

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



June 2023  
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 has arrived!

As we have very quickly come to the end of another year in school, I say a sincere Thanks to everyone involved within our school community.

Firstly, to you the parents who have continued to support me and all the staff throughout the past year!

Secondly, I would publicly like to thank all staff who worked tirelessly day after day to ensure your children were supported and encouraged to achieve and be the best they can be.

Finally, to all our pupils, each one of you have risen to the challenges of this year and you have all achieved to the best of your ability! We are all so proud of you here in school.

Can I conclude by wishing everyone a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in September!



## Primary 6/7 Swifts

In the month of May, Primary 6/7 were visited by Mrs Wishart who taught us all about Swifts and their importance in the Bushmills Community. The pupils made posters all about Swifts and Mrs Wishart returned in June to hand out well-earned prizes to some of the pupils!





The winners even had their posters displayed in the local community to raise awareness of Swifts in Bushmills! We want to say a big thank you to Mrs Wishart for donating prizes and inspiring Primary 6/7 - we have really

enjoyed supporting this worthwhile cause!

## It's your move

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, the Primary 7 pupils took part in a workshop with Andrew Neill and his colleagues from Scripture Union and explored the themes of changes, choices and challenges. Throughout the day they played games, took part in debates, and discussed some wise decisions and choices about transitioning to secondary school. All pupils had a great morning and gained some helpful tips about moving on next year!



## Nursery to Primary 4 End of Year trip

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June the children in Nursery to Primary 4 went to Portglenone Forest Park for their summer trip. We had a great time with Holistic kidz doing some forest activities; like a Forest Trek, building a house for a mouse and Helping Fox find



scavenger hunt. Before our picnic lunch we had a go at making some teepees.

We really enjoyed working together and being creative in this lovely weather.



## Sponsored Walk

On Thursday 8th June, our newly formed PTFA held their first event- a whole-school sponsored walk.

All the pupils and staff from Nursery right through to Primary 7 arrived in school with their walking shoes on and ready to go. At 10.30am, everyone set off under sunny skies.



Nursery to Primary 4 completed the task of walking to Portballintrae and back, whilst P5 to P7 went a bit further and walked the whole way to the Giant's Causeway visitor centre and back again! This was a tremendous effort for all classes and even though there were a few sore legs and feet, everyone really

enjoyed it.

Many thanks to our PTFA members who accompanied some of the groups on the day as well as those who came in and counted all the sponsorship money.

A big THANK YOU must go to everyone who sponsored our pupils for this event. You have helped us raise a fantastic sum of £2030.51 which we are absolutely delighted with!



## P7 Moyle Streetwise



On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Primary 7 travelled to Ballycastle for the annual “Streetwise” event. We had a super day speaking to a range of different services in the Community, including the Community Police, Tesco, Search and Rescue, NI Electricity and Translink to name a few!



The pupils really enjoyed interacting and



learning about how to keep themselves safe when out and about in the Community - thanks to the Streetwise Team for organising such a successful day!

## P5&P6 - STEM

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, the Primary 5 and 6 classes travelled to Ballycastle High School for a day full of STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).



The pupils were split into 3 groups and moved around the activities which included making a keyring in technology, making pizza in HE and conducting some science experiments

using a range of chemicals.

Everyone had lots of fun and really enjoyed the whole day!



Thanks so much to everyone at Ballycastle High for making this day happen and for providing the very tasty snack!

## Golden Child Treat

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June the pupils who were awarded the title of 'Golden Child' throughout the school year, were rewarded with an extra special treat for earning this award.

The children were surprised and absolutely delighted to visit Market Square Bushmills where they received an absolutely wonderful treat of cake, buns and juice or hot chocolate. The food was delicious and enjoyed by each one of our pupils (and staff!).



We would like to thank the staff for being so welcoming and attentive to our pupils. It was also lovely to see some of our past pupils working hard in Market Square and coming over to say hello!



An extra special THANKYOU must go to the owner, Neil, who fully sponsored the treat. We are so appreciative of this kind and very generous gesture!

## P7 Leavers Assembly

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June saw us say Farewell to our Primary 7 pupils as they move to the next stage of their educational journey.

