

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



September 2021  
Newsletter

## Inside this issue....

September over already!!!	3	House Captains	10
Latest COVID Guidance for Parents	4	N.I. 100 - Primary Heritage Games	11
The School Day Money Forms and School menus	5	New Learning Area	12
Water Bottles Healthy Snacks Swimming	6	Attendance	13
P.E. Homework	7	Star of the Week	14
Breakfast Club Assemblies	8	Safety Reminder	15
Nursery Opening Keep up to date!!	9	Diary Dates	16

### 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.

## September over already!!!

It is hard to believe September is over already and everyone here in school has settled back into the daily routines.

As the dark evenings are closing in quickly can I remind you to please ensure children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings and of course are getting into bed at a reasonable time - this will ensure 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

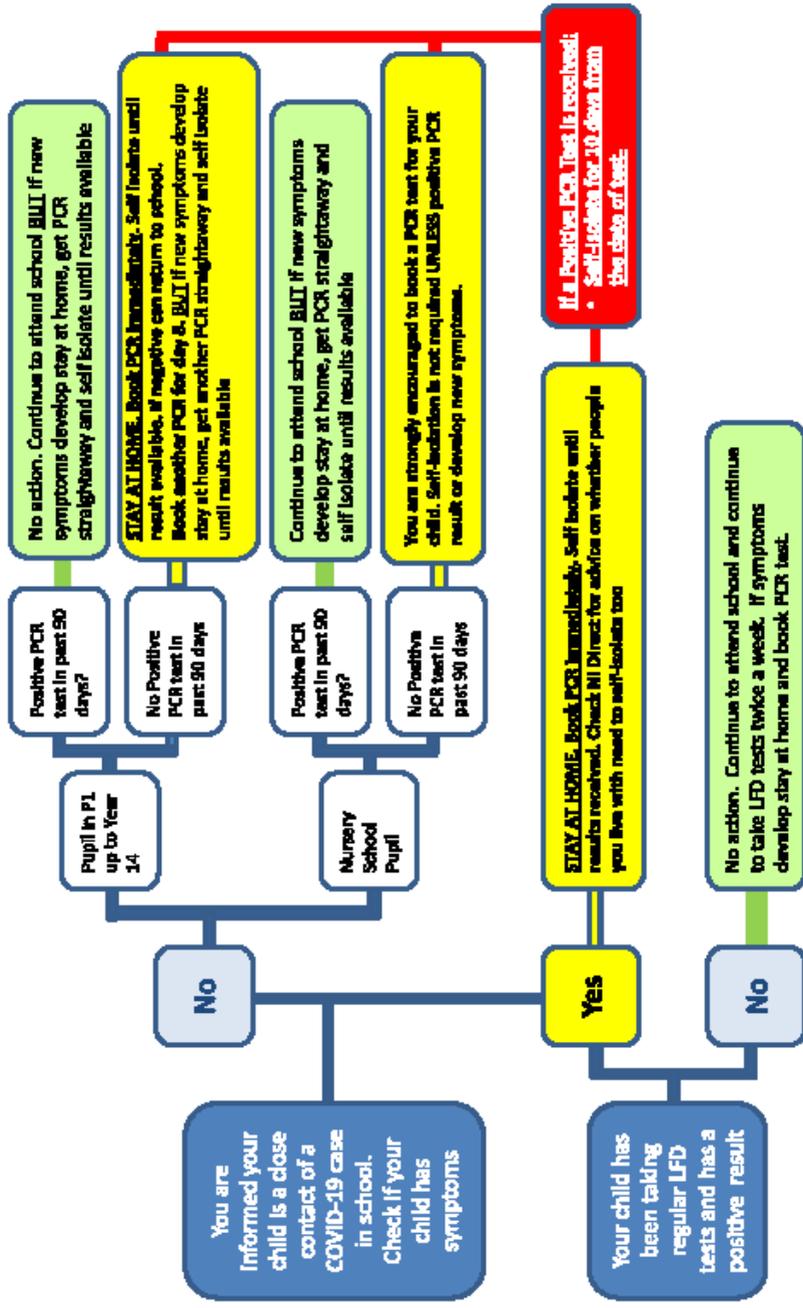
Please be reminded that well rested children lead to improved performance with regards to schoolwork and fewer playground squabbles!!

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!

# Latest COVID Guidance for Parents

## Flowchart for PARENTS based on NI Direct website guidance

Only use for pupils in a school setting 03/09/2021



## The School Day

Please be reminded of the following school day times:

Starting times remain the same (9:00am sharp!) and finishing times are as follows:



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

Unfortunately, already a small number of children are not arriving in school and ready to start at 9:00am. This not only causes disruption to classes but also means that teachers are unable to forward registration files to the office on time! Please please ensure this situation does not get out of hand especially so early in the term!

## Money Forms and School Menus



Please be reminded that the Extended Schools form, Snack form and School menu for the following week are given out in class every Friday.

If your child is off school, the following forms can be accessed on the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk> and printed off ready for the week ahead!

- The Extended Schools and Snack Order forms can be found in the "Parents Area - Forms" section of the school website
- The school menu is sent out on the school app on a Friday afternoon

## 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.



## 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!**

## Swimming

Swimming lessons have now commenced this term for our Primary 6 pupils. These take place on Friday mornings when pupils travel along with Miss Brown and Mrs Blair to Coleraine Leisure centre.



## P.E.

P.E. lessons have now commenced and the hall timetable for P.E. has now been finalised

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



Monday	P1/2 & P5
Tuesday	P3/4
Wednesday	P1/2 & P7
Friday	P6 (swimming)

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.

