

Bushmills Primary
School
&
Nursery Unit



January 2019
Newsletter

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Headlice

Again can I remind all parents/guardians that it is your responsibility to regularly check your child's hair. Treatment can be obtained for free from your local chemist. We would request that any pupils with long hair please tie their hair up.

Contact Details



If you have changed your address, mobile number or any other contact information please inform the school as soon as possible, to keep records up to date. This is important for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7.

New Year, New Start!

Thursday 3rd January marked the beginning of a new term for all of us here in Bushmills Primary School. After a somewhat hectic December (which saw an end to our 60th Anniversary Celebrations with a very successful and well supported Carol Service held in Bushmills Presbyterian Church on Friday 21st December), I was delighted to welcome everyone back feeling well rested and refreshed following the Christmas break!



The following day (Friday 4th January) saw pupils in Primaries 1 to 7 travelling to The MAC Theatre in Belfast to see their production of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'.

I am delighted to say yet again a great day was had by all and 'Thank You and Well Done' to all our pupils on their behaviour and conduct throughout the visit.

Meanwhile our Nursery pupils enjoyed a 'Winter Cosy Day' when all pupils and staff came to school wearing 'cosy clothes' and brought along their pillows and blankets. They enjoyed a winter film followed by a picnic lunch.

Transfer Test Results!

Well Done to all our pupils who received their AQE and GL assessment results on Saturday! You all worked so hard and should be so proud of yourselves!



Shared Reading Programme

Pupils in Primary 1 and 2 have just completed a very successful Shared Reading Programme. There was 100% participation by all pupils eligible to take part and a very supportive team of Mums, Dads and Grandparents who attended as readers. This year we also invited Playground Friends from Primaries 6 and 7 to join in. Both pupils and parents thoroughly enjoyed the individual or small group reading sessions. A big 'Thank You' to all who gave up their time to encourage our Foundation Stage children. It is a delight to see the positive attitude to books that this more intimate approach fosters.



The programme will conclude with a visit to Waterstones in Coleraine (in February) where the pupils will be able to browse and choose a free book.

R.N.L.I. Charity Update

A massive thank-you to all parents and friends who gave generously to this worthy cause at our Christmas Carol Service last month. The retiring offering on the day totalled an amazing £133.25 which brings our total to date to £302.11. Thank you to everyone so far and hopefully we have another exciting update when the class pots will be counted again.



Lifeboats

Watch this space!!!!

UlsterScots Flagship Award

On Wednesday 9th January we welcomed Gary Blair from the UlsterScots Agency who visited our school to present us with the 'UlsterScots Flagship Award' in recognition of the school's participation in this programme during the past two years. Well done Bushmills Primary!



Autism N.I.

On Wednesday 23rd January we had a short visit from Sarah-Jane (Autism NI) when a selection of representatives from the classes presented a cheque for a massive £601.60. Well done to everyone for all our efforts!



Breakfast Club

Please be reminded that Breakfast Club runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 8:20am to 8:50am. 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.



Please also note that final entry to the Breakfast Club will be at 8:40am in order to allow all pupils time to eat their breakfast before heading out to the playground.

I am pleased to report numbers in Breakfast Club are slowly rising but there is still room for lots more!

Library Van Visit!

Please be reminded that the mobile library van visits our school every two weeks on a Monday morning. As the last visit was Monday past (28th January) the next visit is scheduled for Monday 11th February.



Swimming Lessons



Swimming lessons for Primary 4 and 5 pupils continue on Friday mornings and will run for a further two weeks (Friday 1st February and Friday 9th February). Following the half-term break swimming lessons will then commence for Primary 6 and 7 pupils with the first week being Friday 22nd February 2019.

Bonjour Amigos

Spanish lessons for all pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 continue on Friday mornings with 'Bonjour Amigos' language tutor, Christina McGarvey. I am also delighted to add that Nursery Pupils will commence Spanish lessons in February



Punctuality - 9:00am Sharp



Sadly, once again I must raise the issue of Punctuality.

Continually a small number of pupils are arriving late in school (with some as late as 9:20am or even 9:30am) which as previously mentioned causes disruption to classes and can be upsetting to the child. All I would like to point out regarding this issue is: on Friday 4th January prior to our trip to Belfast all pupils were in school for 8:45am!!

