

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



September 2020
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.

One month gone already!!!

September has gone past in a flash although I hope you will agree with me when I say it is great to have all the boys and girls back into school and settled into a new routine. Sadly, the long, clear evenings are already disappearing too quickly, although can I remind you all to ensure that children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings and getting into bed at a reasonable time to ensure that they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

Research shows that putting children to bed early is beneficial for their physical, emotional and cognitive development. Not only do children tend to sleep more when the lights go out sooner, but they also may get a greater proportion of restorative sleep too.

Whilst there is no hard and fast rule, the general guide regarding sleep is:

- Children aged 3 to 6 years - 10-12 hours
- Children aged 7 to 12 years - 10-11 hours

Please be reminded that well rested children leads to improved performance with regards to schoolwork and fewer playground squabbles!!

As tomorrow marks the beginning of a new month, can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, School Website and See-Saw App as updates are posted on these on a regular basis. Finally, can I say a huge "Thanks" to you the parents for your ongoing support in working alongside us here in school to help everyone settle back into the new school term!

New School Day Update

Please be reminded of the new school day times starting on Monday 5th October. Starting times will remain the same but finishing times will be as follows:



P1 & P2	1.50pm Daily
P3	1.50pm Tuesday & Thursday 3.00pm Monday, Wednesday 2:00pm every Friday
P4 to P7	3.00pm Monday to Thursday 2:00pm every Friday

Breakfast Club

I am delighted to report that Breakfast Club will open again from Monday 5th October. Please be assured that social distancing measures will be put in place and pupils will sit in their own class "bubbles".

The club will be open each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 8:45am before children will be allowed to go to their own classes. Things will be somewhat different this year although once children have eaten their breakfast, they will have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!

The cost will remain at £1.00 and items available will include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water.

We look forward to see all the 'old faces' as well as new ones at our Breakfast Club next Monday! Please be reminded that Breakfast Club is open to all pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 and the cut of time for entry will be 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom.



Water Bottles

Just a quick reminder that all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) should now have their own "School Water Bottles" which have been marked clearly with their name. Rather than paying for water on a monthly basis, pupils can now bring their own personalised bottles with them to school each day. Please note, these bottles should be filled at home with water only. If required these can be refilled at school (this will be tap water only!). If for any reason your child requires another water bottle, these can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.50.



Money, Money, Money

Could I please request that when organising your child for the week ahead at school, you complete the money slips provided and send the exact amount required, if you are aware of the plans for the week ahead (regarding dinner money and extended school's money). Please where possible send all monies on a Monday morning.

A massive thanks to those of you who have been following this request since the beginning of September - it really is greatly appreciated, especially in these new times!

Please be reminded that all money forms and the school menu for the following week are uploaded onto the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk/> every Friday afternoon therefore if your child is off school these can be accessed and printed off ready for the week ahead!



Healthy Snacks



I am aware that a number of children are bringing in their own snacks to school each morning. Can I please remind you that these should be Healthy Snacks such as fresh fruit, raw vegetables (e.g. carrot, celery), pancakes etc. These are also available to purchase from the school canteen. **Please do not send in sweets, crisps, chocolate or buns as these items do not comply with our Healthy Breaks policy!**

P.E.

A few classes have already started P.E. lessons however the hall timetable for P.E. lessons has now been finalised and P.E. for all pupils will commence next week (beginning Monday 5th October).

Designated days for P.E. will be as follows:

- Monday P4/5
- Tuesday P3/4
- Wednesday P6/7
- Thursday P1/2

Please **note** on days that pupils have P.E. they should come to school in their P.E. kits. This should be **plain** black jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos) and trainers along with school polo shirts and sweatshirt.



Extended Schools/Football Practice

Unfortunately, football practice will not recommence just yet although this situation is continually being reviewed. This decision has not been taken lightly and I am aware that a number of pupils are very keen to get back to football. I do hope you understand that my top priority is to keep our pupils (and our school community) safe therefore to restart football would mean the mixing of “class bubbles” which would in turn potentially increase the spread of COVID-19 within our school community.



On a positive note, I can confirm that all other Extended Schools Clubs will be starting next week (Monday to Wednesday). Please see the attached timetable. It is important to highlight that on these days social distancing measures have been put in place which will help keep our pupils and our staff protected. Please note that pupils **must be collected** in the afternoons from their designated entrance and exit doors!

Homework!

As you are aware homework have now commenced for all pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. Individual class teachers will have sent out homework letters for their class and what is required each week. As yet, written homework (for literacy and numeracy) have not been set although these will form part of the homework over the coming weeks.

At present each class is receiving one homework each week on See-Saw using their See-Saw class App. This homework is set on a Monday afternoon and should be completed by Thursday. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils **are not** completing this homework on See-Saw which therefore means

time must be set aside in school (usually at break-time or lunchtime) for these to be completed! As far as we are aware all parents have now downloaded the See-Saw App and scanned their QR Code. If you are having problems with the App, please contact your child's class teacher as soon as possible to ensure your child does not miss it!!



