanks to Mrs Whyte for her support in this transition period.





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Primary 1 Enrolment

Our new P1 enrolment is open for parents/carers to register their child for school starting in August 2026. If you have a child ready for school please complete the online enrolment via the following website:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

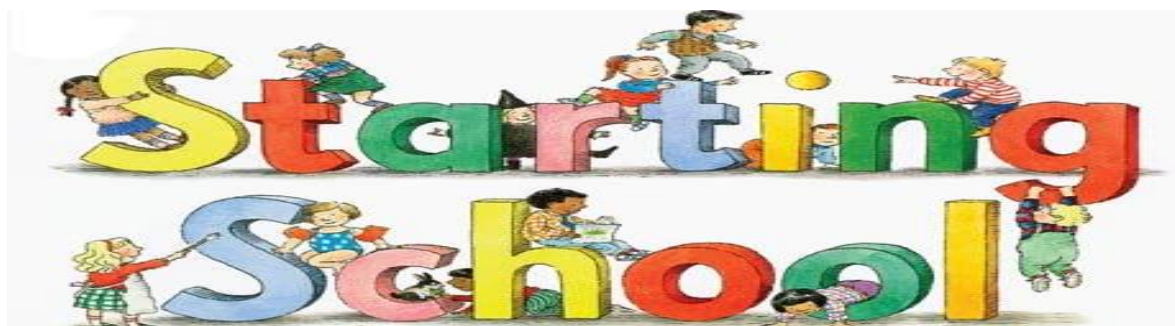
You will need your child's full birth certificate – abbreviated versions will not be accepted, as well as 2 proofs of address dated within the last 6 months. These documents should be uploaded with your application.

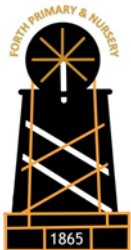
If you intend to defer your child's entry to school they still have to be registered at their catchment school and the deferral box has to be checked.

Should you wish to complete a placing request to another primary school they must initially be registered at their catchment school and a placing request application be completed to the desired school. Please note where a placing request to attend another school is made the automatic right to a place at Forth Primary is lost regardless of the outcome of the placing request.

South Lanark Council website has a catchment checker for parents/carers to check their catchment school – this can be accessed on the following site:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200140/education_and_learning/770/school_catchment_area_maps





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Surplus Food/Sharing Shed

Thanks to Aldi we are able to offer surplus food every Thursday in our efforts to reduce food waste and become more sustainable. We have also applied to Tesco to be part of the blue token grant as we wish to expand our provision to include non-perishable items and set up a sharing shed. Keep an eye on our app for updates.



Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of Parent Council will be held in the school on Tuesday 27 January at 7pm. New members are welcome – the meetings last around one hour and are positive and proactive in supporting our school priorities. Our focus this month will be on planning our Spring Fayre which will take place on Saturday 25 April 2026.

Gala Committee Meeting

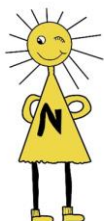
The Gala Committee will meet on 24 February in the school at 7pm. As intimated on the Facebook page we are in desperate need of volunteers to support or Gala entry or we will be unable to continue. The last 3 years we have been a huge part of the procession, and this has without doubt been a wonderful experience but sadly it is looking like this will fold without additional support. Please come along on 24th February to offer your support to all this to continue for the children.

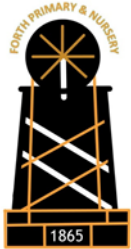
Dress Down Days

We will continue to host a dress down day, normally the last Friday of the month. For those people who are able to donate, we will use this as an opportunity to raise Gala Day/Parent Council funds. A donation of up to £1 may be given on a dress down day – this is not compulsory but helps us ensure everyone can participate in our Gala Day entry at no cost. Please see dates in the diary section below. January's event will be on Friday 30th January.

