

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



May 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.

Summer is on its way!!

The past few weeks have 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!

As we are now approaching the end of yet another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents once again for your continued support throughout this year.

Coleraine Music Festival

On Friday 6th May, both our P3/4 class choir and senior choir took part in this year's Coleraine Music Festival when they performed their pieces in front of the adjudicators.

The Primary 3/4 Choir started off by singing a lovely rendition of 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. The adjudicators were impressed by the effort put in by all the pupils in the choir.



Our senior choir (made up of pupils from P4 to P7) then sang two pieces- 'Siyahamba' and 'Sing'. The pupils really enjoyed singing these pieces and once again were highly commended for their enthusiastic performances.

Many thanks must go to Miss Swanson, Miss McCabe and Mrs Witherow for training the choirs for this event.

Well done everyone for all your hard work!

Balmoral Show

On Thursday 12th May, Primaries 5, 6 and 7 set sail from school at 8:30am to travel to Balmoral Park (just outside Lisburn) for this year's Balmoral Show!

After an early departure from school our first priority on arrival at the show was to sit down and enjoy our 'snack' which was kindly prepared by Mrs McConachie and our school kitchen staff.

After the delicious pancakes (and not forgetting the yummy shortbread which was enjoyed by EVERYONE!) it was time to begin our journey visiting the many features and attractions of the show!



First stop was of course the 'Fun Fair' (not surprisingly decided by the pupils?) which included some children enjoying a ride on the 'Big Wheel' which allowed them to enjoy the view for miles around once they reached the top! There were of course plenty of other rides including Bumper Cars, the Sizzler, a Waltzer and a mechanical Rodeo

Bull, so you can imagine encouraging the pupils to move on was a bit of a challenge!

Throughout the day classes enjoyed the many attractions



including watching the show jumping, visiting the pigs and goats and not forgetting walking around the hundreds of trade stands which were spread out throughout the park.

Other top attractions included a visit to Ark Open Farm as well as getting to observe the sheep shearing competition.



Even though there were thousands of visitors at the show we even managed to bump into Colin Tinsley from Hope For Youth Ministries where pupils received a special goodie bag!

All in all a super day was had and the afternoon concluded with all pupils receiving a 'free' ice-cream from Glastry Farm Ice Cream courtesy of Keith from Ice Cream Happiness - thanks so much Keith, the ice-cream was greatly appreciated and a very thoughtful surprise!!



Harper Shield Football Tournament

On Wednesday 18th May our school football team travelled to Coleraine to take part in this year's 'Joel Harper Shield Tournament' which was held at Rugby Avenue.



Again a great afternoon was had by all and once again our team played well and most importantly represented our school well, both on and off the pitch. Well Done Boys!

Cook School

On Thursday 19th May our Primary 6 and 7 classes took part in a "Cook School" event, where they followed Jayne McCartney's recipe to make vegetarian pies as part of National Vegetarian Week!

They followed the recipe and prepared all the ingredients themselves, chopping, mixing and folding to create their own individual pies! I think you'll agree, they look tasty!



Queen's Platinum Jubilee School Workshop

On Monday 23rd May Primary 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed taking part in a Special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Workshop which was organised by Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Service and took place in the Bushmills Community Centre. That afternoon the pupils enjoyed learning about the Queen's Coronation visit in 1953. They got the opportunity to dress up, play with toys from that era, and also made rag rugs and bunting. They finished off the workshop by replicating the Queen's historic journey on the Causeway Tram to the Causeway. The children were a credit to our school and had a wonderful time!



Sports Day

On Friday 27th May we finally had the opportunity to once again return to 'Sports Day'! Although the day took a slightly different format with Nursery to Primary 4 pupils running their races first, at 9:30am, followed by the Primary 5 to 7 pupils completing their races at 11:00am, the sun shone (occasionally) and we were able to have an enjoyable morning!

A huge 'Thanks' to all parents and friends who came along to support the children and cheer them on!



