

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



May 2023
Newsletter

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Head lice

Again, can I remind all parents/guardians that it is your responsibility to regularly check your child's hair. Treatment can be obtained for free from your local chemist. We would request that any pupils with long hair please tie their hair up.

Contact Details

If you have changed your address, mobile number or any other contact information please inform the school as soon as possible, to keep records up to date. This is important for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7.

Summer is nearly here!

The past few weeks have been extremely busy here in school and have been taken up with assessments for all our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils. I am pleased to report that these have now all been completed. Our pupils need to be congratulated, all have worked hard, and overall results have confirmed this!



As we approach the end of yet another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their continued support to myself as Principal as well as their on-going commitment, hard-work and dedication throughout this past year.

Coronation Bibles

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Morrow from Bushmills Free Presbyterian Church along with Craig Dennison of Trinity Bible Society to a special assembly here in school on Tuesday 2nd May.

Pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 began by singing the special "Coronation Song" which they had been learning. Following this Craig spoke briefly about the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III before all pupils were presented with a special coronation bible to mark this historic occasion.

SPONSORED WALK REMINDER

Please be reminded that we are holding a sponsored walk on Thursday 8th June 2023 to help raise some much-needed school funding. We do hope that everyone has been filling up their sponsorship forms and that the good weather we currently have will hold out for this event!!

Kings Coronation Celebrations

On Thursday 4th May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III in school with a day full of fun celebrations.

We began the day with assembly with our special guests, Ian Paisley and Sharon



McKillop, who presented every pupil with a special coronation certificate. Our guests enjoyed listening to our Coronation song 'Long Live the King.'



Other fun activities following assembly included a royal-themed scavenger hunt as well as crafts and activities in the class before our special banquet at lunchtime provided by our wonderful canteen staff- everyone enjoyed the buffet and special coronation shortbread!



After lunch, we held our main event, 'The Coronation Ball' in which all the classes were able to dance in their finest outfits to many of their favourite pop songs. This really was the highlight of everyone's day. A special photo booth was set up and each pupil got individual pictures taken to mark the occasion and they had the opportunity to get their pictures taken in family and friendship groups. During the Ball, prizes were also presented to 'Best Dressed' pupils in each class.



Thank you to all the pupils for turning up in your best outfits to celebrate this momentous occasion!

Healthy Heroes

Miss Logan's P5/6 class recently enjoyed taking part in a 'Healthy Heroes Initiative' which ran for 3 weeks (every Friday morning) and was taken by Ulster University Nutrition students. Throughout the programme pupils enjoyed learning all about The Food Cycles (seed to plate), Nutritious meals and Effects of food on the body. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.



Ulster Scots

Throughout April and May a number of our Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils have been enjoying a fun filled programme delivered by the Ulster Scots Agency. Each week had a different theme including Bagpipes, Drama, Highland Dance and Snare Drumming. The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

Good News Club

Good News Club took place last week in school and ran from Monday 22nd May to Thursday 25th May for our Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils. Many pupils were in attendance each day. Many thanks to CEF representatives, Lynda McAuley and her team, for running this after-schools club.

P5 - Cooking

As part of their 'Out of the Box' topic, the P5/6 were treated to a cookery demonstration in their classroom on Tuesday 9th May by Mrs Gail Calvin, one of our canteen staff.

Gail talked to the pupils about the importance of making healthy choices and why each of the ingredients in the stir fry were good for their health, including how we can eat the rainbow of colours in vegetables.

All the pupils were very enthusiastic about the demonstration and really enjoyed talking about how the stir fry was being put together. Of course, the highlight was at the end when everyone got to sample the food with some pupils going back for seconds and even thirds!

Thank you so much Gail for coming to us that day!



Sports Day

Last Friday (26th May) we thankfully were able to go ahead with our planned Sports Day! Once again, the day took the same format as last year with the Nursery to Primary 4 pupils running their races first at 9:30am followed by Primary 5 to Primary 7 pupils completing their races at 11:00am. Although the weather wasn't great at first, as the morning progressed the sun eventually made an appearance, and an enjoyable morning was had by all! A huge thanks to all parents and friends who came along to support the children and cheer them on!



Assemblies

Assemblies continue every Wednesday morning as usual when all classes, Nursery to Primary 7, come together to meet as a whole school.

