

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

June 2018 Newsletter



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Here comes summer!!

As we now come to the end of yet another school year, I look back with great pride as I think about the many achievements and successes we as a whole school have enjoyed over the past months.

Once again, it has been another busy and successful year, which included achievements at both Coleraine and Portstewart Music Festivals, a successful charity coffee morning, a wide range of 60th Anniversary celebrations and not forgetting our first ever School Prom!!



I would therefore like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, as parents, for all the continued support you have given myself and all the staff over the past academic year and also the dedicated P.T.A. committee members who have once again pulled out all the stops with their on-going fundraising efforts!

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

Finally, can I wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and trust we get the weather that is forecast!!!

Sports Day Success

Our successful sports day took place on Friday 1st June. Weather conditions were favourable and a large number of parents and friends turned out to support all our pupils as they participated in the variety of sporting challenges which were on offer. Thanks again to all staff who helped out in any way at all on the day and also to Mrs McConachie and her staff who once again provided the sports day lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large number of people afterwards. In addition, a special mention to the members of our P.T.A. Committee who provided light refreshments throughout the morning.



Irish Cup Visit



On Monday 4th June we welcomed Coleraine Football Club's Mr Trevor McKendry who kindly brought the famous 'Irish Cup' to our school.

All pupils had the chance to have their photograph taken with the cup as well as being able to ask Mr McKendry some questions about it and hear all about the hard work that footballers have to do in order to take part in major competitions. Pupils also heard how our very own 'Leo McKendry' from Nursery was one of the mascots on the day of the Cup Final!



New Football Kits for Bushmills Primary

Also on Monday 4th June our football Team was presented with lovely new football kits which have been very generously sponsored by Skyline Windows Ltd in Coleraine. Thanks to Rowen and Lyn who came on the day to present the team with their kits - your very generous sponsorship has been greatly appreciated.



Summer Sports!



All pupils (P1 to P7) enjoyed a fun 'Summer Sports School' which was held on Tuesday 5th June here in school. This was taken by local coach, Ian Getty, and an enjoyable and fun day was had by all.

Potato Workshop

Miss Fulton's Primary 2/3 class travelled to the Giant's Causeway on Wednesday 6th June to take part in an organised 'Potato Workshop'. Pupils had the opportunity to find out a little about the history of potato growing before having a go at planting their own.



Watertop Farm visit for Nursery Pupils

On Friday 8th June pupils from our Nursery Unit travelled to Watertop Farm in Ballycastle for their end of year trip. The sun shone all day and pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the farmyard where they had the chance to see all the animals before taking part in a range of activities. One of the highlights of the trip was a ride on the Paddiwagon when so much fun was being had that all were reluctant to have to return to school (including Miss Cochrane and Mrs Laverty!). Thanks also to Mrs Purcell and Mr McAfee who accompanied the pupils and staff on their trip.



Primary 6/7 Peace IV Partnership

As part of the Causeway Coast & Glen's Peace IV partnership, our P6/7 pupils were invited to take part in two taster sessions (in connection with the Good Relations Out of School Programme). These sessions took place on Monday 4th (The Edge Water Sports Centre in Coleraine) and Monday 11th June (Riada Playing Fields in Ballymoney). The aim of these sessions was to give P6/7 pupils an opportunity to experience sports and leisure activities not normally associated with their community background and to introduce them to the diversity of sporting heritage traditions. I am pleased to report a large number of our pupils took part and thoroughly enjoyed both sessions.



School Football Tournament



On Monday 11th June Bushmills Primary once again played host to a 'Fun Football Tournament' when we welcomed along a number of teams from different schools in the local area. A great morning was had by all and this was a chance to not only show that football can be fun for everyone but gave the pupils the opportunity to meet old friends and make new friends with teams from neighbouring schools. Once again the event was a great success and this year helped to raise money for Autism NI.

Farm Safety!

David Low from the 'Northern Ireland Farm Safety Executive' came to school on Tuesday 12th June to speak to all pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 about safety when out and about on a farm. Pupils enjoyed the talk and all received a fun activity pack at the end.



Nursery Induction

On Wednesday 13th June parents of children starting Nursery in September attended an information afternoon where Mrs Garrett gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation explaining all about our Nursery Unit (the activities that go on, daily routines, etc.). Parents were then encouraged to take a walk around the Nursery and see for themselves the excellent work that goes on. New pupils also came along and spent their time in Nursery meeting the staff.



Streetwise

On Thursday 14th June pupils in Primary 7 attended the 'Moyle Streetwise' event which was held at Ballycastle Presbyterian Church Hall. This was a safety event jointly organised by the local Home Accident Prevention group, Northern Health Trust and District Councils. It provided a practical based learning experience aimed at raising personal safety awareness in preparation for the transition to secondary school. Scenarios were delivered by a number of different organisations including N.I.F.R.S., P.S.N.I. and Northern Ireland Electricity. An enjoyable morning was had by all!!



A Blast from the Past!

Our special 60th Anniversary production of 'A Blast from the Past!' took place here in school on Friday 15th June. A large audience enjoyed Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils perform this comedy production which looked at what school would have been like more than sixty years ago! All present enjoyed the production and once again all pupils and staff rose to the challenge making this yet another success for Bushmills Primary School.



P6/7 Drama Workshop

Over the past number of months Primary 6/7 pupils have been enjoying a series of drama workshops taken by local teacher Codie Morrison as part of our Ulster Scots Flagship Programme. This series of workshops came to an end

on Thursday 21st June when pupils performed a short extract based on the story of 'The Titanic' - this production was enjoyed by Primary 1 to Primary 5 pupils in the school.



