

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



March 2017

As you are aware this last term is one which has once again been extremely busy for all involved with Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit.

Major events included 'Number Day', 'Peace Proms' and not forgetting our involvement at both Portstewart and Coleraine Music Festivals.

The staff and myself would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very enjoyable and safe Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 24th April 2017 when school will re-open at 9:00am sharp.

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Breakfast Club

I am pleased to report that our 'Breakfast Club' continues to be popular with numbers attending remaining steady. Due to this positive response 'Breakfast Club' will continue as usual for the remainder of this week and also after the Easter Break (i.e. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 8:20am and 8:50am). Please note the cost will remain at £1.00.



Extended Schools Programme

Once again our Extended Schools Programme has been running successfully since the beginning of the new school year. However, as was the case in previous years, we have regrettably been informed that as the end of March sees the end of the financial year, funding for Extended Schools has again come to an end, meaning many of the after-schools sessions will now finish at the end of this week. On a brighter note, I am pleased to say that due to being able to secure additional funding the following clubs will continue next term:

Tuesday : Tennis (P4—P7) 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Thursday : Football (P4—P7) 3:00pm to 4:00pm



Swimming Lessons

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have been attending swimming lessons on Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre. These will continue after the Easter break starting on Friday 28th April 2017.



Bonjour Amigos



Spanish lessons for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday mornings with our language tutor, Christina McGarvey. I am pleased to add that after the Easter break our Primary 6 and 7 pupils will also be experiencing some French lessons on a Friday morning.

Edinburgh School Trip

As the date of our school trip to Edinburgh is fast approaching, could all final payments please be made by Friday 9th April 2017.

Your co-operation with this matter would be greatly appreciated.



Please note that bedroom allocations will be organised with pupils once we return to school following the Easter break and a trip meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th April at 6:15pm in the school assembly hall. A full attendance at this meeting would be greatly appreciated.

Festival Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to all our pupils who took part in this year's Music Festival in Coleraine (Speech and Drama Section). All performed well with a number of pupils being placed and some even receiving highly commended certificates. A huge 'Thank You' to both Miss Fulton and Mrs McAllister who helped prepare the pupils for their performances.



Also congratulations to all pupils from the three choirs who entered the Music section at the Festival. The results were as follows:

PI -P3 Infant Choir	-	3rd Place
Junior Choir	-	2nd Place
Peace Proms Choir	-	2nd Place

Miss Logan and Miss McBride trained all three choirs with Miss McBride conducting for each performance — Thank you and Well Done!

Photographs of all involved will hopefully appear in the local papers over the coming weeks!

Finally, congratulations must go to Alison Nutt (P3) and Lum Lum Aw (P2) on gaining first place and second place respectively when they competed in the Piano solo section of the festival!

All pupils really rose to the challenge and did our school proud!

It is true to say that 'Festival Fever' has hit Bushmills Primary and already we are looking forward to next year's festival!

Spring Fair

Please remember our 'Spring Fair' on Thursday 27th April 2017 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Don't miss the chance over Easter to have a good clear out and bring along any unwanted toys, books, CD's etc.



As was the arrangement last year, pupils will be asked to donate one bottle each for our bottle stall and we also plan to have a cake stall as last year's was a huge success.

The PTA continue to do an excellent job and we hope that you will all spread the word and come along on the night with family and friends to support the 'Spring Fair'.

Please be reminded that if you can help in anyway on the night, I would ask that you contact the school or any member of the P.T.A. committee as soon as possible.

March Assemblies

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

Wednesday 8th March

PAIS Team

Wednesday 15th March

Stephen Chambers
(CEF)

Wednesday 22nd March

Rev McLernon
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)



Attendance

The Attendance Cup and Punctuality Prizes for the month of March will be presented at a whole school assembly this Wednesday (5th April 2017). Sadly attendance dropped with the average class attendance for March being 93.2%.