This month assemblies were taken by the following visitors:

Wednesday 10 th May	Alice McAlary (Family Support Worker)
Wednesday 17 th May	Rev A Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)
Wednesday 24 th May	Rev S Livingstone (Causeway Methodist Churches)
Wednesday 31 st May	Rev S Livingstone (Causeway Methodist Churches)

Classes also continue watching 'Hope for Youth Ministries' assemblies online when possible.

P7 Cycling Proficiency

Congratulations to our super cyclists who have attended all the sessions and completed their theory and practical assessments in Cycling Proficiency earlier this month.



Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club continues every morning, Monday to Friday from 8:15am for all pupils, Nusery to Primary 7.



Library Van Service



Our next visit by the Library Van is due to take place on Monday 12th June with the last visit of the year being on Monday 26th June 2023. Please ensure all library books are returned in preparation for these visits.

Swimming



Swimming lessons for our P6/7 pupils, Miss Swanson's class, continue every Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre with the final three lessons taking place on Friday 2nd, Friday 9th and Friday 16th June.

Music Lessons

Woodwind lessons continue every Tuesday. Piano and guitar lessons continue every Thursday and Violin lessons continue every Friday here in school.



Attendance

Attendance at the end of the month of May has shown a slight improvement from April. We hope to see this improve before the end of this school year.

The attendance cup for May will be presented to the winning class later this week. The overall attendance for May was 90.8%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	(P5/6)	92.8%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	(P1/2)	92.5%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	(P6/7)	90.4%
4th:	Miss Rowe	(P3/4)	89.6%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	(Nur)	87.6%



Well done to Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow's class!

As you are aware unfortunately, in these uncertain times we have been seeing a lot of absences from school. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office to advise us of your child's absence and of the cause.

Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half of a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year - that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Give your child the best start in life - every school day counts!

Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each year every week for their achievements. These certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



During the month of May, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':

	05/05	12/05	19/05
Yr 1	Oliver McKay	Lacey Connor	Frankie Speers
Yr 2	Roy Parke	Milly Chen	Grace McElhinney
Yr 3	Emme Gault	Luka Tweed	Finlay Taylor
Yr 4	Zara-Mae Mairs	Anna Simpson	Lola McKay
Yr 5	Sofia McKenna	Eliana McAfee	Grace Mogyey
Yr 6	Ella McMullan	Madison McKeeman	Ella McMullan
Yr 7	Yi-Jean Aw	Luka Nicholl	Emma Neill

Parent Pay

As we are quickly approaching the end of the term, I feel I must highlight the issue of negative balances on Parent Pay. If you are unsure if you have a negative balance, please feel free to contact the school office and this can be checked for you.

In the event of you having a negative balance, please note these are supposed to be paid on a weekly basis and if you are unable to this, please contact Miss Logan immediately.

All Parent Pay balances MUST be cleared no later than Thursday 29th June to allow end of year reporting to be submitted to the Education Authority.

Diary Dates

Term 3

Nur to P4 End of Year Trip	06-Jun-23	Letter issued 31-May-23
Sponsored Walk	08-Jun-23	
P7 Moyle Streetwise	15-Jun-23	Further details to follow
P7 Leavers Trip to Emerald Park	21-Jun-23	
P7 Leavers Assembly	23-Jun-23	Further details to follow
P5 & P6 End of Year Trip	26-Jun-23	Further details to follow
Nursery Induction	28-Jun-23	Further details to follow
P1 Induction (Parents Information talk)	29-Jun-23	Further details to follow
Nursery Graduation	29-Jun-23	Further details to follow
End of Term	30-Jun-23	School finishes at 12:00noon for ALL pupils

Holiday Dates 2023-2024

Term 1

New Term Begins	30-Aug-23	Starts 9:00am sharp
Half Term Holiday	30-Oct-23 to 03-Nov-23	School closed to ALL pupils
Christmas Holiday	21-Dec-23 to 3-Jan-24	School closed to ALL pupils

Term 2

Start of Term	04-Jan-24	Starts 9:00am sharp
Half Term	16-Feb-24 to 20-Feb-24	School closed to ALL pupils
St Patrick's Day	18-Mar-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Easter Holiday	25-Mar-24 to 5-Apr-24	School closed to ALL pupils

Term 3

Start of Term	08-Apr-24	Starts 9:00am sharp
Bank Holiday	06-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Half Term	27-May-24 & 28-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	28-Jun-24	