

# Forth Primary School and ELC

## February 2025 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,

It is difficult to believe we are approaching March already; we look forward to some spring like weather and some lighter evenings. January to February break have been busy for us in Forth Primary and Nursery and this is set to continue for the next few weeks until we get to Spring Break.

As always, our doors are open at the school and nursery and we welcome any feedback or comments you may have. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,  
Elizabeth Steele  
Head Teacher



### **Staffing Update**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Vicky Whyte back to Forth Primary. Vicky will now have sole teaching responsibility in Primary 2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Small and Mrs Bell for their work in Primary 2 this session.

Mrs Frame shared her lovely news that she is expecting a baby in the summer term however she is currently absent from work as she is unwell. Mrs Padkin will resume responsibility in Primary 6 for 4 days with Miss Small covering on a Monday until Mrs Frame returns to work.

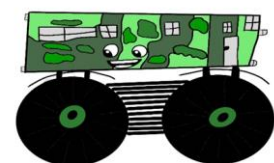
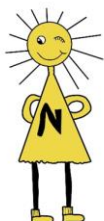
### **Primary 1 Enrolment**

We have had a bumper enrolment this year at Forth Primary with numbers higher than usual. This week we will submit our class configurations to HQ outlining our proposed classes for August. As always this is subject to change up until schools return in August but as things stand we will configure as follows:

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Classroom 1 | P1   |
| Classroom 2 | P1/2 |
| Classroom 3 | P3   |
| Classroom 4 | P4   |
| Classroom 5 | P5   |
| Classroom 6 | P6   |
| Classroom 7 | P7   |

**Please note there are no decisions made at this stage around which children will be in the P1 or P1/2. I will liaise closely with the nursery staff, ensuring decisions taken are in the best interests of the children. I attach for your information the link to ‘Classroom Organisation in Primary Schools’ from SLC website.**

**[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/559/classroom\\_organisation\\_in\\_primary\\_schools/2](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/559/classroom_organisation_in_primary_schools/2)**





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### **Young Leaders of Learning**

Mrs Griffiths attended Carluke Primary with 4 of our pupils from the School Improvement Team to participate in their first information sharing visit. Katie, Lucy, Emma and Isla will work with pupils from Carluke Primary, our partner school to further learn and share good practice across our schools. This is an excellent leadership opportunity for the girls and one which links well with the work undertaken at our Pupil Leadership Teams (PLTs).



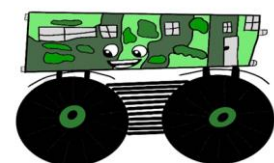
### **Pupil Leadership Teams at Forth Primary**

As part of our school improvement plan, all school pupils have been busy since October with their Pupil Leadership Teams. Across the school the children are involved in School Improvement, Reading Schools, Rights Respecting Schools/Fairtrade, Eco/Outdoors, Emotion Works, Sports and Attachment teams. All teams have carried out an initial audit of current provision at Forth and created an Action Plan which they will focus on for the remainder of this session. In May we will welcome visitors from HQ and other SLC school to showcase what we have been doing and plan our next steps. Please have a look at the wonderful displays from each team. This work is tied into the children’s skills development with a focus on SLC Skills Framework which all pupils are developing their understanding of.

### **Forth Primary and Nursery Gala Committee**



Our Gala Committee met last month to finalise our theme for 2025 and to begin our preparations. Many thanks to those members who attended – old and new, we have some exciting ideas to work on before the big day on Saturday 21 June 2025. Please note the deadline for participation is now passed and all names have been put forward to begin costumes.





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### **Ford Castle – 17 March**

Our Primary 7 are heading to Ford Castle on March 17 for 4 nights for their residential experience. Anyone who still has to return medical forms please do so with the medication prior to Monday 17 March so that this can be checked by Mrs Whyte in advance. If your child needs the medication at home until then please return the form and speak to Mrs Whyte about the medication itself as this can be handed to Mrs Whyte on the morning the children leave.



