

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



May 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.

Summer is on its way!!

Where has the past year gone? Although a major part of this past academic year has been spent in 'lockdown' and everyone having to face the challenge of 'Remote Learning' it's hard to believe another school year will soon be over.

Although since returning to face-to-face teaching, back in March, the usual activities which would normally take place at this time of year have not been allowed, we have still been keeping busy with Beach Schools, Cycling Proficiency and Heart Start to name a few!

The past few weeks have also been taken up with assessments for all our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils and I am delighted to report that as of today these have now all been completed! Our pupils need to be congratulated, all worked extremely hard and overall results have confirmed this!

Can I also take this opportunity to say 'Thanks' to you as parents for co-operating with us throughout this difficult year - this on-going support is always appreciated and valued!



Beach Schools NI

Our popular 'Beach Schools' programme has now come to an end, however I am delighted to report that all classes were fortunate to enjoy a 'dry' day at Portballintrae! The final two classes to take part in the programme were P4/5 on Monday 10th May and P1/2 on Monday 17th May.



"On Monday 10th May the P4/5 class had a great day at the beach, we got to take part in loads of fun activities. Some of the favourites were using flint to start a camp fire and then toasting marshmallows on it, the children also loved exploring the rock pools and they even caught a crab. While down there the children also helped to look after our beaches by picking up litter. A fantastic day was had by all!"

Miss Brown

"On Monday 17th May Primary 1 and 2 went to Portballintrae Beach to meet Captain Maggie. To join her pirate crew, they had to walk the plank, jump over the smelly seaweed and avoid the sharks below. Captain Maggie talked to them about things that get washed up on the seashore, they then had to search the beach for some sea treasures of their own, before making a Treasure Island. The crew discovered some maps on the beach, they followed them carefully to find the hidden treasure, which they all enjoyed eating! After lunch they just had time to explore the rock pools, learning how to catch crabs and digging channels in the sand. Everyone had a fantastic day!"

Miss Fulton



Awards for All Funding

As you may or may not be aware earlier in the year we were able to share with you that we were successful in our bid to secure additional funding to allow us to purchase play equipment to be installed in our senior playground.



Even better now, work has commenced and should be completed over the next few days!

It is great to see this being completed before our P7 pupils leave us at the end of June.



Library Books

The EA's Education Library Service is delighted to partner with BookTrust NI and gave all the Primary 1 pupils across NI a Time to Read Pack.

Research shows that a child who reads for pleasure will do better at school, even in subjects like maths. Not only that, but if a family read together, it's a great way to bond, talk about the day and have lots of fun.

The pack contained a book along with simple tips and advice for parents and carers on how to make the most of the book and get their children excited about reading.



Gardening

This term, children in Primary 3 -7 will have the opportunity to develop their gardening skills under the watchful eyes of Kerrie and Ronnie. In their class bubbles the children have been planting some seeds, making a sensory garden and learning how they can recycle old household things to help them in the garden. We look forward to watching all their vegetables and flowers grow!



Questionnaires

Can I please ask that all questionnaires regarding “Home Learning” be returned to school as soon as possible!



Although these were to be returned by today, sadly we have only received a very small number of replies - please be reminded that your thoughts and views are important to us therefore if you have not already done so please return your questionnaire as soon as possible!

Thanks to those of you who have already done this!

Sports Day

Due to on-going COVID restrictions unfortunately this year we are unable to hold our annual Sports Day in the usual way! However next week we have arranged to hold our 'Mini Olympics' Event on Friday 4th June (with practices taking place on Wednesday 2nd June and Thursday 3rd June.) Part of this event has been sponsored by our local Spar here in Bushmills.

Unfortunately, spectators will not be allowed in school grounds, however, events will be take place in 'class bubbles' some of which will be 'live streamed' on Facebook to allow parents to watch.

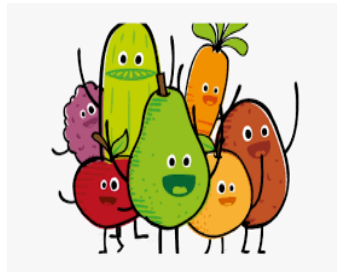
Please note pupils are asked (if possible) to wear a t-shirt in their house colour on Friday (4th June). They can also wear jogging bottoms/shorts and trainers along with their school polo-shirt and sweatshirt on Wednesday and Thursday. Please be reminded the house colours are as follows;

- Klondyke Yellow
- Lissanduff Red
- Blackrock Blue
- Portcamon Green



Healthy Breaks!