Pupil Leadership Teams – Update

Our School Improvement Team are ready to share with our wider school community the work they have been steering with regards to our promoting positive behaviour at Forth Primary and Nursery. We would like to invite parents and carers to the canteen area on Thursday 12 February at 9:30am for a cuppa to hear about the new behaviour policy developed by the team. Please come along if you can to show your support.





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Congratulations to the Emotion Works Leadership Team who secured the Gold Award for Forth Primary and Nursery – well done!

Congratulations also to the Fairtrade Team whose work over the last year has secured the Fairachiever Award for Forth Primary School – what a team!

Our Reading Schools Team have arranged for 2 author visits to take place in the coming weeks. This is a super experience for our class and we look forward to hearing more!

Scottish Celebration

On Friday 23 January at the slightly earlier time of 9:30am we will be hosting our annual Scottish Celebration in the school hall. Parents and friends are welcome to attend this event where there will be Scottish poetry, class songs and dancing to enjoy. Afterwards we welcome parents and friends to stay for a cuppa and chat. Our P7 children will be responsible for organising this event as a social enterprise so please come along to appreciate their hard work.

Valentine Disco

The Parent Council will be hosting a Valentine Disco on Thursday 12 February in the school hall. The timings of the discos are:

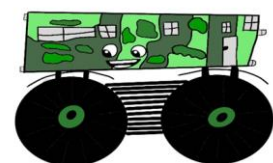
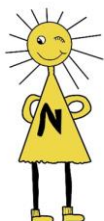
P1-3 6pm-7:15pm

P4-7 7:15-8:45pm

Tickets for this event should be purchased using the envelopes which will be sent home later this month. The ticket price is £2 per child and this includes a drink and snack. No money is required on the night. Please remember that ALL children must be collected by an adult at the end of the disco. Children should arrive via the canteen doors, be signed in by a parent who will then leave via the main entrance to prevent congestion. This will be the process at the time of collection also.

Mid-term Holiday and In-service Day

Please note the school and nursery will be closed from Monday 16 February – Wednesday 18 February for mid-term holidays and staff in-service training. Pupils should not attend on these days.





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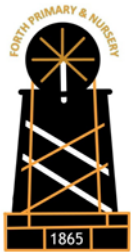
Correspondence

Finally, should you have any concerns or need to contact the school out with school hours please use the office email address to communicate rather than contacting individual teaching staff. Any information received by the school office will be shared with the necessary staff and dealt with as appropriate. The office email address is – many thanks for your cooperation.

Dates for your Diary...

Date	Event
23.1.26	Scottish Celebration 9:30am
30.1.26	Dress Down Day
12.2.26	Parent Council Valentine Disco P1-3 6pm-7:15pm P4-7 7:15pm-8:45pm
16.2.26	HOLIDAY
17.2.26	HOLIDAY
19.2.26	Inservice Day 4 – School Closed for Pupils
27.2.26	Primary 4 Assembly 9:30am
5.3.26	Parents’ Evening Details TBC
13.3.26	Primary 1 Assembly 9:30am
16.3.26	Primary 7 Pupils to Forth Castle Residential
27.3.26	Dress Down Day
2.4.26	School Closes 2.30pm Dress Down Day
20.4.26	School Reopens
24.4.26	Dress Down Day
1.5.25	Primary 3 Assembly 9:30am
4.5.26	HOLIDAY
7.5.26	Inservice Day 5 – School Closed for Pupils
15.5.26	Primary 5 Assembly 9:30am
22.5.26	HOLIDAY
25.5.26	HOLIDAY
27.5.26	Sports Day – Details TBC
29.5.26	Dress Down Day
19.6.26	P7 Leavers’ Assembly 10am





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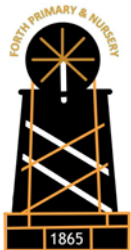
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22.6.26	Annual Awards Celebration 10am P7 Leavers' Disco 6:30-8pm
25.6.26	School Closes 1pm Dress Down Day





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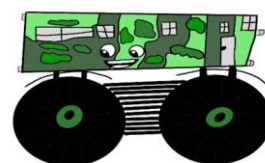


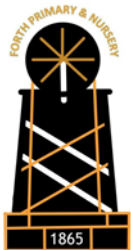
Welcome back!