The bus will be leaving at 10am on Monday 17 March. Parents are welcome to come along to wave the children off, but we would ask that parents do not enter the school car park as the bus will need space. As intimated at the information evening pupils should not bring any mobile phones or smart watches etc. Photos and updates will be posted daily on the school app and Mrs Whyte, Mrs Crone and Mrs Andrew’s email addresses were shared as a point of contact in an emergency out of school hours. Please contact the school office between the hours of 9am-3pm should you have any queries while the children are away.

Pupils will leave their residential on Friday 21 March at 1pm to arrive back in Forth at approximately 3pm. Keep an eye on the school app for live updates.

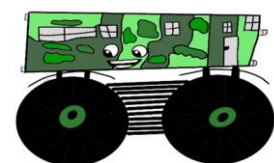


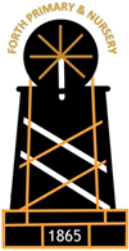
### **Scottish Celebration Assembly**

Thank you to all who came along to our Scottish Assembly. This was a fabulous afternoon showcasing our talented pupils. Each class sung beautifully and our poetry winners did a wonderful job reciting their poems. There was even a special video from Nathan Evans prior to our final song; ‘Home’. Thank you to Mrs Crone for making this happen for our boys and girls – they were starstruck!

### **Primary 6 Assembly**

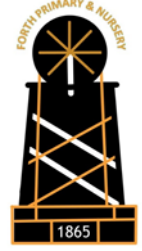
We look forward to welcoming parents and friends of Primary 6 as they present their learning at their assembly on Friday 28 February at 9:30am in the gym hall. Visitors should enter via the canteen doors which will be open from 9:15am.





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#### **Reminder Primary 5 Assembly – Change of Date**



Due to unforeseen circumstances, there is a change of date for Primary 5 Assembly. This will now take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 9:30am in the school hall. All parents welcome.

#### **Dress Down Days**

We will continue to host a dress down day, normally the last Friday of the month. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February will be the next dress down day of this year - any donations of up to £1 to support our Gala Entry and Parent Council School Funds would be great. Last month we received £16 in total from over 200 children, if this is something you are able to support we would be really grateful. All costumes are being made or bought this year and to keep this event cost free we really need this support. Thank you in advance.



#### **Dance Festival**

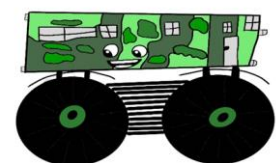
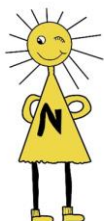
We currently have 2 groups of pupils who have expressed an interest in being part of the Dance Festival held in Lanark Memorial Hall on Tuesday 25 March. There have been several letters and app posts about this, and parents are reminded that they are required to transport their children to and from the event on Tuesday 25 March to Lanark Memorial Hall for 7pm. The festival itself is from 7:30-8:30pm. Further information around what to wear will be shared next week. Tickets can be purchased from the box office at Lanark Memorial Hall – please see the app post from Friday 21 February for further information on how to obtain these.

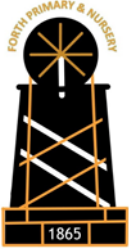
#### **Parent Consultations**

Our final parent consultation evening will take place on Thursday 27 March in the school hall. The booking system will open on Monday 3 March and we would encourage all parents/carers to make an appointment.

#### **Correspondence**

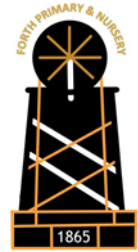
Finally, should you have any concerns or need to contact the school out with school hours please use the office email address to communicate rather than contacting individual teaching staff. Any information received by the school office will be shared with the necessary staff and





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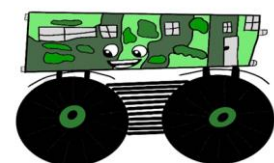
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dealt with as appropriate. The office email address is [office@forth-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@forth-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk) – many thanks for your cooperation.

