

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

November 2017 Newsletter



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End of November!

November has continued to be a very busy month here in school with lots happening and preparations for our Christmas production "Primary School Christmas Musical" well underway.

All staff and pupils are working extremely hard during rehearsals, although I would ask you as parent to please ensure your child is in bed early at night as unfortunately sometimes tired pupils along with intense rehearsals do not mix.

As we are fast approaching the festive season could I please remind you to check your child's school bag every day for notes as information regarding events over the next few weeks will be sent out regularly.

Appointments

I would like to take this opportunity to once again highlight an issue which has caused some concern over the past few weeks. As you are aware rehearsals for our Christmas performances are now underway (especially in the afternoons), however a larger number of pupils have been leaving school early in order to attend appointments. I am aware that on many occasions this cannot be avoided although I would urge you where possible that such appointments be made outside of school hours.

Your co-operation with this issue would be greatly appreciated.



November Assemblies

Again we continue to welcome visitors to our whole school assemblies which are held every Wednesday morning. During the month of November, we had the following visitors:



Wednesday 8th November

Rev A Buick

(Dunluce Presbyterian)

Wednesday 15th November

Rev McLernon

(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Wednesday 22nd November

Stephen Millar

(Free Presbyterian Missionary)

Wednesday 29th November

Alice McAlary

(Family Support Worker)

Sickness

Over the past few weeks here in school a number of our pupils have unfortunately been off due to sickness. However, on a few occasions some have returned "too soon" which has resulted in the further spread of illness to other classmates.



I would therefore urge you if your child has been ill, they should remain at home until they have made a 'full recovery'.

It is recommended by the Public Health Agency that a child should not return to school until 48 hours have passed from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Admissions to Nursery & Primary School



Application forms are now available from the school office for any child that is due to start pre-school or primary education in September 2018.

Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2014 and 1st July 2015.

All children born on or between 2nd July 2013 and 1st July 2014 must begin their primary education from September 2018 because by that date they will have reached **COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE**.

All application forms must be returned to the school by **12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018**.

Please feel free to contact Miss Logan or the school office for more information.

Choir Rehearsals



Choir rehearsals continue on Monday Afternoons (P1 to P3 from 2:00pm to 2:30pm and P4 to P7 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm). Please note a full attendance each week would be greatly

appreciated as we continue to be busy preparing for our Christmas Carol Service.

Swimming Lessons



Swimming lessons for Primary 4 and 5 pupils have now finished for this term and will resume again on Friday 12th January 2018 (they will then run until Half-term with the final session for P4/5 pupils being held on Friday 9th February).

P.T.A. Update



As you have already been made aware this year, once again, our P.T.A. are organising the popular Christmas Hampers. Each class will make up a hamper which will be raffled at the end of term with winners being announced at the end of our Carol Service which will be held on Thursday 21st December. Pupils are asked to bring in an item of food or drink for their hamper, e.g. tin of peas, box of Pringles, Matchmakers etc. Please be reminded that the closing date for hamper donations will be Wednesday 13th December 2017

Remembrance Day / Poppy Appeal

Thank-you to all who gave generously towards the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal. A total of £119.38 was raised by our school (more than double the amount raised last year!) Also 'Thanks' to our Head Boy and Head Girl (Taylor and Grace) who represented our school at the annual Poppy Day Remembrance Service which was held in the town on Sunday 12th November.



Attendance

The Attendance Cup for November will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 6th December. The school's overall average attendance for the month of November was 93.3%. Results are as follows:



1st:	Mrs Nicholl (P6/7)	96.2%
2nd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	96.1%
3rd:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	94.9%
4th:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	90.5%
5th:	Miss Cochrane (Nursery)	89.4%

Well Done Mrs Nicholl's P6/7 class!

Breakfast Club



I am delighted to report that numbers attending Breakfast Club have increased over recent weeks. Please note Breakfast Club will run as normal until the end of term although unfortunately there will be **No Breakfast Club** on the final day of term, Thursday 21 st December 2017.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying Week was held from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November. Classes took part in a range of activities throughout the week which included a special 'Anti-bullying' assembly on Wednesday 15th November.



