

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



January 2016

New Year, New Start

Monday 4th January marked not only the beginning of a New Year but also a new term for us here in school. As we now approach the end of January, although the mornings and evenings are gradually becoming clearer, I would once again remind you of the importance of ensuring your child/children wear reflective clothing and high visibility items, especially when travelling to and from school



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Extended Schools

Please note there will be **no** Extended Schools Sports on the following dates: Wednesday 3rd February and Wednesday 10th February. (The usual afternoon club from 3:00pm—4:00pm will still run).



On Wednesday 17th February and Wednesday 24th February, Paul Diamond will be visiting Extended Schools from 2:00pm-4:00pm. On these afternoons pupils will be involved in a variety of fun team-building exercises.

Football Fun

Football coaching sessions for all pupils in Primaries 1-7 continue in school on Monday Afternoons. These are taken by IFA coach Reuben Smyth.



Tea Towels

As many of you are aware, the long awaited Tea Towels have now arrived in school and have been distributed to all who ordered them. These Tea Towels, which were specially designed by our own pupils, have certainly proved to be worth the wait. I can confirm that a further batch of Tea Towels will be ordered over the next few months and will be available for you to purchase at a later date.



Rugby Coaching

Rugby coaching sessions for our Primary 6/7 pupils continue on Tuesday afternoons between 2:00pm and 3:00pm



Hockey Coaching



Hockey coaching sessions for our Primary 6/7 pupils continue on Wednesday mornings between 11:00am and 12:00 noon.

Shared Reading Programme

Our 'Shared Story Reading' afternoons for Primary 1 and 2 pupils continue on Wednesdays between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. These have been very well attended and will run for a further two weeks (Wednesday 3rd February and Wednesday 10th February).



Causeway Archers



As part of our Extended Schools Programme a course of Archery Classes has commenced for all interested pupils in Primaries 5 to 7. These are taken by trained coaches from the local club, 'Causeway Archers', and each set of sessions will run for six weeks.

All About Dunluce

On Wednesday 6th January, Mr Dougherty, a teacher from Dunluce School gave a short presentation to Primary 6/7 pupils giving them an insight into what life at Dunluce School would be like and also took time to answer the many questions the pupils had. Following this on Thursday 21st January all Primary 7 pupils were invited along to Dunluce School for a 'Primary 7 Taster Day'. The pupils spent the entire day at Dunluce and were given a flavour into how a day at Dunluce would run. Pupils were even allowed to take part in a few classes including Art, Music and P.E. as well as recording their own short CD at the end which the whole school then enjoyed listening to at our assembly on Wednesday morning!



Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book fair will arrive in school on Tuesday 2nd February and will run until Tuesday 9th February. Pupils have now been given leaflets which allows them to see exactly which books will be available for them to purchase. Classes will be given the opportunity to visit the Fair during school hours with their teacher and it will also be open each day between 2:00pm—2:15pm and 3:00—3:15pm.



Mr Hullabaloo

On Wednesday 20th January Fairy Twinkles came to visit the boys and girls in Nursery and Primary 1. This interactive puppet show took place in the assembly hall and was enjoyed by all! Nursery took part in a craft workshop afterwards and made 'Frozen' crowns. Thanks to the parents and grandparents that stayed to help with our craft activity.



Bonjour Amigos

Spanish lessons for pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 continue on Friday mornings with "Bonjour Amigos" language tutor, Christina McGarvey.



Ulster Scots

As part of our school's involvement in the Ulster Scots Flagship School Programme our Primary 6/7 pupils have already been involved with the Flagship Starter Programme which consists of 10 weeks of varied activities presented by Ulster Scots Agency Staff. Activities already covered have been sessions on the 'Lambeg' and also 'Highland Dance'!



School Crossing Patrol

With regard to crossing patrol provision, 'Crossing Patrol Service' is under the remit of 'Education Transport' and is available to and under the local administration of specific schools. The provision does not extend to either, nursery schools or extra-curricular activities. It is part of home and school transport and operates within the time frame of normal school opening and closing times for children of compulsory school age.

Nursery children will always be accompanied by a responsible adult who is accountable for their safety on the way to and from school.

Taking into account the above information, I would like to inform you of the following:

School Crossing Patrol at the school gate are as follows:

- ♦ 8:20am - 9:05am
- ♦ 1:50pm - 2:05pm
- ♦ 2:50pm - 3:10pm

School Crossing Patrol at Bridge Street are as follows:

- ♦ 8:30am - 9:00am
- ♦ 3:00pm - 3:20pm



Attendance

The attendance cup and punctuality prizes for the month of January will be presented at the first whole school assembly next term which will be held on Wednesday 3rd February.

Attendance remains steady with the average class attendance for January being 95.4%.

Results are as follows:



1st:	Miss J Logan (P4/5)	96.6%
2nd:	Mrs J Garrett (Nursery)	96.5%
3rd:	Miss R McBride (P6/7)	95.8%
4th:	Miss S Fulton (P2/3)	95.5%
5th	Mrs H McAllister (P1)	91.3%

Well done Miss Logan's P4/5 class.

Punctuality

Unfortunately, I feel this month I have to



once again highlight the issue of Punctuality. Can I please remind all parents that school starts for all pupils (Nursery to Primary 7) at 9:00am sharp.

Over the past two or three weeks a number of pupils are continually arriving late and well after the starting time which as you can appreciate causes disruption to classes as teachers are working to complete registers and confirm dinner numbers.

I really would appreciate your help and support with this very important matter.

For the majority of pupils who do arrive punctually every day — Well done and keep it up!!



Dates for
the Diary:

Diary Dates

Wednesday 3rd February to Thursday 11th February	Primary 7 Transfer Interviews (Details to follow)
Friday 12th February	Staff Training Date (School closed to all pupils)
Monday 15th February & Tuesday 16th February	Half Term
Thursday 25th February	Coleraine And District Small School Football Tournament (next round is being played at Bushmills Primary School)
Sunday 28th February	Peace Proms (SSE Arena, Belfast)
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 23rd March	School finishes at 12:00 noon for Easter Break
Monday 4th April	New Term Starts

Diary Dates

Thursday 28th April	Spring Fair (Further details will follow)
Please note that over the next few weeks we will be sending home small milk cartons for the children to save up their own spending money to spend on the night.	
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School closed for all pupils)
Monday 16th May to Friday 20th May	Revision Week
Monday 23rd May to Thursday 26th May	Assessment Week
Friday 27th May	Sports Day
Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June	School Closed for all Pupils
Friday 17th June	Treasure Trove Day
Wednesday 22nd June & Thursday 23rd June	Parent/Teacher Interviews (School will close for all pupils Primary 1 to 7 at 1:50pm)
Friday 24th June	Prize Day
Thursday 30th June	School finishes at 12:00 noon For all pupils