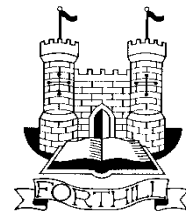


Forthill Primary School
Fintry Place
Broughty Ferry
Dundee
DD5 3BE
Friday 16 December 2011



Letter 4

Dear Parent,

This week has been very hectic with Nursery and P1 Nativity Shows, a most enjoyable Day with a Difference and finally our Christmas Assemblies. Excitement is tangible from the moment you step into school and there is still more to be done! As we look forward to the last few school days before the Christmas break, here is an update on this month's events.

Torchlit Service – A number of families gathered in our south playground as darkness fell on Wednesday 7th December. Children led our service and after singing quite a few well-loved carols everyone made their way to the Assembly Hall for a hot drink and some mince pies. Those who attended agreed that it was a lovely reminder of a tradition from a by-gone era.

Rep Theatre Outing – This year our P3-7 pupils attended a matinee performance of "Cinderella" at Dundee Rep on Tuesday 6th December 2011. The gasps from some of the children as they entered the theatre were a reminder that live theatre is not something that children experience very often. Once again, the performance was of the very high standard that we have come expect from the Rep and I am grateful to parents for supporting this trip.

Regrettably the return journey to school did not go as planned. There was a lengthy delay whilst we waited for the coaches to appear, despite having been told they would be there "in a minute". Coaches eventually arrived, several minutes apart and at that point there was a total breakdown of communication between their head office and our school. I have since spoken with the representative of the bus company who has admitted to me in writing, that the service that day was unacceptable. He has also reduced the total cost of the booking as a gesture of sincere apology. The saving per head is just over £1 and your child will now have the cost of their next school trip reduced by this amount.

Parking – (Rep day particularly) I wish to thank, most sincerely those parents who challenged drivers who parked close to the school entrance whilst they waited for the children to return from the Rep, quite inconsiderate of the fact that the space was required for the coaches carrying 400+ children and adults. It is now embarrassing to realise that some of our parents / carers think only of their own convenience at the expense of the safety of our children. The vast majority of parents frown upon the actions of this minority group, whether it is parking in the drop-off point OR entering Fintry Place. Most offenders, when challenged, will remark that they "never usually do this".

This week I met with senior officers of the council to explore options in making our school environment a safer place for all – even the traffic near our zebra crossing (considered to be a safe place to cross) causes me concern. Several possibilities will now be considered and I will report back to you once I have any further information.

Safer Parking Poster Competition – This competition, run by the Parent Council closed on 1st December. Once these have been judged, the winners will be notified ASAP.

Nursery and P1 Nativity performances – Our very youngest pupils presented the Nativity Story to captivated audiences on Monday and Tuesday, with our P1s show taking place on Wednesday this week. Each performance was quite unique, filled with the charm that small children add to such an occasion! You can read a bit more about these and other Forthill news on our website www.forthillprimary.co.uk where there is also a blog to which our children contribute.

Christmas Services – Our end of term Christmas Services took place today and many parents and friends joined the children in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. The choir sang two very different songs and Rev J. Turrent gave the address. Once again, our string and brass players entertained everyone with festive music. Our Christmas collection, taken at the Torchlit Service, Friday's services and once again at Christmas Cheer this coming Tuesday, will be sent to the charity Mary's Meals (total later).

Christmas decoration competition (Friends of Forthill) – There has been outstanding effort put into the entries for this competition, run by Friends of Forthill. Judging was VERY difficult but the final decisions were –

Nursery a.m. – Damon Stone
P1 – Cameron Findlay (P1A)
P4 – Aneesa Byrne (P4A)
P7 – Anne Peart (P7A)

Nursery p.m. – Maia Laws
P2 – Eleanor Bayne (P2A)
P5 – Hannah Benns (P5/4)

P3 – Matthew Baynham (P4/3)
P6 – Grace Small (P6B)

Special congratulations to the winners, but well done to everyone who took part. Your creativity and craft skills are quite amazing!

School Lunches – School lunch is available on our last day and will be served at 11.30am to allow for **12 noon dismissal**. These lunches need to be ordered and paid for no later than **Tuesday**.

Christmas Cheer – Traditionally parents and friends are invited to attend a fairly impromptu Christmas Presentation, given by the classes. This will take place from 10.00 - 11.30am on Tuesday 20th December 2011 in our assembly hall. Friends of Forthill will be manning the teapots and organising a raffle to be drawn that morning.

Christmas Parties P1-7 – This year, we invite all pupils to take part in festive fun on Tuesday, 20th December 2011 when the whole school will PARTY! Pupils staying for school/packed lunch should bring party clothes in a bag that morning. They will be given the opportunity to change at 1.15pm before the fun begins!

End of Term - School closes for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December at **12 noon** and opens again on Thursday 5th January 2012 at 9.00am.

Health notice – I regret that I must end (almost) on an unpleasant topic, but I have been told of several cases of head-lice infection particularly at middle stages. I wish to remind **all** parents that your child will be susceptible to this, given typical pupil interaction within the classroom space. It is good practice to inspect the scalp for signs of an infection on a weekly basis – then the problem can be checked quite promptly. Some parents believe that our School Nurse monitors this. However, for some years now this has not been the case. The School Nurse's remit includes immunisation programmes, sexual health education etc., but not head-lice control. Local chemists can advise parents of the best treatment. Recommended products are changed regularly since the lice develop a resistance over time to any one product.

I wish to thank you all for the support that you have given to Forthill staff throughout 2011. Everyone agrees that the year has gone VERY quickly. Yet it has been a very successful year in a number of ways.

From all at Forthill Primary, we wish you joy over the festive season, good health and happiness in the New Year, **2012!**

Anne DF Whaley

Headteacher

Dates for your new calendar –
Friends of Forthill Meeting
Grove Road show

Parent Council Meeting
P4s Show
In-Service Day
Mid-term Holiday
Scottish Evening
Friends of Forthill Quiz Night
(Fort Bar, fund-raiser)
Meet the Team
P3s Show
Photographer in school
Parent / Teacher Meetings
Friends of Forthill Discos
Easter Services
Spring Holiday

Tuesday 17th January 2012, 7.00pm in the Out of School Club
Tuesday 24th January 2012 Early alert - letter of invitation to follow from Grove Academy (for parents of P7 pupils only)
Tuesday 2nd February 2012, Out of School Club at 7.00pm
Wednesday 8th February 2012, afternoon and evening performances
Thursday 9th February 2012
Friday and Monday, 10th & 13th February 2012
Wednesday 22nd February 2012 (P3s, P5s, P7s event, details to follow)
Thursday 23rd February 2012

Wednesday 29th February 2012, 10.00am
Wednesday 14th March 2012, afternoon and evening performances
Week beginning 19th March 2012, individual and family groups this time
Wednesday and Thursday, 21st & 22nd March 2012
Thursday 29th March 2012, times to follow
Friday 30th March 2012, pm
Monday 2nd April to Friday 13th April 2012 inclusive