House Captains

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2020-2021 are as follows:

Lissanduff Deputy	Sophie Greer Kailan Boyce	Klondyke Deputy	Iona Sharkey Noah Cerutti
Portcamon Deputy	Keira Dixon Alfie Neill	Blackrock Deputy	Charlie McMullan Kaidan Eddolls

Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Deputies and we wish them well for the coming year as they each take on this new and exciting challenge.



Also congratulations to our incoming Head Boy and Head Girl (Jay Parke and Alison Nutt) as they represent our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit.



Attendance

As we begin a new school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for September will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for September was 90.9%

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P4/5	95.8%
2nd:	Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	91.3%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	90.0%
4th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nursery	89.1%
5th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	87.3%



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. When your child returns to school you can send a note into school on their first day back or send an email to the Principal (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 to attend an appointment, under COVID-19 guidance, they will be unable to return to school again that day. 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!

Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. Due to classes being in their “bubbles”, these certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



During the month of September, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	11th Sept	18th Sept	25th Sept
Yr 1	Emily Wilmont	Finlay Taylor	Emme Lily Gault
Yr 2	Oscar Liken	Logan-James McKillop	Caleb Kane
Yr 3	Lydia Connor	Grace Mogy	Jake Allen
Yr 4 (LS)	Rosie Clarke	Madison McKeeman	Marie Taggart
Yr 4 (JL)	Alfie Armstrong	Cameron Greer	Paige Greer
Yr 5	Harvey Gault	Leo Harrison	Ava Eddolls
Yr 6	Keira Dixon	Matthew McAleese	Charlie McMullan
Yr 7	Millie Parke	Kaidan Eddolls	Georgia Gault

Safety Reminder

Sadly, over the month of September I have noticed (and have been made aware) of a few actions which I feel could put the safety of our pupils (your children!) at risk. I would ask you to take note of the following:



Some parents are driving into the school grounds in order to drop off or collect pupils. If you feel this is something that you have to do (perhaps for health reasons) then I would ask that you come and speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement. Sadly, this is not the case with a number of people therefore I would insist that you do not drive in the school grounds as pupil's safety is our top priority!

Due to Health and Safety concerns, along with social distancing guidelines which have been raised, when dropping off and collecting your child/children, I would ask that you walk children along the path (following the coloured footprints) and not over the driveway. Also when crossing the road please use the school's crossing patrol, as failure to do so can cause confusion for drivers passing by who concentrate on the designated crossing patrol outside school gates especially in the afternoons when it can be extremely busy. Please also continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines when within our school grounds. This will help avoid the spreading of COVID-19.

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests as unfortunately too many accidents happen outside school gates and I am sure you would agree we do not want the gates of Bushmills Primary on the news for this reason!

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#Hello Yellow Challenge

On Friday 9th October **all** Pupils are encouraged to wear something yellow to school - please note this will be a non-uniform day, however any pupils who wish to wear their uniform as usual can do so! The aim of this is to highlight that young people are not alone with their mental health and together as a whole school family we can feel positive even through these strange times we are living in!

A number of fun activities will take place throughout the day and there may even be a special treat for all before home time??????

#HelloYellow

LET'S
BRIGHTEN
UP A SCHOOL DAY

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

We're saying **#HelloYellow** to show young people they're not alone with their mental health.

Wear yellow on
9 October

Hello,
Yellow!

YOUNGMINDS.ORG.UK/HELLOYELLOW

YOUNGMINDS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs.uk/visitservices/visitservices) / [CORONA19](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs.uk/visitservices/visitservices) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch or their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (If they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A BUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- Book a COVID-19 test.
- Household self-isolate.
- Inform school immediately about test result.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PFA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- Inform school immediately about test result.
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PFA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test.
- Household self-isolate.
- Inform school immediately about test result.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PFA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- Inform school immediately about test result.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolate without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days or advised by the PFA Contact Tracing Service.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolate without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal.
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with government advice.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolate without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-uk.gov



EDUCATION RESTART



Diary Dates

Term 1		
#Hello Yellow Challenge	09-Oct-20	See information enclosed
Half Term	26-Oct-20 to 30-Oct-20	Inclusive
End of term	18-Dec-20	School closes at 12 Noon
Christmas Vacation	21-Dec-20 to 01-Jan-21	Inclusive

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-21	9:00am sharp
Half Term	18-Feb-21 to 23-Feb-21	Inclusive
Back to School	24-Feb-21	9:00am Sharp
School Closed	17-Mar-21	School closed for ALL pupils
Back to School	18-Mar-21	9:00am Sharp
Easter Vacation	29-Mar-21 to 09-Apr-21	Inclusive

Extended Schools
September 2020 - March 2021

MONDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.00am - 8.45am) - £1.00
P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
P1 + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00

TUESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.00am - 8.45am) - £1.00
P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm-4pm) - £2.00

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.00am - 8.45am) - £1.00
P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
P1 + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm -4pm) - £2.00

THURSDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.00am - 8.45am) - £1.00

FRIDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.00am - 8.45am) - £1.00