

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



January 2017

New Year, New Start!

Wednesday 4th January marked not only the beginning of a New Year but also a new term for us here in school.

After a somewhat hectic December all at school returned in January for the first day of term which saw pupils in Primaries 1 to 7 travelling to the Grand Opera House in Belfast to see their production of Cinderella. I am thrilled to say a great day was had by all and I am also not only extremely pleased but proud to publicly commend our pupils on their behaviour and conduct throughout the visit (comments noted by bus drivers and members of the public on that day!)

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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Shared Reading Programme

Our 'Shared Story Reading' afternoons for pupils in Primaries 1-3 continue on Tuesday afternoons between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. These have been very well attended and will run for a further three weeks (Tuesday 31st January, Tuesday 7th February and Tuesday 14th February).



Visit to Dunluce School!

On Friday 6th January Mrs Muldoon, a teacher from Dunluce School gave a short presentation to the Primary 6/7 pupils giving them an insight into what life at Dunluce School would be like. A few Year 10 pupils from the school also accompanied Mrs Muldoon on the visit and not only shared their own experiences but also took time to answer the many questions the pupils had. Following this on Tuesday 24th January all Primary 6 and 7 pupils enjoyed a 'Taster Day' at Dunluce. There they were given a flavour into how a day at Dunluce would run as well as taking part in a few classes including Art, Music and P.E. Part of the day also involved pupils recording their own short CD. Back in school we all enjoyed listening to it at our assembly last week!



Scholastic Book Fair



Scholastic Book Fair will arrive in school on Tuesday 7th February and will run until Tuesday 14th 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 3:00pm—3:15pm.

Bonjour Amigos

Spanish lessons for all pupils 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 Programme our Primary 6 and 7 pupils have already enjoyed 15 weeks of Tin Whistle lessons with tutor, Dick Glasgow. The next series of workshops is currently being planned and will be commencing shortly.

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!

Attendance and Punctuality

The Attendance Cup for the month of January will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 1st February. Attendance remains steady with the average class attendance for January being 94.7%.

Results are as follows: -

1st:	Mrs McAllister (P1)	96.7%
2nd:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	96.0%
3rd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	95.3%
4th:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	93.8%
5th:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	92.4%



Well Done Mrs McAllister's P1 class!

As part of our punctuality initiative to help encourage prompt arrival at school each morning, classes are awarded marbles if all pupils in the class arrive on time each day. Marbles are counted at the end of each term and classes then negotiate the prize awarded with Miss Logan. The first term winners were Primary 6 who decided on a class party!

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 on Monday past (30th January) the next visit is scheduled for Monday 13th February.



Sainsbury's Tokens

This year again we are collecting the Sainsbury's tokens in order to hopefully purchase playground equipment. Please note that any Sainsbury's tokens are greatly appreciated and the box is available outside the school office.



After-School Collections

Can I take this opportunity to say 'Thanks' to all of you for co-operating fully with the new arrangements which have been put in place regarding after-school collections. I am pleased that these new arrangements appear to be running smoothly and above all have proved to be a better option with regard to safer after-school collections.



P.E. Kits



Could I remind all parents that pupils in Primary 2 to Primary 7 are required to change for P.E. lessons every week. Unfortunately over the past number of weeks a number of pupils are missing out on P.E. due to the fact that they have not been bringing P.E. kits to school.

(Please note this decision refers to footwear only as correct footwear must be worn due to health and safety reasons).

P.E. uniform details are as follows:-

- ⇒ Plain white or red t-shirt or black polo-shirt with school logo
- ⇒ Plain black shorts or jogging bottoms
- ⇒ Plimsolls for indoor P.E.—this is for health and safety reasons
- ⇒ Trainers for outdoor games only

I would also encourage parents to ensure that all P.E. kits are clearly marked with your child's name as sadly our uniform 'lost property' box continues to fill up!

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for Primary 4 and 5 pupils continue on Friday mornings and will run for a further two weeks (Friday 3rd February and Friday 10th February). Following the half term break swimming lessons will then commence for Primary 6 and 7 pupils with the first week being Friday 24th February 2017.



Peace Proms

This years 'Peace Proms' concert will take place at the SSE Arena in Belfast on Sunday 26th February. Any parents or friends wishing to attend can purchase tickets directly from the SSE Arena by logging on to www.ssearenabelfast.com or by phoning 028 9073 9074. Tickets are priced at £15.50 each or £13.75 for tickets bought in groups of 4. Further details regarding arrangements for the 26th February will follow shortly although at this stage I can inform you that on the day we plan to leave school at 10:45am and return at approximately 7:00pm.