Assemblies

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

This month the assemblies were taken by the following:



Wednesday 4th May

Rev. Morrow
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian Church)

Wednesday 18th May

Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)

Wednesday 25th May

Pastor Billy Jones
(Dunseverick Baptist Church)

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

For the month of June, we all plan to come together for whole school assemblies on Wednesday mornings!

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club continues every morning, Monday to Friday, from 8:15am for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7.



Library Van Visits



Our next visit by the Library Van is due to take place on Monday 13th June, please ensure all library books are returned in preparation for this visit.

Music Lessons

Woodwind and violin lessons continue on Tuesday mornings while piano lessons continue on Thursday mornings.



Swimming Lessons



Swimming Lessons for our Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre with the final two lessons taking place on Friday 10th and Friday 17th June.

Extended Schools

<p>Good News Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This club will run for a further two weeks following the Bank Holiday • Tuesday afternoons • 2:00pm to 3:00pm • P1 to P3 only • Tuesday 7th June • Tuesday 21st June 	<p>Ukulele Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Club will continue for a further three weeks after the Bank Holiday • Tuesday afternoons • 3:00pm to 4:00pm • P5 to P7 only • Tuesday 7th June • Tuesday 14th June • Tuesday 21st June
<p>Gardening Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This club will run for a further two weeks following the Bank Holiday • Wednesday afternoons • 3:00pm - 4:00pm • P4 to P7 • Wednesday 8th June • Wednesday 15th June • Thursday afternoons • 2:00pm - 3:00pm • P1 to P3 • Thursday 9th June • Thursday 16th June 	<p>Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football will continue as normal for P4 to P7 unless advised otherwise • Thursday afternoons • 3:00pm - 4:00pm • P4 to P7 only • The normal charge of £2.00 per session will apply • Please note unfortunately there is no football available for P1 to P3

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

	6th May	13th May	20th May	27th May
Nur	Lucy Neill	Robbie Barrett	Oscar Parke	Frankie Glass
Yr 1	Roy Parke	Emily Dick	Lyla Mulholland	Ben Neill
Yr 2	Emme Gault	Jacob Greer	Reuben McIntyre	Emily Wilmont
Yr 3	Oscar Liken	Grace Wilmont	Sofia McKenna	Oscar Wilmont
Yr 4	Evie Tweed	Grace Moge y	Logan Cross	Poppy Armstrong
Yr 5	Alfie Armstrong	Becky McKay	Kaley Corscadden	Ella McMullan
Yr 6	Yi- Jean Aw	Liam Nutt	Isaac Horner	Luka Tweed
Yr 7	Brooke Mulholland	Noah Cerutti	Lauren Kane	Zac Millar

Footballer of the Week

A pupil from each football session is picked as 'Footballer of the Week'. The following players have been picked for the month of May:

	6th May	20th May	27th May
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Sam Hogg	Cameron Greer & Leo McKendry	Sam Hogg

Parent Pay

Thanks to everyone, I can now confirm that accounts have been set up for all of our pupils and I am pleased to report that 'ParentPay' is going well despite a few teething problems at the start.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the issue of negative balances. If you are unsure if you have a negative balance, please feel free to contact the school office and this can be checked for you. In the event of you having a negative balance, I would request that all negative balances be paid on a weekly basis and if you are unable to do this please do not hesitate to contact the Principal immediately.

Attendance

The attendance cup for April will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The school's overall average attendance for the month of May was 92.1%%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane	Nur	94.3%
2nd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5	93.0%
3rd:	Miss Brown	P6	92.6%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P7	92.1%
5th:	Miss McCabe	P3/4	91.2%
6th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	90.6%



**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 (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 3		
Staff Development Day	01-Jun-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Jubilee Bank Holiday	02-Jun-22 & 03-Jun-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Return to School	06-Jun-22	9:00am Sharp
Primary 7 Leavers Assembly	24-Jun-22	9:30am Further details to follow
Primary 1 Induction	28-Jun-22	9:30am Further details to follow
Nursery Graduation	28-Jun-22	10:00am Further details to follow
End of Term	30-Jun-22	Finish at 12:00noon for all pupils