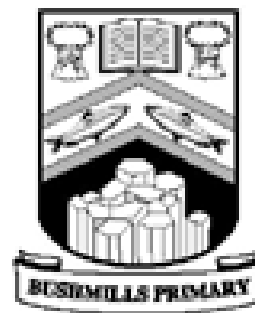


Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



March 2016

As you are aware this last term is one which has been extremely busy for all involved with Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit.

Major events included 'Dress up and Dance', 'Peace Proms' and not forgetting our special visit from Northern Ireland's First Minister, Arlene Foster, and we now look forward to the Easter Break.

The staff and I would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very enjoyable Easter Break and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 4th April 2016 when school will re-open at 9:00am sharp.



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Extended Schools Programme

Once again our Extended Schools Programme has been running successfully since the beginning of the new school year. However, as was the case last year, we have regrettably been informed that as the end of March sees the end of the financial year, funding for Extended Schools has again come to an end.



Unfortunately this means that any after schools clubs funded by this project have now finished with the last day being yesterday, Tuesday 22nd March 2016.

I am aware that this again causes huge disappointment to you, as parents, and would like to inform you that as staff we are seeking to plan some new clubs which we hope will be up and running as soon as possible at the start of next term.

Breakfast Club



I am delighted to report that our 'Breakfast Club' got underway on Tuesday 1st March and numbers attending have been steady. Due to the positive response 'Breakfast Club' will continue as usual after the Easter Break (i.e. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 8:20am and 8:50am).

Around the World in Story Tales

On Wednesday 16th March, Primary 6 and 7, Miss McBride and Miss Thompson travelled to W5 in Belfast for the final of the Around the World in Story Tales project. The pupils were given the chance to explore the exhibition floors of W5, as well as playing in the Climb-It exhibition. Each of the 6 schools present had set up displays from the countries they were paired with and the children were also given the opportunity to see the work the other children had completed. Each school, along with their language assistant, performed a song or dance from their country in the lecture theatre in front of all the other pupils. Primary 6/7 did a brilliant job of performing the rhyme Tirza had shown them when she had visited us in school and the other schools all cheered when we used our walking sticks and umbrellas as props for the rhyme. The day concluded with an award session with prizes presented for the best comic and best animation in each school. Huge congratulations must go to Billie Jane Thompson and Joshua Wilmont who won the 'Best Animation in Class' prize and to Hannah Purcell and Kerry Neill for the 'Best Comic in Class' prize for their comic set in Germany called 'Friends in the End'. A big well done must also go to all the pupils for the hard work they put in over the past months, and also for their behaviour at W5 and on the bus, with both Elaine Steele from W5 and our bus driver commenting on their exceptional behaviour during the day.



Tesco Visit

Monday 21st March was a very exciting day for pupils in Foundations Stage and Primary 3 when they visited the Coleraine Tesco store to take part in its Farm to Fork Project.

Pupils were given the opportunity to sample lots of different fruits, compare the temperatures of the cooler rooms and freezers and discover which products were kept there. They also sampled a selection of cheeses, tasting varieties they had never tried before. At the bakery they saw hot cross buns being made and later sampled them with a selection of other breads.

Before leaving for home each child scanned some grocery items at the checkout and was rewarded with a fun filled take home bag and certificate.

Thank you Tesco for a very informative and enjoyable morning.



Swimming Lessons



Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have been attending swimming lessons on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. They will continue after the Easter Break starting on Friday 8th April 2016.

Tempest Photos

Just a quick reminder that all school photograph order forms (along with any payments) should be returned to your child's class teacher no later than Wednesday 6th April 2016.



Spring Fair

Please remember our 'Spring Fair' on Thursday 28th April 2016 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Don't miss the chance over Easter to have a good clear out and bring along any unwanted toys, books, CD's etc.



As was the arrangement last year, pupils will be asked to donate one bottle each for our bottle stall and we also plan to have a cake stall as last year's was a huge success. Further arrangements will be made regarding all aspects of the 'Spring Fair' just after the Easter holidays.