Breakfast Club

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



January Assemblies

Once again we continue to welcome a number of visitors to our whole school assemblies on Wednesday mornings. During January we had the following visitors:-



Wednesday 11th January	PAIS Team (Causeway Coast Vineyard)
Wednesday 18th January	Robert Plant
Wednesday 25th January	Rev McLernon (Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Number Day

As you have already been made aware our chosen charity for this academic year is the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children). We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in their Number Day



on Wednesday 15th February. This will be a great way to make maths fun as well as helping to raise money for the NSPCC. Please note that further details will follow in due course.

Appointments

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight an issue which unfortunately has been on-going since before Christmas. Increasingly a large number of pupils have been leaving school early in order to attend appointments which to a certain extent can cause disruption to afternoon classes. I am aware that on



many occasions this cannot be avoided although I would urge you where possible to ensure that such appointments be made outside school hours. Your co-operation with this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Transfer Test Results!

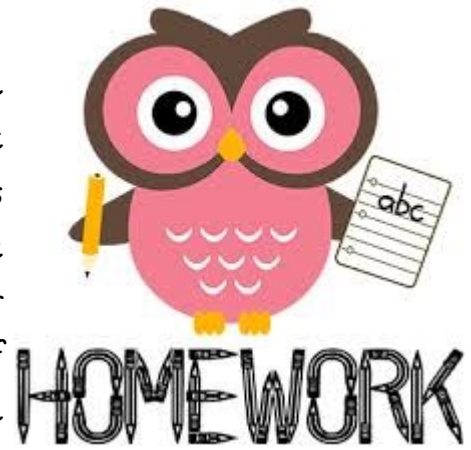
Well done to all our pupils who received their AQE and GL Assessment Results on Saturday! You all worked so hard and should be so proud of yourselves. Please be reminded that P7 Transfer interviews are scheduled to take place on Monday 6th February and Tuesday 7th February.

THE TRANSFER TEST

Homework

Sadly over the past weeks it has been noted that the number of pupils not completing or handing in homeworks has increased immensely. Here in school we view homeworks as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of school hours which reinforces and extends current learning. It can also

been seen as an opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's learning as well as encouraging pupils to become independent learners.



I would hope that you as parents would be willing to encourage and support your child/children to ensure homeworks are completed and also encourage them to become independent (especially older pupils) and ensure they are handed in on time. Please also ensure that your child brings his/her school bag each day—this will hopefully be a reminder to make sure homework folders are popped inside as well!

For those of you who do this anyway—Many thanks and keep up the hard work!

Extended Schools Provision

Please note that Extended Schools provision continues every day (Monday—Thursday) for all pupils. As well as the normal planned programme new clubs started this year are:-

Tuesday Tennis (Primary 4—Primary 7)

Wednesday Lights, Camera, Confidence (Primary 1—Primary 7)

Thursday Sports (Primary 1—Primary 3)

Football (Primary 4- Primary 7)

Please be reminded that the charge remains at £1.50 each day.

Diary Dates



Scholastic Book Fair	7-Feb-17 to 14-Feb-17	Inclusive
Number Day	15-Feb-17	Further details to follow
Half Term Break	16-Feb-17 to 21st-Feb-17	Inclusive (School Closed for All Pupils)
Visit to Waterstones Coleraine	23-Feb-2017	P1-P3 pupils. Further details to follow
Peace Proms (SSE Arena, Belfast)	26-Feb-17	Further details to follow
Portstewart Music Festival	28-Feb-17 to 03-Mar-17	Entry dates and times to follow
School Photographer	07-Mar-17	Individual & Family Photos. Further details to follow
Coleraine Music Festival	15-Mar-17 to 31-Mar-17	Entry dates and times to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	05-Apr-17 to 06-Apr-17	2:00pm -4:00pm School will finish for all pupils at 1:50pm on both days
End of Term (Easter)	07-Apr-17	School will finish for all pupils at 12:00noon
Easter Vacation	10-Apr-17 to 21-Apr-17	Inclusive
Start of Term	24-Apr-17	9:00am sharp
May Day Holiday	01-May-17	School closed for all pupils
School Photographer	02-May-17	Groups Photos. Further details to follow