

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



February 2022
Newsletter

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Head lice

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.

As tomorrow marks the beginning of March, we welcome the brighter mornings and clearer evenings and hopefully it won't be too long before the milder weather sets in.

Can I therefore take this opportunity to remind you to please ensure children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings (hopefully once homework's have been completed 😊) and of course are getting into bed at a reasonable time - this will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

Remember!! Well rested children lead to improved performance with regards to school work and fewer playground squabbles!

Junior House Captains

As the House Captains and Deputy House Captains are in charge of leading their teams during tournaments, it was decided that as they are not present for P1 to P4 tournaments, a junior House Captain in P4 for each house should be appointed. The pupils in P3 to P5 voted for the pupils in P4 with the winners being: Alisha Lee, Leo McKendry, Lydia Connor and Grace Mogyey.



Beach Schools

During the month of February our pupils have been going to Portballintrae Beach to meet Maggie from Beach Schools NI.

Throughout these visits they have enjoyed many activities including foraging on the beach, building campfires and toasting marshmallows, and even building their own shelters to survive! Great fun was had by all!

Once again pupils have loved taking part in Beach Schools and we would also like to thank Portballintrae Boat Club (Nigel) for allowing us to eat our lunch in their premises.



House Tournaments

Friday 28th January and Friday 4th February saw our first house tournaments in 2 years!!! In order to stick to our large 'bubbles' the tournaments were completed in P1 to P4 and P5 to P7 groups.

P1 to P4 were given the task on the first week of completing a texture scavenger hunt. The houses were divided into smaller teams with a P1, 2, 3 and 4 pupil in each team. They were tasked with finding a range of outdoor items such as something fluffy, rough, spiky and so on in their teams.

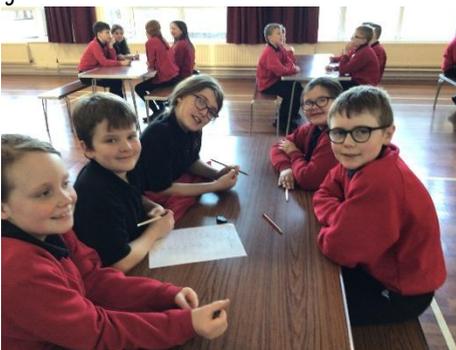
In the second week, the pupils had to create birds' nests using a range of outdoor materials. Points were awarded for team work, suitability of the nest and whether it could have camouflaged well in a tree.

The overall winner was Lissanduff.

P5 to P7 took part in a table quiz across both weeks. Rounds in the quiz included general knowledge, guess the sound, picture round, songs from the movies, logos, sports, etc.

The scores were very close throughout the rounds with the winning house, Klondyke, beating the house in 2nd place by 1 point.

All the pupils really enjoyed this event and are looking forward to the next!



Waterstones Visit

On Tuesday 22nd February Primary 1 & 2 paid a visit to Waterstones in Coleraine as part of the Shared Reading programme. The children have enjoyed P6 coming to read to them in the afternoons and during their visit to Waterstones they got to pick books for themselves to take home.



Healthy Kids

The Healthy Kids pilot project for our Primary 7 pupils continues on Tuesday mornings here in school. So far our pupils have been learning about keeping physically fit, eating the right foods using the 'Eat Well Guide' and looking after their mental health by connecting with others.

These sessions will continue right through the month of March into April with the final session being held on Tuesday 5th April 2022.



School Photographer



The school photographer was in school on Monday 14th February 2022.

We are patiently waiting for the proofs to be returned to school. All being well this will be soon!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues every morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am for all of our pupils. Numbers have remained steady since opening again in the New Year and this club is growing from strength to strength.



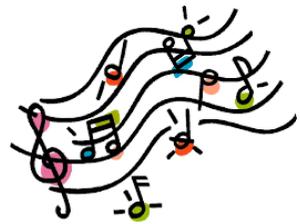
Library Van Visits



We were happy to welcome back the Mobile Library van to our school on Monday 21st February 2022 and it will return again to visit all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7 on Monday 7th March.

Music Lessons

Just a reminder that piano lessons continue here in school on Thursday mornings. If your child is currently in Primary 3 to Primary 7 and would like to start lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the school office for further information.



Woodwind and violin lessons also continue on Tuesdays here in school.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons have now commenced for our Primary 7 pupils and these take place on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.



Assemblies

Assemblies continue on Wednesday mornings as usual when classes meet in their different key stages.

This month we have welcomed a number of new visitors to our school to take assemblies.

Assemblies for this month were as follows:

Wednesday 2nd February Rev Buick
(Dunluce Presbyterian)

Wednesday 9th February Valerie Bray
(Causeway Methodist)

Wednesday 23rd February Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)

Classes also continue watching Hope for Youth assemblies online when possible.

Footballer of the Week

This month there was only one week for Footballer of the Week on Thursday 10th February.

These were **Carter Waring** for P1 to P3 and **Leon Myers** for P4 to P7. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and the half term holiday therefore were no other football session in February.



Star of the Week

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

	4th Feb	11th Feb	25th Feb
Nur	Holly Simpson	Eli McKay	Orin Canavan
Yr 1	Roy Parke	Emma Simpson	Aria Stevenson-Lampard
Yr 2	Isaac Parke	Emily Wilmont	Luka Tweed
Yr 3	Lola McKay	Anna Simpson	Ella Scott
Yr 4	Lucy Parke	Alisha Lee	Leo McKendry
Yr 5	Becky McKay	Logan Scott	Summer Montgomery
Yr 6	Hayden Parke	Chloe Ferguson	Luka Nicholl
Yr 7	Zac Millar	Kailan Boyce	Charlie McMullan

Attendance

The attendance cup for February will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The school's overall average attendance for the month of February was 90.0%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss McCabe	P3	94.2%
2nd:	Miss Brown	P6	90.0%
3rd:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane		
		Nursery	89.1%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	87.9%
5th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow		
		P5	87.8%
6th:	Miss Swanson	P7	86.1%



Well done Miss McCabe's to 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 (jlogan335@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.

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!

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Football Tournament	02-Mar-22	Rugby Avenue 1.30pm to 3.00pm
Bank Holiday	17-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	18-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Easter Holiday	11-Apr-22 to 22-Apr-22	Inclusive School closed to ALL pupils

Please note the change to the Easter Holidays.

Term 3		
Start of Term	25-Apr-22	School starts 9:00am sharp
Bank Holiday	02-May-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Foundation & KSI Revision Week	09-May-22 to 13-May-22	
Foundation & KSI Assessment Week	16-May-22 to 20-May-22	
KS2 Revision Week	16-May-22 to 20-May-22	
KS2 Assessment Week	23-May-22 to 27-May-22	