

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



February 2023
Newsletter

Inside this issue.....

March Waterstone's Visit	3	Attendance	8
School Photographer Autism NI Superhero's Week	4	Every School Day Counts	9
Peace Proms	5	Star of the Week	10
Football Library Van Breakfast Club	6	Footballer of the Week Diary Dates	11
Swimming Assemblies	7	World Book Day	12

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.

March

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 evening (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 leads to improved performance with regards to schoolwork and of course fewer playground squabbles!

Waterstone's Visit

On Tuesday 7th February Primary 1 and 2 pupils visited Waterstone's Bookshop in Coleraine as part of the Shared Reading Programme. The children have enjoyed both parents and the Primary 6 pupils reading to them in the afternoon. During their visit to Waterstone's, they even got to pick books for themselves to take home.



School Photographer

The school photographer was in school on Monday 13th February when all individual and family photographs were taken along with Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 7 class photographs. As you are aware proofs were sent home last week and orders can now be placed either on-line directly with the photographer or by sending the completed order form with the correct amount payable into school by Tuesday 7th March 2023.



Autism NI Superhero Week

Well done to all our pupils from Nursery right through to Primary 7 who have taken part in Superhero week and have been busy being as strong as Superman, as Smart as Ironman, as Kind as Wonder Woman, as Generous as Black Panther and as Amazing as Spiderman. Everyone did a great job completing your Superhero wall charts all week and raising a total of £2136.12 for Autism NI.

Thank you to all parents, families and friends who have contributed to the fundraising effort.



Peace Proms

On Sunday 26th February, our choir travelled to The SSE Arena in Belfast to take part in the Peace Proms Concert, and what a day we had!

Our children were fantastic and enjoyed the entire day, performing with over 4000 other children in the arena with a live orchestra - this was a first for most of us!

The orchestra were fantastic, and we were treated to some fabulous solos from a range of different performers. What a super day with a super group of children - well done to all of you!

It was lovely to have some parents there to support us too - thanks for coming!



Football

The third round of this year's Coleraine and District Small School's Football Tournament took place on Thursday 2nd February in Ballycastle. Once again our team performed well and I am delighted to report that they have made it through to the finals!



The finals will take place tomorrow (Wednesday 1st March) at Rugby Avenue in Coleraine and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best!

Please note there will be **NO** After Schools football this week (Thursday 2nd March) although football will return as normal next Thursday, 9th March, for all classes.

P1 to P3 2:00pm to 3:00pm

P4 to P7 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Library Van Service

Please be reminded that the next visit of the library van to our school will be Monday 6th March.



Breakfast Club & Extended Schools

Breakfast Club continues every morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:15am for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7. Numbers remain steady since opening again in the New Year and this club is growing from strength to strength!



Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 6/7 pupils (Miss Swanson's class) continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. Unfortunately, over recent weeks several pupils have arrived in school on Friday morning and just 'announced' that they do not want to go swimming. If there is a genuine reason explaining why your child is not attending swimming lessons, I would ask that this is explained in writing and forwarded to myself as soon as possible. Pupils **not** going swimming must remain in school where supervision is arranged.



Assemblies

Whole school assemblies continue on Wednesday mornings, and we have been delighted to welcome back the following visitors:



Wednesday 8th Feb	Robert Plant
Wednesday 15th Feb	Rev A Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)
Wednesday 22nd Feb	Pastor B Jones (Dunseverick Baptist)

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

Attendance

Attendance at the end of the month of February has seen a drop from January. We hope to see improvement throughout the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

The attendance cup for February will be presented to the winning class. The overall attendance for February was 87.7%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Miss Brown	P5/6	90.5%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	90.1%
3rd:	Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	88.6%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	88.2%
5th:	Miss Rowe & Miss Cochrane	Nur	78.6%



Well done to Miss Logan & Miss Brown'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.

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!

Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each year every week for their achievements. 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':

	03/02	10/02	24/02
Yr 1	Frankie Glass	Lacey Connor	Eli McKay
Yr 2	Oliver McKendry	Roy Parke	Evie McKeown
Yr 3	Isaac Parke	Emme Gault	Finlay Taylor
Yr 4	Hollie McKay	Grace Wilmont	Casey McKay
Yr 5	Leo McKendry	Lydia Connor	Evie Tweed
Yr 6	Alfie Armstrong	Summer Montgomery	Logan Scott
Yr 7	Brooke Dunn	Denzel Duncan	Emma Neill

Footballer of the Week

The following players of the week have been picked for the month of February:

	02/02	09/02	23/02
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Leon Myers	Cameryn Greer	Leo Harrison



Diary Dates

Term 2		
Bank Holiday	17-Mar-23	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	20-Mar-23	School closed to ALL pupils
Parent/Teacher Interviews	W/C 27-Mar-23	Further details to follow
Easter Holidays Begin	03-Apr-23	School Closes at 12:00noon for all pupils
Easter Holiday	04-Apr-23 to 14-Apr-23	Inclusive

Term 3		
Start of Term	17-Apr-23	Starts 9:00am sharp

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 2nd March 2023. This day celebrates all things book-related and encourages all children and young people to find their love for reading, listening to stories and enjoying books!

Each child will receive a £1 book token on Thursday at school which they can exchange for a FREE book from the World Book Day collections at all bookshops or get £1 off any book of their choosing.

This year, we are asking your child to bring in a book from home that they enjoy reading to share with their class. We have decided not to hold a dressing up competition, as we recently dressed up as Superheroes for Superhero Week, so children should come dressed in their uniform as normal.

Throughout the day, we will be taking part in lots of different book-related activities, and we will have a chance to share stories with each other, both staff and pupils!

We are really looking forward to this day at school and hope that your child is too!

