

# Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

## September 2017 Newsletter



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## September - Done!

As the first month of the new year has passed by very quickly, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thanks' to you the parents for your continued support in helping your child settle into the new school term.

As you are aware we have now been able to confirm the new Extended School timetable which as you know takes effect from today (Monday 2nd October). I am delighted that it has been possible to extend some of the days for our younger pupils meaning they can remain in school until 4:00pm - I do hope that as many of you as possible will avail of this opportunity.

Also this academic year (2017-2018) is an exciting time for Bushmills Primary School as it celebrates 60 years at this current site. This therefore means that we plan to hold a number of events throughout the year to mark this special occasion. Further information will become available in due course, however, if you are a past pupil of our school and would happen to have any old photographs (or other memorabilia) which you would be willing to share with us, please make contact with me or any member of staff as soon as possible - we would love to hear from you!



## Music Lessons

I am delighted to report that a number of pupils are currently taking piano lessons with Mrs Lorna Balmer every Tuesday.



Four of our pupils are also taking violin lessons with Mr C Elliott (EA Music Service Tutor) on Monday mornings.

In addition, 4 pupils have commenced woodwind tuition (Flutes and Clarinets) with Music Tutor Miss J McDermott on Tuesday afternoons.

## Breakfast Club



Can I remind you that Breakfast Club is held here in school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20am to 8:50am.

Once pupils have finished breakfast and if time is available there is the opportunity for them to relax and read a book!

Please note that supervision in the playground begins each morning at 8:50am.

Sadly, I see an increasing number of pupils (in the senior playground (P4-P7)) arriving in school very early (some as early as 8:15am) before supervision begins - I would love to see those arriving early coming into Breakfast Club!

# House Captains

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2017-2018 are as follows:

<b>Lissanduff</b>	-	Ryan Wilmont
Deputy	-	Leah Wilmont
<b>Portcamon</b>	-	Cerys Sharkey
Deputy	-	Ruby Neill
<b>Klondyke</b>	-	Hunter McCrellis
Deputy	-	Devon Sharkey
<b>Blackrock</b>	-	Chelsea Walker
Deputy	-	Johnathan Horner

Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Deputies and we wish them well for the coming year as they each take on the new and exciting challenge.



Also congratulations to our incoming Head Boy and Head Girl (Taylor Maxwell and Grace Gault) as they represent our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School.

## Safety Reminder



Sadly, over the month of September I have noticed (and have been made aware) of a few actions which I feel could put the safety of our pupils (your children!) at risk. I would again ask you to take note of the following:

- Some parents are still continuing to drive into the school grounds in order to drop off or collect pupils. If you feel this is something that you have to do (perhaps for health reasons) then I would ask that you come and speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement. Sadly, this is not the case with a number of people therefore I would insist that you do not drive in the school grounds as pupil's safety is our top priority!
- Due to Health and Safety concerns which have been raised, when dropping off and collecting your child/children, I would ask that you walk children along the path and not over the driveway. Also when crossing the road please use the school's crossing patrol, Mr Carleton, as failure to do so can cause confusion for drivers passing by who concentrate on the designated crossing patrol outside school gates especially in the afternoons when it can be extremely busy.

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests as unfortunately too many accidents happen outside school gates and I am sure you would agree we do not want the gates of Bushmills Primary on the news for this reason!

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Swimming Lessons



Swimming Lessons for Primary 4/5 pupils have now commenced. They take place on Friday mornings when pupils travel to Coleraine Leisure Centre.

## Football Practice

Football practice takes place on Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm to 4:00pm for all pupils in Primary 4 to 7. These sessions are taken by John Gregg (son of football legend Harry Gregg).



## Library Van Visits

Just a quick reminder that the mobile library van will be visiting our school on the following dates:

Monday 9th October 2017  
Monday 23rd October 2017  
Monday 6th November 2017  
Monday 20th November 2017  
Monday 4th December 2017  
Monday 18th December 2017



## Roald Dahl Day

On Wednesday 13th September our Primary 4/5 pupils were invited to the Giant's Causeway Visitors Centre to an event being held to mark Roald Dahl Day.



