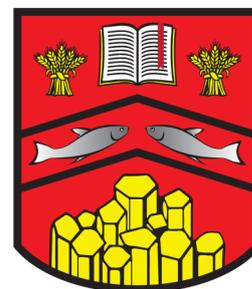


Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



February 2017

Welcome Back!

With half-term over I know we are all happy to welcome the beginning of clearer evenings and say good-bye to the dark, winter mornings. I trust you all enjoyed the break and everyone had a good rest.

We do have another busy term ahead so here's hoping it continues to be not only challenging but enjoyable for us all.



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Scholastic Book Fair



Scholastic Book Fair ran from Tuesday 7th to Tuesday 14th February. Once again this was extremely well supported and provided a great opportunity for all our pupils to purchase their own books as well as other items of stationery, posters, key-rings etc. The commission earned totalled an amazing £213.14 and will allow teachers to purchase additional books for our school library.

Visit to Waterstones

On Thursday 23rd February our Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils travelled to Waterstone's Bookshop in Coleraine where they were given the chance to have a good look around the shop before being allowed to choose a book for themselves to bring home. Before heading back to school they also had a quiet time when they sat down and listened to one of their favourite stories being read. Thanks to all parents who came along each week to help with the Shared Story Reading afternoons which lead up to Waterstone's visit. Also a special thanks to Mrs McAllister, Miss Fulton, Miss A Glass and Miss M Glass who faithfully supervised and took part each week.



Bonjour Amigos



Spanish lessons for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday mornings with "Bonjour Amigos" language tutor, Christina McGarvey.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for pupils in Primary 6 and 7 got underway last Friday (24th February). The pupils travel to Coleraine Leisure Centre each Friday morning and these arrangements will be in place until the end of June.



February Assemblies



Once again each week we welcomed visitors to our whole school assemblies held on Wednesday mornings. Assemblies during February were taken by:-

Wednesday 1st February	Canon G Graham (Dunluce Parish)
Wednesday 8th February	Stephen Chambers (CEF)
Wednesday 22nd February	Rev McLernon (Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Breakfast Club

Please be reminded that Breakfast Club runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20am to 8:50am and the cost remains at £1.00. All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 will be made most welcome. Please note pupils



are then supervised as usual in the playground from 8:50am to 9:00am. Again a significant number of pupils are continuing to arrive in the school grounds long before 8:50am when outside supervision has not started — we would love to see them in Breakfast Club!

Football Tournament



The second round of the Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament was held in Ballycastle on Wednesday 8th February. Thankfully the weather remained dry and all teams enjoyed a great afternoon of football.

Number Day



Wednesday 15th February marked Number Day in school when pupils swapped their school uniforms for more casual clothes containing numbers.

The day was organised as part of our Fundraising activities to help support the school's chosen charity for the year—NSPCC!

Throughout the day pupils participated in a range of number challenges and activities to help earn points for their class and also houses.

The highlight of the day was when all classes came together to add up their individual class scores (based on the total of the numbers on the clothing items worn by pupils). The winning class on the day was Miss Fulton's P2/3 class which earned them a trip to the park!

An enjoyable day was had by all and the total raised came to £226.45.

Thanks to all who donated and helped us reach this amazing total.

A special word of 'Thanks' must also go to Miss McBride who organised the activities for the day.



Peace Proms

After weeks of rehearsals and lots of planning the big day finally arrived and on Sunday 26th February our Peace Proms choir



travelled to the SSE Arena in Belfast accompanied by Miss McBride, Mrs Sheridan and Miss Logan. This proved to be a great day for all involved which began with a short rehearsal at 1:00pm and then the main concert commencing at 3:00pm. Our choir had the opportunity to sing with a choir of around 2000 children as well as perform with a full symphony orchestra. All involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many many thanks and well done to all who took part.



Portstewart Festival



I am delighted to report that 4 of our pupils took part in this year's Musical Festival in Portstewart (Speech and Drama Section). The pupils worked hard under the expert guidance of Miss Fulton and all performed their poems only yesterday (Tuesday 28th February) and did the school proud. Well done!