#### **Dates for your Diary**

| Date    | Event  |
|---------|--|
| 28.2.25 | Primary 6 Assembly 9.30am                    |
| 28.2.25 | Dress Down Day                               |
| 6.3.25  | Parents' Evening Details TBC                 |
| 17.3.25 | Primary 7 Pupils to Forth Castle Residential |
| 27.3.25 | Parent Consultations                         |
| 28.3.25 | Primary 1 Assembly                           |
| 28.3.25 | Dress Down Day                               |
| 4.4.25  | School Closes 2.30pm                         |
| 22.4.25 | School Reopens                               |
| 25.4.25 | Dress Down Day                               |
| 1.5.25  | Inservice Day 5 – School Closed for Pupils   |
| 2.5.25  | Primary 5 Assembly 9:30am                    |
| 5.5.25  | HOLIDAY                                      |
| 9.5.25  | Primary 2 Assembly                           |
| 23.5.25 | HOLIDAY                                      |
| 26.5.25 | HOLIDAY                                      |
| 28.5.25 | Sports Day – Details TBC                     |
| 30.5.25 | Dress Down Day                               |
| 20.6.25 | P7 Leavers' Assembly                         |
| 23.6.25 | P7 Leavers' Disco                            |
| 25.6.25 | School Closes 1pm<br>Dress Down Day          |





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## NEWS

### **Nursery News**

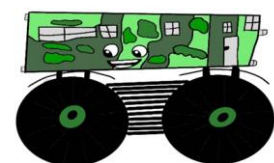
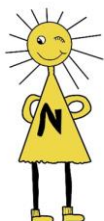
#### **Learning Across the Curriculum:**

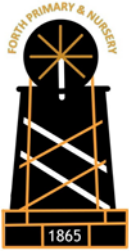
The children have been taking part in a range of across the curriculum learning opportunities and becoming confident individuals. All children will be given the opportunity to take part in opportunities throughout the year. This is giving the children experiences to learn and develop in different areas of the curriculum and build confidence and knowledge in new skills. Thank you to all parents who have attended different sessions, we appreciate your support.

#### **Play on Peddles**



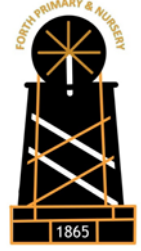
The children have all gained amazing confidence in safety checking the bikes, learning about balance and working out the best way to gain speed before lifting their feet off the ground. Each session the children recaped the previous week, discussing safety and carrying out our safety checks before getting on the bike. They then carried out a safety check on the bike, ensuring that the wheels were not flat, the handlebars were tight and the seat was at the right height for them. After that they chose a helmet and explored how to tighten the straps and the back, talking about the importance of wearing a helmet.





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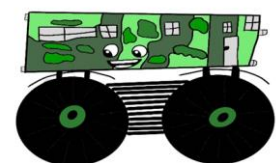
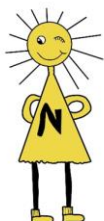
The children have worked on controlling the bike and making use of the space given, they have followed instructions going around the cones ensuring to keep a safe distance from the others. Cones were set out for the children to weave in and out of, then focused on running with both feet to gain some speed then when they reached the cones lifting both legs off the ground to see how far they could balance.

The children spent some time thinking about safety before, during and after using our bike. The children got to know the different parts of the bike, talking about the seat, wheels and handlebars, discussing their experiences of using a bike and what kind we have ridden before. Then the children had some free time to explore moving the bike and think about spatial awareness when controlling the bike.

