

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



November 2016

November has continued to be a busy month here in school with lots happening and preparations for our Christmas production "The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan" well under way.

Our pupils are working extremely hard during rehearsals, although I would ask you as parents to please ensure your child is in bed early at night as unfortunately sometimes tired pupils along with intense rehearsals can lead to an increase in playground squabbles.

As we are fast approaching the festive season could I please remind you to check your child's school bag every day for notes as information regarding events over the next few weeks will be sent out regularly.



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Appointments

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight an issue which has caused some concern over the past few weeks. As you are aware rehearsals for our Christmas performances are well underway (especially in the afternoons), however a larger number of pupils have been leaving school early in order to attend appointments.



I am aware that on many occasions this cannot be avoided although I would urge you where possible that such appointments be made outside of school hours.

Your co-operation with this issue would be greatly appreciated.

November Assemblies

Once again we have continued to welcome a number of visitors to our whole school assemblies which are held every Wednesday morning. During November we had the following visitors:-

- Wednesday 9th November - Rev McLernon
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)
- Wednesday 16th November - Canon G Graham
(Dunluce Parish)
- Wednesday 23rd November - Rev A Buick
(Dunluce Presbyterian)



Admission 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 2017.

Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2013 and 1st July 2014.



All children born on or between 2nd July 2012 and 1st July 2013 must begin their primary education from September 2017 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 11TH JANUARY 2017**.

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



Potato Workshop

This morning (Wednesday 30th November) our Primary 4 and 5 pupils travelled to the Giant's Causeway where they met Mr Cliff Henry (National Trust) who gave them a brief talk about the history of 'Potatoes' in Northern Ireland and then helped them dig up some potatoes which had been planted last year. Hopefully some of you will have the opportunity to try some later!



Choir Rehearsals



Choir rehearsals continue on Wednesday afternoons (3:00pm to 4:00pm). Please note a full attendance each week would be very greatly appreciated as we continue to be busy preparing for our Christmas Carol Service.

Swimming Lessons

The final swimming lessons (for Primary 4 and 5 pupils) for this term will be this week (Friday 2nd December). Please note swimming lessons continue again in the New Year (for Primary 4 and 5 pupils) on Friday 9th January 2017.



Open Evening

Our whole school Open Evening was held on Wednesday 23rd November with a good turnout of prospective parents attending who have children planning to start Nursery or Primary One in September 2017.

Visitors enjoyed performances from the Choir, Choral Group, Tin Whistle Group and also a Spanish song performed by Primary 1 pupils. Some even had the opportunity to sample a few buns made by the Cookery Club members.

Feedback was once again positive. "Well Done " and "Thanks" to all pupils and staff who returned to school to help out with the planned activities.

OPEN EVENING

P.T.A. Update

Once again this year our P.T.A. have planned to organise the Christmas Hampers. Each class plans to make up a hamper which will be raffled at our end of term Carol Service. Pupils are asked to bring in an item of food or drink for their hamper, e.g. tin of peas, box of Pringles, Matchmakers etc. Please be reminded that closing date for hamper donations will be Wednesday 14th December 2016.



Attendance and Punctuality

The Attendance Cup and Punctuality prizes for the month of November will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 7th December. Attendance remains steady with the average class attendance for November being 89.4%

Results are as follows: -

1st:	Miss Logan	(P4/5)	96.5%
2nd:	Mrs Sheridan	(P6/7)	92.9%
3rd:	Mrs McAllister	(P1)	88.5%
4th:	Miss Fulton	(P2/3)	87.0%
5th:	Mrs Garrett	(Nursery)	83.4%



Well Done Miss Logan's P4/5 class!

After-School Sports

Please note there will be NO After-Schools Sports for the Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils on Thursday afternoons until after the Christmas break. This will begin again on Thursday 5th January 2017.



Extended Schools club will however be held on Thursday 1st and Thursday 8th December from 2:00pm to 3:00pm for all pupils in Primary 1 to 3.

Please note that tennis coaching finished yesterday and will begin again on Tuesday 10th January 2017.

Football practice will continue as normal on Thursday 1st December and Thursday 8th December.

Remembrance Day / Poppy Appeal



Thank-you to all who gave generously towards the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal. A total of £48.65 was raised by our school. Also 'Thanks' to our Head Girl, Head Boy and House Captains who represented the school at the memorial service held in Bushmills on Friday 11th November and also the annual Remembrance Day Service which was held on Sunday 13th November.

Izak9!

An Izak9 Parents Evening was held in the school on Tuesday 15th November when Ian Campbell (Qubizm) came along to explain more about the resource and give a greater insight into how it can be put to great use! An enjoyable evening was had by all present.



Breakfast Club



Once again Breakfast Club is going well with a large turnout of pupils each morning. Please note Breakfast Club will run as normal until the end of term although unfortunately there will be NO Breakfast Club on the final day of term, Wednesday 21st December 2017.

Archery Success!

Congratulations to three of our pupils (Rhianna Hartin, Kayleigh Crawford and Rebecca Cerutti) who travelled to the Range Archery Centre in Ballymoney yesterday to take part in a schools competition. The team finished second overall! Well Done Girls!



Christmas Photo-shoot!



Well done to Millie Montgomery (P1) and Sam Hogg (P2) who recently took part in a 'Photo-shoot with Santa' at the Giant's Causeway in connection with the Causeway Coast and Glens Christmas Promotion.

Diary Dates

'Christmas Past and Present' Dunluce School	01-Dec-16	10:30am to 12:30pm Primary 4 to Primary 7
Christmas Dinner	08-Dec-16	Whole School
Visit to Bushmills Presbyterian Church	09-Dec-16	Choir and Violinists
Christmas Production (P1 to P7)	15-Dec-16	10:00am and 7:00pm (Further details to follow)
Staff Training	16-Dec-16	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	20-Dec-16	9:30am
End of Term (Christmas)	21-Dec-16	School will finish at 12:00noon following the annual Carol Service @ 10:00am
Christmas Vacation	22-Dec-16 to 03-Jan-17	Inclusive
Start of Term	04-Jan-17	9:00am sharp
Visit to Grand Opera House in Belfast	04-Jan-17	Leaving school at 11:30am returning at 5:30pm (approximately)

Dates for
the Diary: