

# Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

## December 2017 Newsletter



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## It's Christmas!

"Congratulations" and "Thank-You" to all who worked so hard to make "Primary School Christmas Musical" the success that it was. Our dress rehearsal was held on Tuesday 12th December when the audience for the morning was pupils from our Nursery Unit along with Year 8 pupils from Dunluce School! Feedback (after all performances) was again very positive and already preparations are underway as we plan for another exciting production which we aim to put on in the spring.

Once again the hard work paid off, whether it was remembering the words of the songs or scripts, organising the costumes, painting scenery, making props, I am delighted to report that everyone at Bushmills Primary rose to the challenge, so Well Done!



## Dunluce Has Got Talent!

On Thursday 7th December pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7 were invited to Dunluce School for their Christmas Production "Dunluce Has Got Talent!" Everyone had an enjoyable time and it was great to see a few familiar faces displaying their many talents!



## P.T.A. Update



A massive thanks to our P.T.A. committee members who have once again worked extremely hard throughout the first term. Whether it was organising the Hamper Raffle, taking care of the tuck shop and tea/Coffee at the "Primary School Christmas Musical!" performances, organising the Halloween Disco, organising the Christmas Movie night to name but a few, it really has been greatly appreciated! Please be assured your hard work and dedication never goes unnoticed. Once again - Thanks!

## Attendance

The Attendance Cup for December will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 10th January 2018. The school's overall average attendance for the month of December was 91.3%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs Nicholl (P6/7)	95.9%
2nd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	94.3%
3rd:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	93.7%
4th:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	88.4%
5th:	Miss Cochrane (Nursery)	85.2%



**Well Done Mrs Nicholl's P6/7 class!**

## 60<sup>th</sup> Day of School

Friday 1st December officially marked the 60th day of school and for all pupils at Bushmills Primary School the number '60' this academic year holds a much greater significance as we celebrate 60 years of our school (at our current site).

Staff and pupils took this day to mark the beginning of a range of celebrations which will take place throughout 2017-2018.

A wide range of events got underway not only on the day but also many Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Art activities were completed in class throughout the week in preparation for this event.

These included pupils putting together a wall display which explained '60 Reasons Why Our School is a Diamond', each class making a large Birthday Card in which they all included a picture of what they like doing in school, ICT research where KS2 pupils created posters showing 'how to say the number '60' in different languages' as well as each pupil having their photograph taken with an 'ageing booth' just to find out what they might look like when they reach 60.

The week concluded with a party on the Friday when all classes took part in a range of '60 second fitness challenges', played 'Pass the Parcel', which of course had a sixties theme and also created a specially themed '60' artwork in the school assembly hall using 1p and 2p coins which they had been collecting prior to the main event (All coins were counted at the end and an amazing £140.40 had been collected which has now been set aside for the school's chosen charity this year which is Autism N.I.) Pupils also had the chance the

day before to design their own party hats and t-shirts as well as bunting to help decorate the school.

A special 'banquet lunch' was provided for all on the day and it certainly proved to be another very successful whole school event for us here at Bushmills Primary. 'Thanks' must go to all staff who helped with the preparations, the setting up and supervision of the games and activities and also Miss McBride (Numeracy Co-ordinator) who took overall responsibility for the planning and organisation of the entire "60th Day of School" event.

As mentioned this marks the beginning of a range of celebrations which we plan to host throughout this academic year as it marks 60 years of our school (at its current site). With this in mind if you are a past pupil, past member of staff or have had previous links with Bushmills Primary School, then we would love to hear from you (no matter where life after Bushmills Primary has taken you) and find out your memories about our school. You can either contact the Principal Miss Jayne Logan by telephone on 028 207 31416 or by emailing [info@bushmillsps.bushmills.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bushmillsps.bushmills.ni.sch.uk) - we look forward to hearing from you.



## Lyric Theatre

As you have already been made aware on Friday 5th January 2018, all pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 will be travelling to the Lyric Theatre in Belfast to see their production of Beauty and the Beast. Following our own successful production, we are looking forward to this visit.



The arrangements for Friday 5th January 2018 are as follows:

- Full School uniform **must** be worn
- All pupils will need to bring a packed lunch (no fizzy drinks, yoghurts or milk please) and they will be given the opportunity to eat this after the show
- Please note that all pupils will received a **free snack** which will be provided by our own Kitchen staff and given out when we arrive in Belfast
- We plan to leave school at 9:30am to travel to Belfast for the performance which begins at 11:30am
- We will return at approximately 3:30pm

## Nursery - 'Away in a Manger!'

On Tuesday 19th December pupils from our Nursery Unit performed their version of "Away in a Manger". A packed hall enjoyed the performance which even included a surprise visit from Santa! Many thanks to Miss Cochrane and Mrs Laverty and all our Nursery pupils who have worked so hard over the past days and weeks to make this event the huge success that it was. Also thanks to Miss Thompson who helped out on the day.

## Admissions to Nursery & Primary School



Application forms are now available from the school office for any child that is due to start pre-school or primary education in September 2018.

Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2014 and 1st July 2015.

All children born on or between 2nd July 2013 and 1st July 2014 must begin their primary education from September 2018 because by that date they will have reached **COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE**.

All application forms must be returned to the school by **12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018**.

Please feel free to contact Miss Logan or the school office for more information.

## Breakfast Club



Breakfast club will recommence again on Tuesday 9th January 2018! I would be delighted to see the numbers continue to increase over the next term.

## Swimming Lessons



The final swimming lessons (for Primary 4 and 5 pupils) will recommence on Friday 12th January 2018 and will continue until Friday 9th February 2018.

## Extended Schools Reminders

- Please be reminded that Extended Schools Activities will recommence on Monday 8th January 2018
- Shared Reading Programme for pupils in Nursery and Primary 1 pupils will commence in January and will run for 6 weeks. Further details will follow in the new year

## Taster Day!

On Monday 4th December our Primary 6 and 7 pupils travelled to Ballymoney High School as part of their "Taster Days" for prospective pupils. A great time was had by all which gave pupils an insight into what life would be like at Ballymoney High.

## Santa at Dunluce!

Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils enjoyed a great day on Tuesday 5th December when they were given the opportunity to spend the morning with Santa at Dunluce Guide House outside Bushmills. Pupils had the opportunity to make a Christmas craft as well as enjoy a delicious snack before receiving a special gift from Santa!

## Star of the Week



Each week one pupil from each class will be rewarded for their achievements. During the month of December, Star of the week was only presented on 1st December as the whole school have been very busy with rehearsals for the Christmas productions and I am sure you will agree that all our pupils have been stars.

P1	Kaley Corscadden	P2	Yi Jean Aw
P3	Brooke Cummins	P4	Daniel Kerr
P5	Ella McKay	P6	Karen Walker
P7	Cerys Sharkey		

## December Assemblies

Again we continue to welcome visitors to our whole school assemblies which are held every Wednesday morning. During the month of December, we had the following visitors:



Wednesday 6th December	Rev Cubitt (Bushmills Presbyterian)
Wednesday 13th December	Rev Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)

## Diary Dates

Staff Training	03-Jan-18	School closed for ALL pupils
Start of Term	04-Jan-18	9:00am sharp
Lyric Theatre	05-Jan-18	P1 to P7
Scholastic Book Fair	06-Feb-18 to 13-Feb-18	Inclusive
Half Term	15-Feb-18 to 20-Feb-18	Inclusive
Start of Term	21-Feb-18	9:00am Sharp
Peace Proms	25-Feb-18	Details to follow

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

From:-

The Principal, Staff and Pupils of Bushmills Primary School 2017.