Results are as follows: -

1st:	Miss Fulton	(P2/3)	94.9%
2nd:	Miss Logan	(P4/5)	94.8%
3rd:	Mrs Sheridan	(P6/7)	93.8%
4th:	Mrs Garrett	(Nursery)	91.6%
5th:	Mrs McAllister	(P1)	89.7%

Well Done Miss Fulton's P2/3 class!

P.T.A. Easter Quiz

Thanks to all who sold P.T.A. Fireside Quiz sheets to help raise money for our P.T.A. Funds. Can I remind you that all monies or returned sheets should be sent into school by this Wednesday (5th April). The draw took place this morning and Congratulations to the following winners:



- 1st - Millie Parke
- 2nd - Charlie Millar
- 3rd - Aron Dixon

Football Tournament

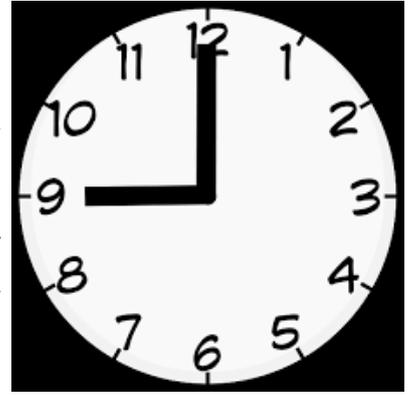
The final two rounds of the Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament have now taken place, one was held in Armoy on Thursday 9th March with the second being held here at Bushmills Primary on Wednesday 15th March. Our team has thoroughly enjoyed



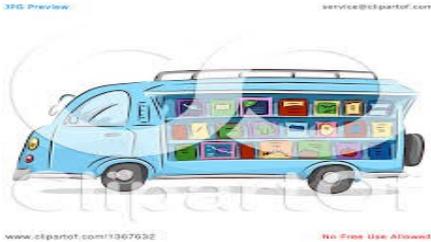
taking part and arrangements are now underway for our own tournament which will be held after the Easter break.

Punctuality

Sadly a small number of our pupils are still continuing to arrive in school late and long after the starting time of 9:00am. I would urge you as parents to ensure that this is not the case.



Library Van Visit!



Please be reminded that the mobile library van visits our school every two weeks on a Monday morning. The next visit is scheduled for Monday 24th April.

N.S.P.C.C.

A massive 'Thanks' and 'Well Done' to all pupils who returned sponsorship money following our 'Fitness Challenge' which was held on Friday 24th March here in school. A fantastic £1102.21 was raised to date although I am aware that some monies remain outstanding. I would ask that any outstanding monies be returned to school no later than this Wednesday (5th April) so that a final total can be reached. In the meantime 'Thanks' to all who have already returned forms and money.

NSPCC

Fire / Beach Safety Talk

On Thursday 16th March we welcomed members of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service along with local lifeguards who visited the school to deliver a joint 'safety' programme to all pupils in Primary 5 and 6. This programme gave our pupils the opportunity to participate in an informative and interactive 'Fire and Beach Safety' presentation which covered many key safety messages.



Red Nose Day

Following the sale of 'Red Noses' a few weeks ago in School, I am delighted to report that a total of £120.00 was collected for Comic Relief! Many thanks to all who purchased red noses and helped support this worthy cause.



Parent / Teacher Interviews

Please be reminded that Parent / Teacher interviews will take place this Wednesday and Thursday (5th and 6th). School will therefore finish for all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) at 1:50pm sharp to allow interviews to commence at 2:00pm.

Crèche facilities will be available between 2:00pm and 4:00pm if required. Unfortunately a number of parents have not yet returned reply slips indicating whether or not they are able to attend therefore I would request that these be returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.



Diary Dates



Parent/Teacher Interviews	05-Apr-17 to 06-Apr-17	2:00pm -4:00pm School will finish for <u>all pupils</u> 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
Spring Fair	27-Apr-17	6:30pm—8:30pm School will finish for <u>all pupils</u> at 1:00pm
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	Full attendance is required
Assessment Week	22-May-17 to 25-May-17	Full attendance is required
May Day Holiday	29-May-17	School closed for all pupils
Staff Training	30-May-17 & 31-May-17	School closed for all pupils