Treasure Trove Day

Treasure Trove Day took place on Tuesday 19th June when all pupils received their awards for diligent work throughout the year in Numeracy and Literacy. The entire day was planned around a 'Pirate theme' and included pirate games, tasks, treats etc. Throughout the day pupils took part in activities and also had the opportunity to use the gold coins and jewels (which they have received from their efforts in Literacy and Numeracy) to claim exciting prizes at the treasure chest.



In the afternoon pupils in Primaries 3 to 7 had the opportunity to enjoy a range of 'wet' games before visiting the sweet shop prior to going home. A great day was had by all and a huge 'Thank you' must go to Mrs Witherow for organising the entire event.

P4/5 Fire Safety Talk

On Wednesday 20th June Primary 4/5 pupils enjoyed a 'Fire Safety Talk' which was delivered by two local representatives of NIFRS (Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service). This talk gave our pupils the opportunity to participate in an informative and interactive safety presentation before allowing them the chance to ask questions.



Anniversary Prom!

Bushmills Primary School's first ever 'Prom' took place on Wednesday 20th June as part of our on-going 60th Anniversary celebrations. Hair done, make-up sorted, dickie-bows at the ready, not forgetting the colourful dresses - it really was the place to be! As well as dancing the night away pupils also enjoyed an ice-cream (from the visiting ice-cream van) along with other refreshments before collecting their 'Official Prom Photographs' and heading home. This really was a night enjoyed by all who attended and 'Thanks' to our P.T.A. for all the hard work they put into making it a great success! Who knows? Will this be an annual event? Only time will tell!!



Prize Day

Our annual Prize Day took place on Friday 22nd June Coleraine Football Club Chairman, Mr Colin McKendry, came along as our special guest for the day. Once again this event was well supported by both parents and friends. Mr Bolt, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, opened the proceedings by thanking the Principal and Staff for all their dedication and hard work throughout the year. This was followed by Miss Logan welcoming everyone before giving a brief report highlighting some of the major events of the school year. The school's successful junior choir performed two pieces (Nothing's Too Big and I'm Special) before the distribution of prizes got underway. Our special guest, Mr McKendry, took a brief time to reminisce on his own school days and life as Chairman of Coleraine Football Club then congratulated all pupils on their achievements and encouraged them to continue to work hard at school and enjoy any new challenges they may be faced with. Finally, Prize day concluded with all pupils performing the song 'The Time I've Spent with you'.



Primary 1 Induction

Parents of pupils due to start Primary One in September attended an information morning with Mrs McAllister on Monday 25th June. Mrs McAllister gave an informative talk explaining all about life in Primary One, the activities that are on offer, daily routines, uniform to be worn etc. After morning break it was the turn of the pupils themselves to spend the morning with Mrs McAllister and Miss Milliken in Primary One. The morning went well and so far so good!



Aunt Sandra's Chocolate Road Show

On Thursday 28th June children in P1-P4 enjoyed a visit from Aunt Sandra's Chocolate Road show. Uncle Jim took them on a journey of how Uncle Willie started to make sweets, they made their own chocolate figurine's, chocolate pizzas, marshmallows dipped in chocolate and ended with a fun quiz, some even sneaked a few sweets when Uncle Jim wasn't looking! It was a nice treat to end the school year.



Football Presentation

On Wednesday 27th June we had a visit from Liam Beckett and David Boyd (Roadside Garages, Coleraine) who kindly delivered new footballs to our school. Following a few words from Liam, a presentation photograph was taken with our school football team.



Staying with football, I am delighted to confirm that as part of our Extended Schools Provision next year, football will be offered to all pupils on Thursday afternoons:

P1 to P3	2:00pm to 4:00pm
P4 to P7	3:00pm to 4:00pm

All sessions will be taken by Chris McKendry.

Library Van Visits!

The final visit for the mobile library van this year was Monday 18th June. The first visit of the new school year will be Monday 10th September 2018.



June 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 June were taken by:



Wednesday 13th June

Chancellor Graham
(Dunluce Parish)

Wednesday 27th June

Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for June will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 5th September 2018.

1st:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	95.5%
2nd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	94.2%
3rd:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	93.9%
4th:	Miss Cochrane (Nursery)	91.5%
5th:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	86.2%



Well Done Mrs McAllister's P1/2 class!

E.T.I. Safeguarding Inspection

I can now confirm that E.T.I. Inspector, Mrs Mary Lowery, visited the school on Thursday 14th June 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for Safeguarding.

E.T.I. were happy with all evidence provided and that here in Bushmills Primary school and Nursery Unit arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. (E.T.I. May 2018)

Points to remember

Please note there will be no snack provided by the kitchen tomorrow.
(FRIDAY 29TH JUNE 2018)

Please note that Extended Schools Activities (including Breakfast Club) will commence the week beginning Monday 3rd September 2018.

Monday 3rd September 2018
New Term begins at 9:00am sharp

Extended Schools

September 2018 - March 2019

MONDAY

PI + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
PI + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00

TUESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00
PI, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
PI, P2 + P3 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm-4pm) - £2.00

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00
Miniversity PI + P2 - (2pm - 3pm) - £2.00
PI + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00
Miniversity P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm -4pm) - £2.00

THURSDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00
Football - PI, P2 + P3 (2pm-3pm) - £2.00
Football - P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00