All pupils took to the stage to share their favourite memories of Primary School here at Bushmills before singing the Leavers Song. Miss Logan then read a poem entitled "The Class of 2023" before all pupils were presented with certificates and new ties for their next school.

After special prizes and cups were presented, our outgoing Head Girl, Lily-Mae McAfee, and Head Boy, Hayden Parke, presented their successors, Ella McMullan and Callum Jamieson, with the cups as they take over these important positions for the next academic year.



The morning concluded with a slideshow of photographs showing our pupils from when they joined the school in the Nursery Unit to the present day.



## Primary 7 End of Year Trip - Emerald Park



ride was especially memorable!

Pupils then travelled to the Outlet Centre where they did some shopping and stopped for a much-earned McDonald's. An excellent day was had by all and a super way to finish off Primary 7 at Bushmills Primary School!



## Primary 5 & 6 End of Year trip

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, Primary 5 and 6 travelled to the Jet Centre in Coleraine for a great day out.



The day started off with a game of ten pin bowling which everyone really enjoyed.

Following lunch, everyone relaxed on the recliner seats and enjoyed the Super Mario Bros film in the VIP cinema.

We were also treated to milkshakes or frozen lemonade afterwards in McDonald's which was a perfect finish to our day.



Thanks to the [Jet Centre](#) for a fabulous day out!

## Farewell to Mrs Blair & Miss Lyttle

Sadly, at the end of this term we have said Farewell to both Mrs Blair and Miss Lyttle and thanked them for all the hard work and dedication they have given to our school over the past number of years! We wish them well on their new ventures and know that they will be missed!



# Prize Giving Ceremony

A short prize giving ceremony was held on Wednesday morning (28<sup>th</sup> June). This followed our usual whole school assembly and allowed us the opportunity to present class prizes, sports day prizes and any special cups and shields to our P1 to P6 pupils.



## Nursery Induction

An information session for parents on children starting Nursery in September was held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June where Mrs Garrett shared the important information required for September 2023.

## Nursery Graduation

Our Nursery Graduation has taken place this morning and an update will be shared on our school Facebook page soon!

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Please note there will be **NO BREAKFAST CLUB** on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June and pupils are also required to bring their own healthy snack for break time.

## Assemblies

Assemblies continue every Wednesday morning as usual when all classes, Nursery to Primary 7, come together to meet as a whole school.

This month assemblies were taken by the following visitors:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June                  Robert Plant

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June                Dr Rev Cubitt  
(Chair of BOG)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June                Rev Morrow  
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June                Dr Rev Cubitt  
(Chair of BOG)

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

## Attendance

Attendance at the end of the month of June has shown a slight decrease from the month of May. We hope to see this improve before the end of this school year.

The attendance cup for June will be presented to the winning class later this week. The overall attendance for June was 90.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	91.9%
2nd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	91.3%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	91.1%
4th:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	90.6%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	83.7%



**Well done to Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow's class!**

## Parent Pay

I feel I must again highlight the issue of negative balances on Parent Pay. 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, please note these are supposed to be paid on a weekly basis and if you are unable to do this, please contact Miss Logan immediately.

**All Parent Pay balances MUST be cleared as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July to allow end of year reporting to be submitted to the Education Authority.**

## 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!**

# Holiday Dates 2023-2024

## Term 1

New Term Begins	30-Aug-23	Starts 9:00am sharp *
Half Term Holiday	30-Oct-23 to 03-Nov-23	School closed to ALL pupils
Christmas Holiday	21-Dec-23 to 3-Jan-24	School closed to ALL pupils

## Term 2

Start of Term	04-Jan-24	Starts 9:00am sharp
Half Term	15-Feb-24 to 20-Feb-24	School closed to ALL pupils
St Patrick's Day	18-Mar-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Easter Holiday	25-Mar-24 to 5-Apr-24	School closed to ALL pupils

## Term 3

Start of Term	08-Apr-24	Starts 9:00am sharp
Bank Holiday	06-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Bank Holiday	27-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	28-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	28-Jun-24	School finishes for all pupils at 12:00noon

\*Please note Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August will be half days, 9:00am to 12:00noon. This is due to planned catering arrangements.