

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



October 2023  
Newsletter

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### Headlice

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.

## The End of October!

It is hard to believe we have already reached the end of October and life continues to be very busy for us all here in school.



I do hope that every-one has an enjoyable half-term break and I look forward to seeing all staff and pupils back again, and well rested, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November when school will open again at 9:00am sharp for all pupils.

Please note, Breakfast Club will run as normal, for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7, from 8:15am to 8:45am each school day.

## The Courthouse Salmon Programme

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October our Primary 1 and 2 class had a wonderful morning finding out about biodiversity, planting seeds and learning about salmon. Thank you very much to The Courthouse Shared Space Creative Hub for including us in this project.



## Book Fair

Scholastic "Travelling Books" Book Fair visited our school from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Sales totalled £632.92 which in turn has allowed the school to earn £253.17 to purchase additional books for our classrooms. Thanks to all who supported our fair!



## Multi-Sports

For the past six weeks our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils have all enjoyed multi-sports sessions here in school on Thursday mornings. This programme has been organised by Causeway Coast & Glens Sports Development Officers.

## Good News Club

Good News Club has been taking place here in school on Tuesday afternoons for pupils in Primaries 1, 2 and 3 between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. These sessions are taken by Lynda and Jacqui from CEF and will continue following the half-term break on the following dates:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

## Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews have just taken place this week. Many thanks to all parents who attended and for us as a school, it has certainly highlighted that your child's/children's education is important to you!

As parents you play a vital role in helping to give your child the best start in life and your support is crucial! I am aware that unfortunately a small number of parents were unable to attend the arranged appointments. If this was the case, I would ask that you please contact the school to arrange another time!



## Harvest Assembly

This morning here in school we held our 'Harvest Assembly' when all pupils took part and we were delighted to welcome parents and friends who joined us for a special Harvest Lunch afterwards. Photographs and details will follow in the November Newsletter.

## Football Tournament

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Further details will be sent out when we return following the half-term break although please note that this means there will be **NO** after schools' football on this day.



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club opens each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:15am to 8:45am before children will be allowed to go to their own classes. Once pupils have eaten their breakfast, they have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!

The cost is £1.10 per day and items available include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water. Please note the cut off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom.



## Swimming

Swimming lessons continue for Miss Logan's P5/6 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. Lessons will resume on Friday 10th November following the half-term break.



## Music Lessons

All music lessons continue in school with string lessons on a Monday taken by Mrs Eves, woodwind on a Tuesday taken by Mrs Kutlu and piano and guitar lessons on a Thursday taken by Miss Boyle.



## Attendance

At the end of the second month of this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for October will be presented to the winning class following the half-term break. The overall attendance for October was 95.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	98.2%
2nd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	96.5%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	95.4%
4th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	93.7%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	89.2%



### **Well done to Miss Rowe's class!**

If your child is ill, please telephone the school office to advise us of your child's absence and of the cause. When your child returns to school you must send a note into school on their first day back or send an email to the Principal ([jlogan.335@c2kni.net](mailto:jlogan.335@c2kni.net)) to confirm why your child has not been attending school. The reason for this is to ensure the correct codes are applied in relation to your child's absence.

In addition to this I must make you aware that if your child has to leave school throughout the day you must send a letter to your child's class teacher to excuse your child from school or complete a form which is available on the school website or from the school office. I would therefore ask that when possible any appointments are made outside of school hours.

## 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!**



## Assemblies



We continue to hold whole school assemblies for all pupils in Nursery to Primary 7, here in school on Wednesday mornings.

This month we have been delighted to welcome the following visitors:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Rev Dr N Cubitt  
Senior Minister Bushmills  
Presbyterian

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Alice McAlary  
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Rev. R. Morrow  
Bushmills Free Presbyterian

## Footballer of the Week

The following players of the week have been picked for the month of October:

	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Leo McKendry	Ella McMullan	Cameryn Greer



## Star of the Week

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

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



	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Yr 1	Elena Gault	AJ Greer	Frankie Speers
Yr 2	Eli McKay	Lucy Neill	Skyler Leighton
Yr 3	Milly Chen	Emme Gault	Evie McKeown
Yr 4	Reuben McIntyre	Aria Stevenson-Lampard	Luka Tweed
Yr 5	Oscar Wilmont	Ella Scott	Oscar Wilmont
Yr 6	Alisha Lee	Evie Tweed	Grace Mogeys
Yr 7	Becky McKay	Logan Cross	Paige Greer

## Diary Dates

Term 1			
Half Term Holiday	30-Oct-23 to 03-Nov-23	School closed to ALL pupils	
PTFA - Quiz Night	17-Nov-23	See attached poster	
End of Term	20-Dec-23	School finishes for all pupils at 12:00 noon	
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
School Trip	05-Jan-24	P1 to P7. Further details to follow
School Photographer	30-Jan-24	Further details to follow



**QUIZ**



**NIGHT**



*Friday,*  
**17TH NOV**  
**@ 7PM**

**£5**

per person /  
max. 6 per table

**at Bushfoot Golf Club**

*Prizes & Raffle*

*All proceeds to Bushmills  
Primary School  
& Nursery Unit*



*Everyone Welcome*