The PTA continue to do an excellent job and we hope that you will all spread the word and come along on the night with family and friends to support the 'Spring Fair'.

Football Fun

I am pleased to inform you that we have secured a little extra funding which allows us to continue with after-school football sessions on Monday afternoons for all pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7. These will commence on the first day of the new term (Monday 4th April 2016) and the charge will remain the same at £1.50.



Football Coaching



Football coaching sessions for all Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils continue on Monday afternoons (during school hours) and are taken by IFA Coach, Reuben Smyth.

Bonjour Amigos



Spanish lessons for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday mornings with our language tutor, Christina McGarvey. I am pleased to add that after the Easter break our Primary 6/7 pupils will also be experiencing some French lessons on a Friday morning.

Causeway Archers

Archery classes continue on Tuesday afternoons for our Primary 5 to Primary 7 pupils. Please note that these will continue for a number of weeks after the Easter break.



Festival Congratulations!



Well done to seven of our pupils who took part in the Portstewart Music Festival last week. All performed well and as a school we are really proud of them. I am also pleased to report that 18 of our pupils (along with a choral group) have entered this year's Music Festival in Coleraine (Speech and Drama Section). The festival will run after Easter from Wednesday 6th April to Friday 15th April and we wish them all the best as they perform their poems.

Carrowmena Residential Trip

As the date of the Primary 5 to Primary 7 residential trip is fast approaching, could all final payments please be made by Friday 22nd April. Your co-operation with this matter would be greatly appreciated.



Farewell

A short presentation was made on Wednesday 2nd March to Mrs Scott with another being made on Friday 18th March to Mrs Purcell. Both have completed their terms as temporary lunch-time supervisors and were presented with gifts from the staff and pupils to say 'Thanks' for all their hard work over the past number of months.

Yesterday (Tuesday 22nd March) the school also said 'Thanks' and 'Farewell' to

Mr Mervyn Greer who has been involved in many roles within the school over a number of years. Mr Greer is moving on to take up a new position as Support Worker within the Simon Community. Again Mr Greer was presented with gifts from both pupils and staff and we wish him well in his new role.



March Assemblies

Once again each week we have welcomed visitors to school to take part in our assemblies. Assemblies during March were taken by:-

Wednesday 2nd March:	Rev N Cubitt (Bushmills Presbyterian)
Wednesday 9th March:	Stephen Chambers (C.E.F)
Wednesday 16th March:	Rev A Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)
Wednesday 23th March:	Rev R McLernon (Bushmills Free Presbyterian)



Attendance and Punctuality

The Attendance Cup and Punctuality prizes for the month of March were presented today at the whole school assembly of the month.

Attendance remains good with the average class attendance for March being 95.2%.



Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss S Fulton (P2/3)	98.9%
2nd:	Miss R McBride (P6/7)	96.0%
3rd:	Miss J Logan (P4/5)	94.0%
4th:	Mrs J Garrett (Nursery)	93.6%
5th	Mrs H McAllister (P1)	93.3%

Well done Miss Fulton's P2/3 class.

Diary Dates

Dates for
the Diary:

Monday 4th April	New Term Starts @ 9:00am sharp P6/7 Trip to the RADAR centre in Belfast. (Please note full school uniform must be worn),
Wednesday 6th April - Friday 15th April	Coleraine Music Festival
Thursday 14th April	PTA meeting at 5:30pm
Thursday 28th April	Spring Fair 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School closed for all pupils)
Monday 16th May to Friday 20th May	Revision Week
Friday 20th May	Sports Day Please note change of date
Monday 23rd May to Thursday 26th May	Assessment Week
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
Wednesday 29th June	Nursery Graduation @ 9:30am School finishes at 12:00 noon for <u>all</u> pupils
Thursday 30th June & Friday 1st July	School closed for all Pupils (Staff Development)
Thursday 1st September	New Term begins @ 9:00am sharp