Once there our pupils were involved in a special ceremony which saw the unveiling of a large Lego sculpture (almost 40,000 pieces) of Sophie, a character from Roald Dahl's book 'The BFG'.



As this event marked Roald Dahl's birthday, pupils enjoyed a slice of cake and refreshments before returning to school.



## 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 September will be presented in school on Wednesday (4th October) at our whole school assembly.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	98.6%
2nd:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	97.6%
3rd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	95.9%
4th:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	94.2%
5th:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	93.1%



## Q Radio



At the beginning of the school year, a number of our pupils (Alex, Charlie, Kenzie, Katie Devon and Karen) were given the opportunity to record a one-minute joke session for Q Radio. Denis McNeill came along from Q Radio to carry out the recording and the one minute joke session was aired last Friday (29th September) just after 11:00am.

Hopefully you got the chance to listen in to hear some of our very talented and funny pupils - they did a great job!

## School Photographs

Please be reminded that the photographer from Tempest Photography will be visiting school tomorrow (Tuesday 3rd October) to take all individual and family photographs. Family photographs will be taken first (from 8:30am) followed by individual photographs which will be taken throughout the morning.



Please note family photographs taken at 8:30am will only be those where pupils in school have other siblings who do not attend Bushmills Primary School or Nursery Unit. The remainder of family photographs will be taken throughout the morning!

## Parent Questionnaires (School Development Plan)



Many thanks to all parents who have already completed and returned their questionnaires to date and I have received back 55% of these. I have decided to extend the closing date and would request that final questionnaires be completed and returned by Friday 6th October 2017.

## Beauty and The Beast - Theatre Visit



Can I remind you that all theatre visit reply slips are now overdue! I have contacted the Lyric Theatre with provisional numbers although must inform you

that this Wednesday (4th October) is the final closing date. If your child wishes to join us on this trip please sign and return the reply slip along with £5.00 deposit as soon as possible. If your child is not going on this trip, please also return the reply slip in order to allow us to confirm final numbers for the theatre tickets and also buses.

## Charity of the Year

Many thanks to all who returned reply slips in relation to this year's chosen charity. There was a wide range to choose from (and all very worthwhile causes) therefore all the names were put into a hat. I am pleased to announce that this year's chosen charity which will be supported by our school is Autism NI.



## Star of the Week

This year it has been decided that each week one pupil from each class will be rewarded for their achievements. A special assembly is held each Friday afternoon to celebrate these awards. During the month of September, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week'.



P1 Callum Jamieson  
Becky McKay  
Jayden Mulholland  
Summer Montgomery

P2 Ava Eddolls  
Millie Montgomery  
Hayden Parke  
Leon Myers

P3 Charlie McMullan  
Sophie Greer  
Kailan Boyce  
Charlotte Hume

P4 Megan Mulholland  
Millie Parke  
Jay McMullan  
Kelbie Burns

P5 Teya Cummins  
Charlie Millar  
Lucy McKay  
Caileigh McIntrye

P6 Caitlin Boyce  
Hollie Parke  
Amber Greer  
Charlie Greer

P7 Chelsea Walker  
Rebecca Cerutti

Hunter McCrellis  
Ryan Wilmont

## Diary Dates

PTA Meeting	11-Oct-17	6:15pm
Travelling Books (Book Fair)	18-Oct-17	Further details to follow
Harvest Assembly	25-Oct-17	Further details to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	25-Oct-17 & 26-Oct-17	2:00pm - 4:00pm
PTA Charity Coffee Morning	27-Oct-17	9:30am - 11:30am Further details to follow
Half Term Vacation	30-Oct-17 to 03-Nov-17	Inclusive
Start of Term	06-Nov-17	9:00am sharp
Open Afternoon	22-Nov-17	1:00pm to 4:00pm
Christmas Production (P1-P7)	14-Dec-17	7:00pm
Staff Training	15-Dec-17	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	19-Dec-17	9:30am
End of Term (Christmas)	21-Dec-17	12:00 noon following annual Carol Service which will commence @ 10:00am
Christmas Vacation	22-Dec-17 to 02-Jan-18	Inclusive