The nursery staff hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We are excited to start a new term. Last month was a very busy month and we would like to share some of our experiences.



Some of the children visited the Bank Hall to sing for the residents. The children wore their festive head piece and brought their wonderful singing voices to perform Christmas songs to them. The children were confident individuals and did a super job remembering all the words and Makaton signs. The children then enjoyed a festive treat before returning to nursery. Our children were responsible citizens travelling to and from the Bank Hall showing the community what stars they are. We would like to thank the residents and staff for having us.





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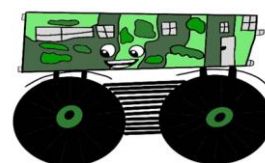
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HONESTY AMBITION RESILIENCE KINDNESS

Christmas Fun



The children took part in many festive experiences they shared a lovely Christmas lunch; they then showcased their dance moves at our party with party games. They used their skills to play a range of festive games including pin the carrot on the snowman and snowman knockout and of course we had a visit from Santa. To finish for the holidays, we had a fun Friday with a bouncy castle and festive film. Within nursery there was a range of opportunities for the children to explore and learn writing letters to Santa, our elf wrapping station, our sleigh ride, Christmas stories and songs and lots of creative crafts and mark making.





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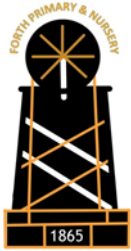
HONESTY AMBITION RESILIENCE KINDNESS

Christmas sing-a-long



The children were fantastic and took part in our Christmas sing-a-long. The children were successful learners, and all remembered the words and Makaton songs. They performed with confidence to an audience of friends and family. We hope you enjoyed the show and celebrating with your children.





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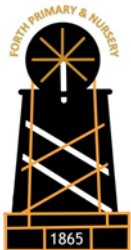
HONESTY AMBITION RESILIENCE KINDNESS

Church visit



All children got the opportunity to visit the village church to hear the story of the true meaning of Christmas. The children took part in songs and dancing and listened to the story of the first Christmas. The children used the nativity scene to tell parts of the story. Afterwards the children were treated with a warm festive drink to warm up before walking back to nursery. We would like to thank the church for having us.





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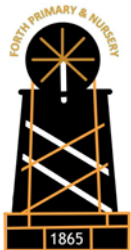
Big Cook Little Cook



It's been a successful start to our big cook little cook health and well-being focus group. In the first group the children were shown some visual cards to identify healthy foods and then we were able to identify them in the shop. The children then picked out all the ingredients to make tomato pasta.

The children chopped the tomatoes and basil to make the sauce for the pasta, then assisted with all the preparation, washing dishes and aprons. All the children tasted their creations and enjoyed it. Next they made shortbread and cupcakes. We look forward to seeing what our next group create!





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The groups will be up and running by February for all the children to develop their skills and learning. Look out for permission slips or observations for your child. If there is a group, you are interested in please speak to your child's keyworker.

Important information

Registering for school

If your child will turn 5 between 1st March 2026 and 28 February 2027 you need to register them for starting school.

You should complete the online registration form from Mon 5th Jan 2026.

If you are accessing an additional year at nursery and have spoken to your key worker you should still enrol at your catchment school and speak to Sharon to complete an additional form. All information regarding the process can be found within your child's journal.

Childsmile

Will be visiting nursery on 28th Jan 2026 at 9.30am. Only children who have been provided an orange letter will receive the varnish. Moving forward the varnish will no longer be applied at nursery for all children.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to both Katie and Lyndsey who have wonderful news of expecting babies in the spring/summer. We are very happy for them both.