Once again I really would appreciate your help and support with this very important matter and for the majority of pupils who do arrive punctually every day - Well Done and Keep it up!

Money Slips

Could I please remind all parents to make use of the money slips which are sent home every week to be used when sending money into school. As you can appreciate each teacher is receiving money for dinners, milk, after-schools, etc. on a daily basis and in order to avoid confusion it would be helpful if money slips are returned with the correct amount of money and are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Admissions to Nursery & Primary School

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2019, the closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be 12.00 midnight tonight (Thursday 31 January 2019).



Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2015 and 1st July 2016.

All children born on or between 2nd July 2014 and 1st July 2015 must begin their primary education from September 2019 because by that date they will have reached COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE.

For further information regarding the application process please visit the Education Authority's website at www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions.

Can I please remind you that if you have submitted an application and have not already done so, a copy of your child's birth certificate (and for Nursery Applications, a Benefit Verification form, if this is applicable to you), should be left into your first preference school office before 12:00noon on Friday 8th February 2019.

January Assemblies

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



assembly

Wednesday 9th January	Rev. Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)
Wednesday 23rd January	Alice McAlary (Family Support Worker)
Wednesday 30th January	Robert Plant (Christian Evangelist)

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for January will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 6th February 2019. The school's overall average attendance for the month of January was 91.1%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	95.5%
2nd:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	94.0%
3rd:	Miss Fulton (P4/5)	93.0%
4th:	Miss Logan / Mrs Witherow (P4/5)	88.9%
5th:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	85.1%

**Well Done
Mrs McAllister's class!**



Star of the Week

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 January, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week'.



	11th Jan	18th Jan	25th Jan
Yr 1	Elsie Neill	Sofia McKenna	Ryan McAleese
Yr 2	Jayden Mulholland	Summer Montgomery	Ella McMullan
Yr 3	Ollie Costello	Sam Thompson	Evan Cauley
Yr 4	Matthew McAleese	Lauren Kane	Brooke Mulholland
Yr 5	Caprice McCrellis	Ella Dixon	Alfie Neill
Yr 6	Alex Hogg	Katie Jamieson	Matthew Mairs
Yr 7	Amber Greer	Troy Edwards	Charlie Greer

Footballer of the Week

The following players of the week have been picked for the month of January:

	11th Jan	18th Jan	25th Jan
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Leon Myers	Evan Cauley	Ryan McAleese
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Sam Hogg	Matthew Mairs	Charlie McMullan

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Start of Half Term Holiday	14-Feb-19	ALL pupils (P1 to P7) finish at 1:50pm
Half Term	15-Feb-19 to 19-Feb-19	Inclusive
Peace Proms	24-Feb-19	
Book Fair	27-Mar-17 to 03-Apr-19	
Parent/Teacher Interviews	10-Apr-19 & 11-Apr-19	2:00pm - 4:00pm ALL pupils (P1 to P7) finish at 1:50pm
End of Term (Easter)	12-Apr-19	ALL pupils (P1 to P7) finish at 1:50pm
Easter Vacation	15-Apr-19 to 26-Apr-19	Inclusive

**Please note the change to the Parent/Teacher
Interviews and Easter Holiday Dates**

Term 3

Start of Term	29-Apr-19	9:00am sharp
Revision Week (P1-P4)	29-Apr-19 to 3-May-19	Inclusive
May Bank Holiday	06-May-19	
Assessment Week (P1-P4)	07-May-19 to 10-May-19	Inclusive
Revision Week (P5-P7)	07-May-19 to 10-May-19	Inclusive
Assessment Week (P5-P7)	13-May-19 to 17-May-19	Inclusive
Sports Day	23-May-19	Weather permitting
School Closure	24-May-19 to 27-May-19	Inclusive
Rewards Day	14-Jun-19	
Prize Day	21-Jun-19	
Nursery Graduation	28-Jun-19	9:30am
End of Term	28-Jun-19	12:00 Noon

Please be reminded that all dates are inclusive

A further two School Development Days have yet to be confirmed