Road Safety

Road Safety Week was held from Monday 20th to Friday 24th November. The theme for the week was #SpeedDown and all pupils took part in a range of activities during classes over the five day. On the final day (Friday 24th) all pupils were encouraged to dress up in stripes to be like Zak the Zebra, the road safety mascot. A 'Walking Bus' was also organised for that morning and I am delighted that an amazing number of pupils were able to get involved. On arrival at school **all** pupils were treated to a 'Traffic Light' snack.

Finally, on Friday 27th November **all** pupils had the opportunity to visit Northern Ireland's 'Road Safety Bus' which came to our school. A number of pupils were also chosen at random to take part in a photoshoot organised by the Road Safety Promotional and Outreach Branch of the Department of Infrastructure as part of next year's Road Safety Calendar. We look forward with excitement to next year's calendar and I am confident there will be quite a few faces we will recognise.

Many thanks to our P.T.A. committee members who kindly agreed to come along on Monday to 'smile for the camera' and also help supervise the pupils during the photoshoot.

Finally, huge 'Thanks' to Miss Fulton who organised the 'Road Safety Week' events.



Football Tournament

The first round of the Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament was held on Thursday 16th November in Ballycastle. Our team played well throughout all their matches and look forward to the next round which will be held in the New Year!



Bible Club



On Thursday 16th and Friday 17th November Colin and Cheryl representing Ministries for Youth came to take whole school assemblies. Pupils enjoyed learning new songs and listening to bible stories before the real competition got underway between the boys and the girls with the quizzes at the end.

Birds of Prey

Ian Patterson visited our school on Thursday 23rd November bringing along his birds of prey. All pupils (Nursery to Primary 7) listened attentively and with amazement as one by one they were introduced to the birds. Some pupils even jumped at the opportunity of handling some of the birds!



Snack

Could any pupils who owe money for snack to the canteen, please ensure outstanding monies are paid in full to the canteen staff by Friday 14 th December.



Collection Times

Please note the school finishing times for your childs class below (unless they are staying for Extended School):

P1 & P2	1.50pm Daily
P3	1.50pm Tuesday & Thursday 3.00pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday
P4 -P7	3.00pm Daily



Unfortunately, over recent weeks an increasing number of pupils are not being collected on time which in turn causes disruption to the classes which follow. Therefore if a child is not collected on time they will be sent to Extended

Schools which will regreably incur the relevent fee.

It's a boy!

Congratulations to Mrs Garrett and her husband on the recent birth of their son! Thomas Taylor Garrett was born on 3rd November and I am delighted to report both mum and baby are doing well and we look forward to seeing them both soon!



Star of the Week



Each week one pupil from each class will be rewarded for their achievements. A special assembly is held each Friday afternoon to celebrate these awards. During the month of November, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week'.

P1	Alex McLaughlin	P2	Liam Nutt
	Paige Greer		Denzel Duncan
	Rosie Clarke		Lily-Mae McAfee
P3	Cameron McConachie	P4	Alfie Neill
	Sam Hogg		Caprice McCrellis
	Noah Cerutti		Kaidan Eddolls
P5	Katie Jamieson	P6	Maddy O'Halloran
	Charlie Millar		Rhianna Wilmont
	Caileigh MCIntrye		Haleigh Crawford
P7	Kenzie Eddolls		Taylor Maxwell
	Chelsea Walker		
	Taylor Maxwell		

Diary Dates

Christmas Production (P1-P7)	14-Dec-17	10:00am & 7:00pm
Staff Training	15-Dec-17	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	19-Dec-17	9:30am
End of Term (Christmas)	21-Dec-17	12:00 noon following annual Carol Service which will commence @ 10:00am
Christmas Vacation	22-Dec-17 to 02-Jan-18	Inclusive
Staff Training	03-Jan-18	School closed for ALL pupils
Start of Term	04-Jan-18	9:00am sharp
Lyric Theatre	05-Jan-18	P1 to P7
Scholastic Book Fair	06-Feb-18 to 13-Feb-18	Inclusive
Half Term	15-Feb-18 to 20-Feb-18	Inclusive
Start of Term	21-Feb-18	9:00am Sharp
Peace Proms	25-Feb-18	Details to follow