

Bushmills Primary
School
&
Nursery Unit



March 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.

Easter Break

Once again it is hard to believe that Easter is almost here! Please reminded that school will finish for all pupils at 1:50pm on Friday 12th April and will re-open again on Monday 29th April at 9:00am sharp.

The staff and I would like to wish our pupils and their families a very enjoyable and safe Easter and look forward to seeing you all again after the well-deserved break!



Thank You

Mrs McAllister would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, parents, past and present, and pupils who contributed to her retirement arrangements. Your kind wishes and thanks, flowers, cards and gifts and presence at the school assembly on the 14th February were much appreciated and made it a memory never to be forgotten. Thanks for everything!

Thank You

Football Tournament

Thursday 7th March saw Bushmills Primary School host our final set of league fixtures. With this being our first game on the school pitch in a number of months due to the weather conditions, and the opportunity to play in front of family, the pupils were looking forward to this one.



With the wind blowing a gale, we got off to a slow start to our opening games, narrowly losing the first two to Ballycastle & Armoy Primary School.

Having only 2 games left in this set of league fixtures, the kids rallied around each other to fight back and get a draw in their 3rd game against Dunseverick as the weather started to ease a little.

Our 4th and final game saw us come up against a Straidbilly side made up of Primary 7's, and after some brilliant football and with the kids playing with a smile on their faces, we came out 2-1 winners at the final whistle!

Our fantastic little group of footballers are made up of P4's to P7's and I'm happy to admit that despite not winning as many games as myself or the kids would have liked, and coming up against mostly P7's from other schools, it has been an absolute pleasure attending these Tournaments with the pupils. We will have one more Tournament before the end of June which is the fun tournament we organise ourselves! Please note details of this date will be available shortly.

Red Nose Day!

Here in school we marked Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March when all pupils (and staff) wore 'red' and helped raise money for Comic Relief. Pupils were also able to purchase Red Noses and Deeley Boopers and an amazing £391.90 was collected on the day!



Festival Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to all our pupils who took part in this year's Music Festivals (both Portstewart and Coleraine).

Pupils entered Speech & Drama classes as well as some even playing the piano!

Also 'Well Done' to our Infant and Junior Choirs who both achieved 2nd place in their classes at Coleraine Music

Festival last Thursday. 'Thanks' to all pupils for their hard work over the past few months and also huge 'Thanks' to both Mrs Witherow and Mrs Chestnutt who trained the choirs! We are all so proud of you!



All Aboard the 'Walking Bus'

'Thanks' and 'Well Done' to all pupils who took part on the Walking bus a few weeks ago. Over 70 pupils were up bright and early each morning to walk to school from each of the meeting points.

There was great chat each morning on route and some even asked the question.... "Could we do this every day?" Thanks to Miss Fulton for organising this event and who knows will there be another 'Walking Bus' before the end of June?



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 once again 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, meaning many of the after-schools sessions have now finished.



On a brighter note, I am pleased to say that due to being able to secure additional funding the following clubs will continue next term:

Tuesday	Tennis	P1 to P3	2:00pm to 3:00pm
		P4 to P7	3:00om to 4:00pm
		(until Tuesday 25th June)	

Thursday	Football	P1 to P3	2:00pm to 3:00pm
		P4 to P7	3:00om to 4:00pm

Dublin School Trip

As the date for our residential school trip to Dublin is fast approaching, could all final payments please be made by Friday 12th April 2019. If you have any queries regarding any outstanding balances, please contact Mrs Collins in the school office.



Please note that bedroom allocation will be organised here in school over the next two weeks and Pupil Medical forms will

also be given out and I would ask that these be returned by Friday 12th April.

Also can I inform parents that a trip meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st May at 6:15pm in Miss Logan's classroom. Full attendance at this meeting would be greatly appreciated.
Please note this meeting is for parents only!

P.T.A. - "Portballin'Tri"

Portballintrae Boat Club are kindly supporting Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit to purchase a new play area for the children.

Every year they hold a 'triathlon', which is a team event, and we would like to put forward a team, or teams, to take part. (The planned event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 22nd June.)

If you can help in any way, please fill in the reply slip which is enclosed in this month's newsletter and return to the school office as soon as possible



P.T.A. Summer Fair

We have decided to have a "SUMMER FAIR" on Thursday 6th June 2019 from 6pm to 8pm.