## Homework!

As you are aware homework has 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.

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 out!!

## Breakfast Club



I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club has opened again since Monday 6th September and numbers attending have been good with pupils attending from all classes (Nursery right through to Primary 7). Please be assured that social distancing measures have been put in place.

Breakfast club opens each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am 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 will remain at £1.00 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.

## Assemblies

Assemblies have now commenced and it has been decided that as well as being able to view assemblies on line, classes will meet in the assembly hall in their different key stages, Primaries 1 to 4 and Primaries 5 to 7. In order to maintain a level of 'social distancing' classes will meet in these 'bubble groups' once a fortnight to enjoy assembly.

The first assembly took place this week for our KS1 pupils (P1 to P4) and was taken by Alice McAlary (Family Support Worker).



Next week's assembly will be for our KS2 pupils (P5 to P7) and will be taken by Lynda McAuley (CEF). We do hope that these arrangements will help us move closer to some sort of normality here in school.

## Nursery Opening

The official opening of our Nursery Playground took place earlier this morning and special guests were Education Minister, Michelle McIlveen along with members of the Portballintrae Boat Club. Further information and photographs will appear online over the coming days.



## Keep up to date!!

Can I ask all parents to ensure they have completed the Data Capture forms which were sent out at the beginning of September. Your contact details are very important should we need to make contact at any stage during the school day.

I would also ask that any additional forms which were sent out to you on the first day of September, particularly Photograph Consent forms, are completed and returned to school as a matter of urgency!

Please continue to keep an eye on the school Facebook page, website, Schools NI app and See-Saw. These continue to be used as the main form of communication between the school and you the parents.

# House Captains

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2021-2022 are as follows:

Lissanduff		Portcamon	
<b>Captain</b> Brooke Mulholland	<b>Deputy</b> Lauren Kane	<b>Captain</b> Lily-Mae McAfee	<b>Deputy</b> Brooke Duncan
			
Klondyke		Blackrock	
<b>Captain</b> Noah Cerutti	<b>Deputy</b> Cameron McConachie	<b>Captain</b> Emma Neill	<b>Deputy</b> Holly Clarke
			

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, Matthew McAleese and Lum Lum Aw, as they represent

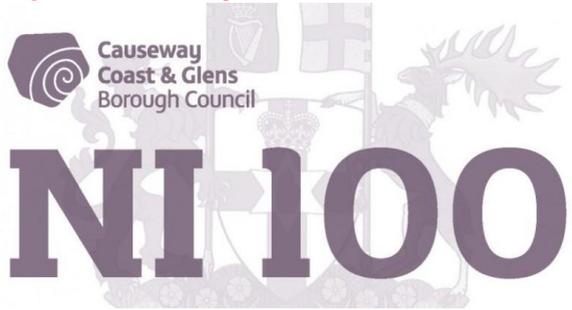


our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit.



## N.I. 100- Primary Heritage Games

As part of NI 100 Celebrations being organised by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Sport and Wellbeing Development Unit,



our pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) will be participating in a Heritage Games event will take place in our school on Monday 4th October. The aim is to give Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils an opportunity to experience activities and playground games from the past 100 years.



Using imagination and creativity pupils will be taken back to 1921 and travel through the decades to modern times.

All sessions will be COVID compliant and delivered by an experienced coach.

All pupils are therefore required to come to school in their P.E. kits (plain black jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos) and trainers along with school polo shirts and sweatshirt.

## New Learning Area

We are very excited to introduce our new learning area this year! We are using this space as a quiet, wellbeing room where children can relax with a book, take part in small group and individual activities aimed at improving their wellbeing and social skills. As the theme is a rainbow, everything is brightly coloured and the children are encouraged to look at the brighter side when things get a bit tough. We are delighted with this area, and hope all children will get lots of use and benefit from using it!"

Miss Swanson and Mrs Witherow



## 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 91.7%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane (Nursery)	94.4%
2nd:	Miss Swanson (P7)	93.6%
3rd:	Miss McCabe (P3/4)	93.1%
4th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow (P5)	91.7%
5th:	Miss Brown (P6)	90.3%
6th:	Miss Fulton (P1/2)	88.0%



Well done to Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane'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](mailto: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.

## 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’:

	10th Sept	17th Sept	24th Sept
Yr 1	Emily Dick	Grace McElhinney	Sam Moge
Yr 2	Emme Gault	Freddie Speers	Luka Tweed
Yr 3	Anna Simpson	Nate Wilmont	Logan-James McKillop
Yr 4	Alisha Lee	Jessy Chen	Grace Moge
Yr 5	Rosie Clarke	Jayden Mulholland	Summer Montgomery
Yr 6	Leon Myers	Denzel Duncan	Emma Neill
Yr 7	Holly Clarke	Lum Lum Aw	Charlie McMullan

## 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 into the school grounds as pupils' 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 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.

## Diary Dates

<h1>Term 1</h1>		
New Term Begins	01-Sep-21	Starts 9:00am sharp
NI 100 - Primary School Heritage Games	04-Oct-21	See details inside
Staff Training	07-Oct-21	School will close for all pupils at 1:30pm
Book Fair	13-10-21	Book fair arrives in school for 1 week
Parent/Teacher Interviews	18-Oct-21 to 21-Oct-21	Further details to follow
Half Term Holiday	25-Oct-21 to 29-Oct-21	School closed to ALL pupils
Flu Vaccination	11-Nov-21	Further details to follow
Staff Development Day	17-Dec-21	School closed to ALL pupils
Carol Service	22-Dec-21	To be confirmed
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-21 to 03-Jan-22	