Library Van Visit!



Please be reminded that the mobile library van visits our school every two weeks on a Monday morning. The last visit was on Monday past (27th February) and the next visit is scheduled for Monday 13th March.

Spring Fair

Following last year's successful Spring Fair our P.T.A. are already getting preparations underway for this year's fair which will take place on Thursday 27th April.



There will be all the usual stalls, games, raffles, barbecue as well as great craic too!

Further details will follow but please spread the word and come along on the 27th April to what promises to be a great evening.

Fireside Quiz

Our P.T.A. has organised an Easter Fireside Quiz and sheets will be going on sale very soon! Keep an eye out for all notes going home!



Help required!

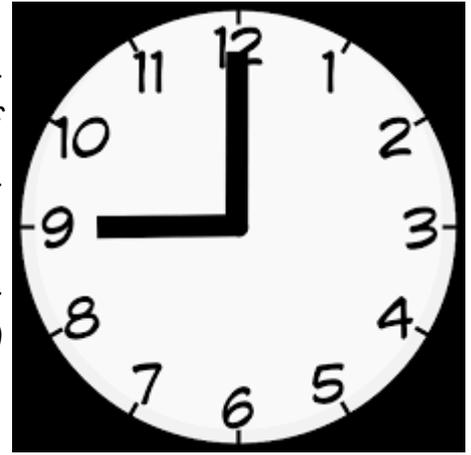


I am delighted to report that our P.T.A. has secured a bag packing slot for Tesco's in Coleraine on Saturday 18th March. This is a perfect opportunity for fund-raising although the more help the better! Help is needed between 10:00am and 6:00pm and further information will be sent out shortly.

If you can spare an hour or two on the day please keep this date free.

Punctuality

Unfortunately again I must highlight the issue of Punctuality. A small number of pupils continue to arrive in school late and long after the starting time of 9:00am. Can I please remind all parents that school starts for all pupils (Nursery to Primary 7) at 9:00am sharp.



Attendance

The Attendance Cup for the month of February will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 8th March. Attendance remains steady with the average class attendance for February being 94.5%.

Results are as follows: -

1st:	Mrs McAllister	(P1)	98.1%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	(P2/3)	95.4%
3rd:	Mrs Sheridan	(P6/7)	95.2%
4th:	Miss Logan	(P4/5)	93.5%
5th:	Mrs Garrett	(Nursery)	91.9%



Well Done Mrs McAllister's P1 class!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Miss A Glass and her fiancé Andrew who recently got engaged. We are all delighted with the news and wish them every happiness for the future.



Grand National Trophy Visit

Following a telephone call from Randox Health Solutions I am pleased to say that Bushmills Primary School had the opportunity to welcome the Grand National Trophy to our school on Wednesday 22nd February. Randox are the Grand National Sponsors and although the trophy has been taken on tours before in England, this is the first time it has been sponsored by a Northern Ireland Company therefore this is the first time it has been in Northern Ireland.



Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils were able to hear about the Grand National and how the trophy was made before having the opportunity to see it and get a photograph taken!



Diary Dates



School Photographer	07-Mar-17	Individual & Family Photos. Further details to follow
Coleraine Music Festival	15-Mar-17 to 31-Mar-17	Entry dates and times to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	05-Apr-17 to 06-Apr-17	2:00pm -4:00pm School will finish for all pupils at 1:50pm on both days
End of Term (Easter)	07-Apr-17	School will finish for all pupils at 12:00noon
Easter Vacation	10-Apr-17 to 21-Apr-17	Inclusive
Start of Term	24-Apr-17	9:00am sharp
May Day Holiday	01-May-17	School closed for all pupils
School Photographer	02-May-17	Group Photos. Further details to follow
School Trip to Edinburgh	09-May17 to 11-May-17	P4—P7
Revision Week	15-May-17 to 19-May-17	
Assessment Week	22-May-17 to 25-May-17	
May Day Holiday	29-May-17	School closed for all pupils
Staff Training	30-May-17 & 31-May-17	School closed for all pupils