

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



November 2022
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.

It's Christmas!

We made it! Christmas preparations are well underway. There is no doubt this first term has been both busy and challenging but a huge thanks to everyone who has worked well together to help keep our children safe and school an enjoyable place to be!

As you are aware rehearsals are now underway for this year's Christmas production of "No-one Wraps Like An Elf". All pupils, from Nursery to Primary 7, will be involved and the performances will take place on Thursday 15th December. You will have the opportunity to come along and enjoy the performance and information regarding this has already been sent out.

Further information in relation to the actual day of the performances will be sent out in due course.



Moderator Visit

On Monday 7th November we were delighted to have the opportunity to host a visit from Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick, moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Dr Kirkpatrick took a short assembly which included our Primary 7 pupils performing "The Harvest Samba", as well as our Head Boy, Hayden Parke, and Head Girl, Lily-Mae McAfee, reading a harvest poem. The assembly concluded with a short Question Time when pupils were given the opportunity to ask Dr Kirkpatrick some questions in relation to his role this year!



Peace Proms Workshop

On Tuesday 8th November, our Peace Proms choir along with Miss Swanson and Mrs Witherow travelled to the SSE Arena in Belfast for the Peace Proms Rehearsal Workshop. Feedback from the event was all very positive and everyone is looking forward to the main event which will take place on Sunday 26th February 2023. Please note further details will be sent out closer to the time and if you have not already done so, please be reminded you can purchase tickets at www.ssearenabelfast.com or by telephoning the box office on 0844 847 2455.

Football

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament took place on Thursday 10th November when once again our team travelled to Ballycastle to take part and again this was another successful day for Bushmills Primary School.

Not only did the team perform well on the pitch but their attitude and behaviour continued to remain exemplary even when they were not playing - Thanks to each one of you - you have made us proud!

The second round will take place on Thursday 8th December and further details will be sent out in due course!



Remembrance Day

This year pupils were given the opportunity to purchase poppies and other merchandise here in school in the lead up to Remembrance Day and I am delighted to report that a total of £217.97 was collected for this year's "Poppy Appeal".



A wreath was also laid by our Head Boy, Hayden Parke, and Head Girl, Lily-Mae McAfee, on behalf of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit at the annual Poppy Day Remembrance Service which was held here in the town on Sunday 13th November

Flu Vaccinations!!

On Thursday 17th November the school Nursing Team visited Bushmills Primary to administer the Fluenz Tetra Vaccine (nasal spray) to pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. The benefits of this program will be that children will be better protected against flu bringing both health benefits and ensuring less time off school.



Autism Assembly

This year in school, we are completing work to achieve the Autism NI Impact Award which celebrates schools and workplaces which have “autism friendly environments”!

On Wednesday 23rd November, Miss Swanson and Mrs Witherow, who are the school’s Autism Champions, along with Mrs Garrett, presented the topic of autism in assembly for all pupils in Primary 1 to 7.

The assembly introduced pupils to the fact that differences are good and should be celebrated. It also taught children about ‘noticeable’ and ‘hidden’ differences. The pupils were encouraged to think about their sensory differences and were shown how simple everyday tasks can be more challenging for autistic pupils.

The pupils were also shown the range of strategies and resources we already have in school to support autistic learners, including our sensory den and trail, our cosy café and playground quiet zones as well as the many fidget toys and wobble chairs we must support those who need movement during the day.

Some more resources will be coming to school over the next few weeks and more strategies including a KSI quiet

playground zone and a KS2 lunchtime club will also be implemented in the upcoming weeks.

The final message which was made clear to all pupils is the fact that the strategies put in place in school will not only positively impact autistic pupils, but in fact, all learners will benefit.

Community Choices

As part of the Community Choices project, P6 and P7 had a visit from the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on Thursday 24th November.

He listened to our ideas that we had discussed about helping our community and we had the chance to ask him some questions about his job (as well as his thoughts on a range of other topics), which turned out to be a lot of fun and an excellent eye opener into what life is like as a local councillor!

We even got to try on his mayoral chain, which is worth over £330, 000! Many thanks to Mayor Ivor Wallace for taking time to chat to our P6 and P7 classes.



Swimming

Swimming lessons continue for Miss Logan's P5/6 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.



Please note that as we approach the Christmas break the final lesson will take place on Friday 2nd December and will then recommence on Friday 13th January when we return after the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day



On Friday 9th December we will be having our school Christmas dinner. As it is also officially "Christmas Jumper Day", pupils are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper/T-shirt to school! There will be no charge for wearing Christmas jumpers however pupils can wear their proper school sweatshirts if they wish.

Assemblies

We have welcomed the opportunity to be able to take part in whole school assemblies throughout the month of November. These assemblies have taken place on Wednesday mornings, and we are delighted to welcome back the following visitors:

Wednesday 9th November	Pastor B Jones Dunseverick Baptist
Wednesday 16th November	Rev. A Buick Dunluce Presbyterian
Wednesday 23rd November	Autism Assembly
Wednesday 30th November	Alice McAlary Family Support Worker

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

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 November will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for November was 90.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	96.3%
2nd:	Miss Logan & Miss Brown	P5/6	92.2%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	90.9%
4th:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	90.4%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	76.9%



Well done to Miss Swanson'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 must send a note into school on their first day back or send an email to the Principal (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 must leave school throughout the day you must send a letter to your child's class teacher to excuse your child from school or complete a form which is available on the school website or from the school office. I would therefore ask that, when possible, any appointments are made outside of school hours.

Footballer of the Week

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

	03/11	10/11	17/11	24/11
Yr 1 to Yr 3	No Football	No Football	Freddie Speers	No Football
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Ollie Costello	Sam Thompson	Leon Myers	Evan Cauley



Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. These certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.

During the month of November, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':



	04/11	11/11	18/11	25/11
Yr 1	Robbie Barrett	Lucy Neill	Cody Wilmont	Skyler Leighton
Yr 2	Aria Stevenson-Lampard	Sam Mogeys	Molly Wilmont	Emily Dick
Yr 3	Emily Wilmont	Freddie Speers	Reuben McIntyre	Luka Tweed
Yr 4	Casey McKay	Caleb Kane	Anna Simpson	Nate Wilmont
Yr 5	Alisha Lee	Poppy Armstrong	Jessy Chen	Alisha Lee
Yr 6	Logan Cross	Ella McMullan	Callum Jamieson	Ella McMullan
Yr 7	Yi-Jean Aw	Emma Neill	Luka Nichol	Sam Thompson

Diary Dates

Term 1		
Christmas Show	15-Dec-22	Further details to follow
Half Day	16-Dec-22	School will finish at 12:00noon for all pupils
Last Day of Term	21-Dec-22	School will finish at 12:00noon for all pupils
Christmas Holiday	22-Dec-22 to 03-Jan-23	School closed to ALL pupils

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-23	School starts 9:00am sharp
Full School Trip	06-Jan-23	Further details to follow
School Photographer	13-Feb-23	Further details to follow
Peace Proms	26-Feb-23	Further details to follow