

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



April 2021
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.

Welcome Back!!

Now that Easter is over, the final term of this academic year will pass by very quickly. It was great seeing all classes back for the first time together on Monday 22nd March which allowed everyone to settle in (if only for a short time) before Easter.

We will have a busy term ahead and will try (where possible) to keep things as close to normal as we can yet keep in line with the current restrictions which remain in place. Any easing of the restrictions here in school will of course be shared when we receive any updates.

For now, I can inform you that dates such as Revision Weeks and Assessment Weeks have now been set and details of these can be seen in the "Diary Dates" section at the back of this Newsletter. Other events such as Sports Day and Rewards Day will be marked in some way and again updates and details of how these will be done will be sent out in due course.



WELCOME
BACK

Beach Schools NI

I am delighted to report that we are working again this year with Beach Schools NI. As part of this programme all classes, P1 to P7, will be visiting Portballintrae Beach in their individual class bubbles.



The overall aim is to encourage children to explore the outdoors and learn about the beach and wildlife.

Already two of our classes (Miss Swanson's P6/7 Class and Mrs Sheridan's P3/4 Class) have taken part.

"On 19th April, Primary 6 and 7, visited Portballintrae beach and had the most wonderful day exploring and learning outdoors with Beach Schools NI. They learnt about different types of seaweed, shells and beach creatures, explored rock pools (and even found three crabs!!) and made their very own toasted marshmallows. They had a go at building their own shelter, learnt about beach safety when lighting fires and finished off by having fun digging channels in the sand - a thoroughly enjoyable Monday!"

Miss S Swanson

"On Monday the 26th April Primary 3 and 4 set off to visit Portballintrae Beach where they met Maggie from Beach Schools NI. The class had the most fantastic time exploring the Beach looking for shells, different types of seaweed, sea glass and even learnt about 'Mermaid's Purses' (shark and ray's eggs). They explored the rock pools finding crabs and shrimp. They discussed beach safety and keeping our beaches clean and gave them the chance to go on a litter pick. They created sand castle shelters and dug holes and channels in the sand. After all the excitement of the day the class finished off around the fire toasting marshmallows, they all had a go at making sparks with a flint and discussed fire safety on the beach. The class had the most wonderful time

learning all the things that the beach has to offer and we are so lucky to have it on our door step!"

Mrs L Sheridan



P7 Cycling Proficiency Scheme

I am pleased to report that the P7 Cycling Proficiency Training Scheme commenced last Tuesday (20th April). The aim of this scheme is to teach children how to ride their bicycles safely and has a combination of theoretical and practical aspects. These sessions take place on Tuesday afternoons between 3:00pm and 4:00pm and are taken by Miss Fulton. The remaining sessions will take place on:

- Tuesday 4th May
- Tuesday 11th May
- Tuesday 18th May
- Tuesday 25th May



Primary 1 Health Reviews



The School Nursing Team visited school on Wednesday 28th April to conduct Health Reviews of all our Primary One pupils. I am delighted to report that all the reviews were completed on Wednesday.

Heart Start Training

Primary 7 pupils have commenced 'Heart Start Training' with Miss Logan on Tuesday afternoons. The aim of the training is to teach pupils essential life saving skills as well as promoting the positive values of health, well-being and responsibility.



**HEART
START**

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for April was presented to the winning class today. The overall attendance for April was 94.4%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P4/5	96.5%
2nd:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	95.1%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	94.1%
4th:	Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	93.7%
5th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	92.4%



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.

Finally, if your child's absence is related to COVID you **must inform the school immediately** to allow proper procedures to be followed! This is extremely important should other pupils have to isolate as a result.

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!

Breakfast Club

Please be reminded that Breakfast Club runs **every** morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 8:45am before school begins. Once children have finished their breakfast, they have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!



Don't forget the cost remains at £1.00 and items available include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water.

- Breakfast Club is open to all Pupils from Nursery to P7
- Cut-off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom
- Social distancing measures remain in place and pupils sit in their own class bubbles

We are delighted to see numbers attending slowly increasing but please be assured there is still plenty of room for more!

School Assemblies

At the minute we are unfortunately unable to welcome our usual visitors into school on a weekly basis to take assemblies on a Wednesday morning.

However, classes continue with assemblies online (Hope for Youth Ministries). These short assemblies are a great way to begin the school day and where time allows pupils get to watch a few every week. Although it is not the same as coming together as a whole school, pupils enjoy the new songs and short messages that they hear and we look forward to the future when we can meet together in the school assembly hall! (Here's hoping it won't be too long!!)



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 April, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	16th April	23rd April	30th April
Yr 1	Finlay Taylor	Jacob Greer	Luka Tweed
Yr 2	Ella Scott	Charlie Gilmour	Casey McKay
Yr 3	Noah Spratt	Jessy Chen	Grace Mogey
Yr 4 (LS)	Marie Taggart	Madison McKeeman	Ella McMullan
Yr 4 (JL)	Olivia McFaull	Callum Jamieson	Becky McKay
Yr 5	Yi-Jean Aw	Sam Thompson	Denzel Duncan
Yr 6	Charlie McMullan	Sophie Greer	Sam Hogg
Yr 7	Alison Nutt	Georgia Gault	Jay Parke

Diary Dates

Term 3		
Bank Holiday	03-May-21	School closed for ALL pupils
KS1 Revision Week	10-May-21 to 14-May-21	P2 to P4
KS1 Assessment Week	17-May-21 to 21-May21	P2 to P4
KS2 Revision Week	17-May-21 to 21-May21	P5 to P7
KS2 Assessment Week	24-May-21 to 27-May-21	P5 to P7
Bank Holiday & Staff Training Days	28-May-21 to 01-Jun-21	School closed for ALL pupils
End of Term	30-Jun-21	School closes at 12 Noon