Can I please remind all parents of our Healthy Breaks Policy as sadly on a few occasions pupils are bringing in crisps, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks etc. to have at break time. Please remember the following:



SUITABLE HEALTHY BREAK SNACKS

- Fresh Fruit (available to purchase from canteen)
- Fruit Pots with sliced or chopped fresh fruit (available to purchase from canteen)
- Salad Pots
- Raw vegetables e.g. carrots, celery, cucumber
- Pancakes
- Scones
- Soda (available to purchase from canteen)
- Wheaten (available to purchase from canteen)
- Toast (available to purchase from the school canteen)
- Bagels (available to purchase from the school canteen)
- Milk
- Water

DISCOURAGED AT BREAK TIME

- Any confectionery – chocolate, sweets, etc.
- Fruit Bars
- Yoghurts
- Crisps or Potato Snacks
- Cakes or Buns
- Biscuits
- Fruit Juice
- Fizzy Drinks

We would value the support of everyone involved in helping us to carry out this important school policy.

Toffee Tails

Yesterday our Primary 1 and 2 pupils met the newest member of our school family, "Toffee".

Toffee is a qualified "Therapy Dog" who will be visiting our Primary 1 / 2 and Primary 6 / 7 classes over the next few weeks leading up to the end of term.

Toffee, along with her owner Linda, will be working with the classes to deliver a fun programme which helps to promote a positive learning experience for all our pupils. Hopefully Toffee will enjoy her time here and the plan is that she will become a more permanent visitor to our school in September!



Breakfast Club

Just a quick reminder that Breakfast Club continues as usual every day Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 8:45am for all pupils Nursery to Primary 7.

Again numbers are remaining steady although there is always room for more.



Please remember:

- Cost remains at £1.00 (items include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water)
- Cut-off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classrooms

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for May was presented to the winning class today. The overall attendance for May was 93.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	95.8%
2nd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P4/5	94.9%
3rd:	Mrs Garrett	Nursery	94.4%
4th:	Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	92.1%
5th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	89.3%



Well done to Miss Fulton's class!

Sadly, following numerous letters, again an increasing number of our pupils are arriving late in school and are being collected early in the afternoons with no valid reason being provided. It has also been noted that this has become a somewhat major occurrence especially on Friday afternoons. Also unfortunately a number of pupils are not being collected on time in the afternoons especially on Fridays. Again can I remind you of the finishing times for all pupils set out below:

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

Please, please where possible, help us to ensure that this situation does not get out of hand!

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!

Leaving School during school hours

As mentioned before, the number of pupils who are being collected early without a valid reason is increasing. From the start of next week (Tuesday 6th June) should you need to collect your child early you must complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher the day before, or at the latest first thing on the morning which you need to collect your child and NOT when collecting your child.

Please note these forms will be held in the school office as well as in the classrooms by the teachers, or alternatively can be downloaded from the school website.

		Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit			
Permission to leave school during school hours					
Pupil's Name:					
Class:					
The above named pupil/pupils has/have an appointment to attend. Please note below the reason why you are requesting permission for your child/children to leave school during school hours:					
Doctor Appointment					
Dentist Appointment					
Hospital Appointment					
Other (Please provide details)					
A copy of your child's/children's appointment card or a letter must be returned with this form for school records.					
Appointment Date:					
Appointment Time:					
School Collection Time:					
Please be reminded that due to current COVID Guidelines if your child/children leave school during the school day they may not return until the following day.					
Parent/Guardian (Print):					
Signed:					
Date:					

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

	7th May	14th May	21st May
Yr 1	Reuben McIntyre	Emme Gault	Freddie Speers
Yr 2	Grace Wilmont	Logan-James McKillop	Anna Simpson
Yr 3	Evie Tweed	Leo McKendry	Victoria Gilmour
Yr 4 (LS)	Marie Taggart	Jydan Mulholland	Logan Cross
Yr 4 (JL)	Cameryn Greer	Summer Montgomery	Alex McLaughlin
Yr 5	Ava Eddolls	Chloe Ferguson	Ruby-Jane Waller
Yr 6	Matthew McAleese	Kailan Boyce	Charlotte Hume
Yr 7	Ella Dixon	Kaidan Eddolls	Jay Parke

Diary Dates

Term 3		
Bank Holiday & Staff Training Days	28-May-21 to 01-Jun-21	School closed for ALL pupils
Final half term starts	02-Jun-21	School starts at 9:00am SHARP
School Photographer	10-Jun-21	Further details to follow
P7 Leavers' Assembly	25-Jun-21	Further details to follow
Colour Run	25-Jun-21	Watch this space!! Further details to follow
End of Term	30-Jun-21	School closes at 12 Noon for ALL pupils.

Car Park Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked by their teachers to the school gate, beside the bicycle shed, where they must be collected.

I would again request that cars should not be entering the school grounds to drop off or pick up pupils as the safety of our children is paramount!