

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



November 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.

It's Christmas!

We made it! Christmas preparations are well underway. There is no doubt this first term has been both busy and challenging but a huge thanks to everyone who has worked hard to help keep our children safe and school an enjoyable place to be!

As mentioned, preparations are now underway for our Christmas Carol Concert which this year will take place in Bushmills Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 19th December at 6.30pm. All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 will be taking part and I hope you will be able to come along (and bring family and friends) to what I know will be an enjoyable evening.

Further information in relation to the actual day will be sent out in due course so please keep an eye on the school app for these updates.



Remembrance Day

This year again pupils were given the opportunity to purchase poppies and other merchandise here in school in the lead up to Remembrance Day and I am delighted to report that a total of £174.20 was collected for this years "Poppy Appeal". A wreath was also laid by our Head Boy, Callum Jamieson and Head Girl, Ella McMullan on behalf of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit at the annual Poppy Day Remembrance Service which was held here in the town on Sunday 12th November.



Football Tournament

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament took place on Thursday 9th November when once again our team travelled to Ballycastle to take part and again this was another successful day for Bushmills Primary School.



Not only did the team perform well on the pitch but their attitude and behaviour continued to remain exemplary even when they were not playing - Thanks to each one of you - you have made us proud!

The second round will take place in the new term. Further details will be sent out when we return following the Christmas break.

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 and Mrs Witherow's P5/6 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. Please note as we approach the Christmas break the final lesson will take place on Friday 15th December and will then recommence on Friday 12th January when we return after the Christmas holidays.



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 November 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	97.4%
2nd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	95.4%
3rd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	94.3%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	94.1%
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 (jlogan335@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 8 th November	Rev Dr N Cubitt Senior Minister Bushmills Presbyterian
Wednesday 15 th November	Alice McAlary Family Support Worker
Wednesday 22 nd November	Rev. Sam Livingstone Causeway Methodist Churches
Wednesday 29 th November	Robert Plant

Footballer of the Week

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

	10 th Nov	17 th Nov	24 th Nov
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Jacob Greer	School Closed	Luka Tweed



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 November, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':



	10 th Nov	17 th Nov	24 th Nov
Yr 1	Amelia Speers Jamieson	Theo Kennedy	Peyton Parke
Yr 2	Frankie Glass	Oliver McKay	Amber Doran
Yr 3	Sam Mogeey	Oliver McKendry	Lyla Mulholland
Yr 4	Finlay Taylor	Freddie Speers	Finlay Taylor
Yr 5	Hollie McKay	Logan McKillop	Carter Waring
Yr 6	Lucy Parke	Alisha Lee	Victoria Gilmour
Yr 7	Cameryn Greer	Marie Taggart	Callum Jamieson

Diary Dates

Term 1		
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. (Please note this will be a half day due to staff training) School will close at 1PM for all pupils
School Trip	05-Jan-24	P1 to P7. Further details to follow
School Photographer	30-Jan-24	Further details to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	12-Feb-24 to 14-Feb-24	Further details to follow
Half Term Holidays	15-Feb-24 to 16-Feb-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Days	19-Feb-24 20-Feb-24	School Closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	22-Mar-24	School day ends at 12 noon for ALL pupils

Table Quiz

A huge THANK YOU to all who attended our table quiz which was held in Bushfoot Golf Club on Friday 17th November. A special mention goes to Bushfoot Golf Club for allowing us to host the quiz on their premises as well as Trevor and Caroline McKendry (assisted by Sharon) who acted as quiz masters throughout the evening. It Is fair to say a great evening was had by all with a total amount of £525 being raised for school funds. We are truly thankful and look forward to the next PTFA event.