

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



October 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.

## End of October

It is hard to believe that already we have reached the end of October and I would like to once again say 'Thanks' to all parents and staff for your on-going support and loyalty as we seek to continue to work together to provide the best opportunities we can for all our pupils here in Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half-term break and look forward to seeing all staff and pupils back again (and well rested) on Monday 4th November when the new term will commence!



## Flu Vaccination

On Tuesday 8th October the School Nursing Team visited Bushmills Primary to administer the Fluenz Tetra Vaccine (nasal spray) to pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. The benefits of this programme will be that children will be better protected against flu bringing both health benefits and also ensuring less time off school.



## “Goodwill Growing”

On Friday 11th October Primary 4 and 5 pupils enjoyed a visit to the ‘Goodwill Growing Charity Fields’ which are located on the Causeway Road. This fantastic project was set



up by locals, Rosemary and Violet Hunter, with the intention of raising money for three local charities, Laurel House, Antrim Area Hospital, Cancer Research UK and the Smiles Foundation in Romania. Although there were not many sunflowers left (due to the time of year) pupils enjoyed a fun morning learning all about sunflowers and pumpkins before getting the chance to walk around the fields and look for sunflowers (those which were left), the many pumpkins and amazing scarecrows! After a stroll pupils enjoyed a competition which allowed them to plan, design and create their own tapestries! Well done to Lum Lum, Sophie, Iona and Keira who were the winners!



A huge thanks to Rosemary who organised the morning’s activities and also gave us a bag of goodies for all to take home! Just before we left we presented Rosemary with a cheque donation to be shared between the three charities!



## Harvest Assembly!

A huge thanks to everyone who came along to help support our Harvest Assembly which was held in school on Wednesday 16th October! It was great to see the hall so well filled as all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) explained the meaning of Harvest, taking each letter of the word 'Harvest' itself as well as through songs and dance. Our special guest Alice McAlary, also did an epilogue leaving us with a special message which made all present, both young and old, really think about why we celebrate Harvest!



Many thanks for all the kind donations of food (including fresh fruit and vegetables, for which we are grateful for - I am sure you will agree this was a large donation. Thanks to all staff who helped decorate the hall in preparation for the event!



The following day, Thursday 17th October, our Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains helped deliver all the donations to Portcaman Fold where residents were so grateful for what they had received.



Well done Bushmills Primary School - another successful event!!

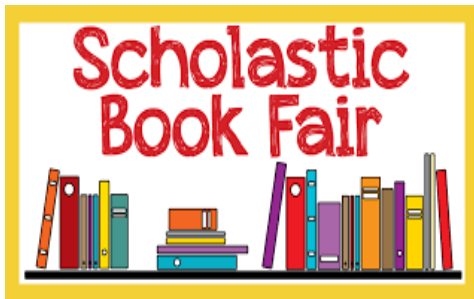


## Time for Football!

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament' took place on Thursday 17th October when our school travelled to Armoy Primary School to take part in the matches. An enjoyable time was had by all with our team performing well throughout all their matches!



## Scholastics Book Fair



Scholastic Book Fair visited our school from Tuesday 15th until Tuesday 22nd October. Sales totalled an amazing £386.54 which in turn has allowed the school to earn £96.64 to purchase additional books for our classrooms.

Thanks to all who supported our fair!

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews have just taken place on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October. Many thanks to all parents who attended and for us as a school, it has certainly highlighted that your child's/children's education is important to you!



As parents you play a vital role in helping to give your child the best start in life and your support is crucial! I am aware that unfortunately a small number of parents were unable to attend the arranged appointments, if this was the case, I would ask that you please contact the school to arrange another time!

## Breakfast Club

Once again Breakfast Club continues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20am to 8:50am. Please note that the 'cut off point' for final breakfast orders will be 8:40am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before heading out to the playground. Sadly numbers attending our Breakfast Club have declined greatly over the past number of weeks! I would urge you to send your child along as this will have to be reviewed next term to ensure this very important club can be sustained.



## Car Park Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked by their teachers to the school gate, beside the bicycle shed, 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!

## October Assemblies

Visitors to our assemblies throughout the month of October were as follows:

Wednesday      Dr N Cubit  
9th October      (Bushmills Presbyterian)

Wednesday      Alice McAlary  
16th October      (Family Support Worker)

Wednesday      Chancellor Graham  
23rd October      (Dunluce Parish)



assembly

## Attendance

The Attendance Cup for October will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 6th November 2019. The school's overall average attendance for the month of October was 89.6%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	94.0%
2nd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow (P4/5)	92.1%
3rd:	Miss Troy (P1/2)	88.7%
4th:	Mrs Garrett (Nur)	87.0%
5th:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	86.2%



**Well Done Mrs Sheridan's P6/7 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 October, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week'.



	4th Oct	11th Oct	18th Oct	25th Oct
Yr 1	Grace Wilmont	Charlie Gilmour	Caleb Kane	Oscar Wilmont
Yr 2	Leo McKendry	Eliana McAfee	Noah Spratt	Evie Tweed
Yr 3	Paige Greer	Madison McKeeman	Alfie Armstrong	Lily Hunter
Yr 4	Evan Cauley	Chloe Ferguson	Yi-Jean Aw	Denzel Duncan
Yr 5	Keira Dixon	Lum Lum Aw	Lauren Kane	Megan Taggart
Yr 6	Alison Nutt	Jay Parke	Caprice McCrellis	Georgia Gault
Yr 7	Lucy McKay	Kayleigh Parke	Matthew Mairs	Alex Hogg

## Footballer of the Week

Again this year each week one pupils from each football session is picked as 'Footballer of the Week'. The following players have been picked for the month of October:

	4th Oct	11th Oct	18th Oct	25th Oct
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Cameryn Greer	Poppy Armstrong	No football due to tournament	No football due to Parent / Teacher Interviews
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Sam Thompson	Caprice McCrellis	Caprice McCrellis	

## Poppy Appeal

Poppies and other related merchandise will be available to purchase once we return to school after the half term break.

Prices are:

- Poppies 50p
- Erasers 50p
- Reflectors 50p
- Pencil Sharpeners 50p
- Pencils 50p
- Rulers £1.00
- Zip pull 50p
- Silicon wristband £1.00
- Snap Band £1.50



## Diary Dates

<b>Term 1</b>		
Half Term Break	25-Oct-19	School finishes at 1:50pm for all pupils
Half Term	28-Oct-19 to 01-Nov-19	Inclusive
Back to School	04-Nov-19	9:00am Sharp
School Photographer	26-Nov-19	Nursery to P7
Open Morning	28-Nov-19	9:15am to 10:30am Further details to follow
P.T.A. Christmas Craft Fair	30-Nov-19	Further details to follow
Christmas Production P1-P7	12-Dec-19	Further details to follow
Staff Training Day	13-Dec-19	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	19-Dec-19	Further details to follow
End of Term (Christmas)	20-Dec-19	Annual Carol Service @ 10:30am. Further details to follow
Christmas Vacation	23-Dec-19 to 03-Jan-20	Inclusive

<b>Term 2</b>		
Start of Term	06-Jan-20	9:00am sharp