Come along and enjoy the fun! All are welcome and entrance is free.

There will be lots of stalls and activities, including BBQ, crafts, cake stall, Bric-a-brac, Toys, tombola, games, bouncy castle and a Raffle, to name but a few.

We are asking all parents/guardians/carers and family members, plus local businesses to help with prizes and donations for some of our stalls. We need bottles/jars (all in date and unopened). Good second hand toys, unwanted gifts and bric-a-brac...all in good order and not broken.

Also shouting out to all bakers among you, to donate homemade cakes, buns and biscuits for our cake stall.

You are invited to apply for a stall by contacting the school office on 028 2073 1416. Each stall costs £20 and you are required to provide a prize for the Raffle. (Payment in full in advance secures your table).

We also need volunteers to man the stalls and to help set up and clear away on the day. Can you help - bring a friend to help if you like. The more volunteers we can get - the more games and stalls we can run - and it's all for a very good cause - YOUR CHILDREN.

If you can help in any way, please fill in the reply slip which is enclosed in this month's newsletter and return to the school office as soon as possible.



School Photographer

Please be reminded that the school photographer will be in school this Thursday (4th April) to take Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 7 class photos and the also the football team.

If your child was absent from school on the day of the individual photographs, these will also be taken on Thursday.



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 (25th March) the next visit is scheduled for Monday 8th April.



Bonjour Amigos



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

Swimming Lessons



Swimming lessons for Primary 6 and 7 pupils will continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

March Assemblies

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



assembly

Wednesday 6th March	Rev. Dr. Cubitt (Bushmills Presbyterian)
Wednesday 13th March	Rev. McLernon (Bushmills Free Presbyterian)
Wednesday 20th March	Alice McAlary (Family Support Worker)
Wednesday 27th March	Chancellor Graham (Dunluce Parish)

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for February will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 3rd April 2019. The school's overall average attendance for the month of March was 93.3%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	96.6%
2nd:	Miss Logan / Mrs Witherow	95.2%
3rd:	Miss Cochrane	93.5%
4th:	Mrs Sheridan	91.7%
5th:	Mrs Garrett	89.0%



Well Done Miss Fulton's P2/3 class!

Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half of a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year - that's nearly 4 school weeks.

Give your child the best start in life - every school day counts!

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



	1st Mar	8th Mar	15th Mar	22nd Mar	29th Mar
Yr 1	Evie Tweed	Lydia Connor	Victoria Gilmour	No Award Given	Sofia McKenna
Yr 2	Kaley Corscadden	Olivia McFaull	Jayden Mulholland	Becky McKay	Rosie Clarke
Yr 3	Ollie Costello	Hayden Parke	Denzel Duncan	Yi-Jean Aw	Braylen Daley
Yr 4	No Award Given	Zac Millar	Charlie McMullan	Iona Sharkey	Holly Clarke
Yr 5	Millie Parke	Alison Nutt	Ella Dixon	Daniel Kerr	Patrick McKenna
Yr 6	Katie Jamieson	Charlie Millar	Ella McKay	Charlie Millar	No Award Given
Yr 7	Hollie Parke	Katie Taggart	Ruby Neill	Leah Wilmont	No Award Given

Footballer of the Week

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

	1st Mar	8th Mar	15th Mar	22nd Mar	29th Mar
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Isaac Horner	No Footballer of the week due to a football tournament	Callum Jamieson	Denzel Duncan	Leon Myers
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Devon Sharkey		Sam Hogg	Alfie Neill	Aaron Adair

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Book Fair	27-Mar-17 03-Apr-19	to
Photographer	04-Apr-19	
Parent/Teacher Interviews	10-Apr-19 11-Apr-19	&
End of Term (Easter)	12-Apr-19	
Easter Vacation	15-Apr-19 26-Apr-19	to
		Inclusive

Please note 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
P1 Health Review	13-May-19 & 14-May-19	
Sports Day	23-May-19	Weather permitting
School Closure	24-May-19 to 27-May-19	Inclusive
Dublin Trip	28-May-19 to 30-May-19	Further details to follow in due course
P.T.A. Spring Fair	06-06-19	
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

Car Park Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked down by their teachers to the school gate, where they **must be collected.**

I would again request that cars **should not** be entering the school grounds to drop off or pick up pupils as the safety of our children is paramount!