### **Big Cook Little Cook**

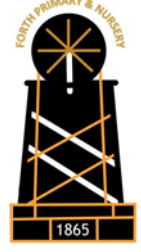


As part of a celebration for Burns' day some children baked Scottish shortbread. A small group of P6 children joined us in the butterfly room to work alongside the nursery children to help support them. We discussed Burns' day and shortbread being a Scottish sweet treat we could make to share with all our friends in nursery. We gathered the ingredients, scales, bowls, wooden spoons, then discussed and looked at the recipes. The children were placed into groups of two to work alongside the P6 helper. With support each child measured the ingredients following the recipe. Each child took turns to mix and crumble the ingredients together forming a dough like texture. Using the rolling pin we rolled out the dough and took turns at cutting out circular biscuits to put on the tray before baking. Throughout the experience





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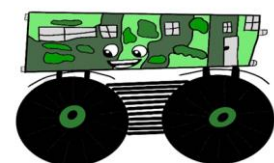
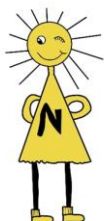
all children listened carefully to the instructions, they worked well together, waiting their turn and being patient.

Once the biscuits were made they were individually packed for each child to take home.

### **Forest Friends**



All children who are heading to school will have the opportunity to take part in a block of forest friends. Lorraine and Debbie have introduced forest friends in addition to outdoor learning activities. The children will have the opportunity to participate in planned activities alongside their natural environment. These opportunities will include a variety of experiences beyond the curriculum, which will include risky play, assessing dangers, using tools and fire safety. We will be using a part of the school grounds to ensure boundaries. Thereafter it is intended to visit the local woodlands in Forth for the remaining weeks. Lorraine and Debbie have been lucky enough to have necessary training to support this project and first aid trained. We successfully managed to secure funding to support this program and have the necessary resources and equipment. This includes an outdoor toilet which allows privacy, and we have all the necessary hygiene equipment.

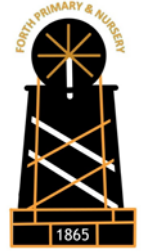






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### Bookbug

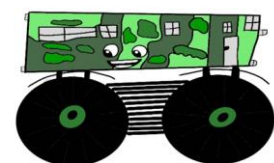


Lianne has been running regular book bug sessions and would like to pass her thanks to all the parents/carers who have been able to attend so far. Each week there has been a different focus of learning through the use of songs and stories. The children explored traditional nursery rhymes within the 1<sup>st</sup> session. Then explored transport for a session. Then opportunities to explore rhythm and movement was provided. The block was then finished with the Colour Monster. All the children have been keen to share their time at book bug with their friends.

### PEEP



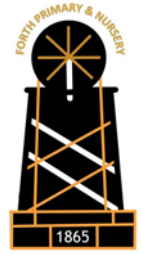
Carole has been running taster PEEP sessions and will be starting a block in the near future to support children's learning and development. Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended our taster sessions and please look out for our future dates. Lynn has supported during these sessions with promoting the use of Makaton which is the use of simple signs alongside the spoken word to support children's communication.





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### **Stay and play**

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming stay and play date in the near future.

### **Parent Zone**

The learning journals have created a new aspect to the learning journals called parent zone. All parents/carers should have received communication from the journals on how to access this.

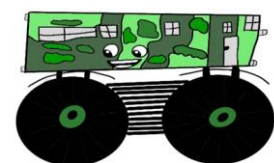
### **Reminders**

Please can you ensure your children's clothing is labelled clearly with your child's name and initial of surname as we have a collection of unnamed jumpers and cardigans within nursery. Could you please check and claim any that you may be missing.

Could we please ensure children refrain from bringing personal items and toys into the playroom as we have had things going missing or items that are unsuitable to be within the nursery environment. If your child brings toys, please ensure these are placed into their bags before entering the room. This will stop children being upset when things go missing.

Please can we ensure children are not arriving at nursery eating food as there are children with allergies within the room. Toast and fruit are available from 9.15 every morning and all children are encouraged to come for snack.

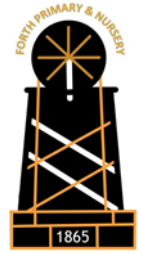
Thank you for your support with this.





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