

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



November 2015

November has been a very busy month in school with lots happening and preparations for our Christmas production "Porridge" 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 everyday for notes as information regarding events over the next few weeks will be sent out regularly!

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that some tickets for our Christmas production of "Porridge" are still available and can be purchased from the school office.

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Admission to Primary & Nursery 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 2016.

Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2012 and 1st July 2013.



All children born on or between 2nd July 2011 and 1st July 2012 must begin their primary education from September 2016 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 13TH JANUARY 2016**.

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

APPLY NOW

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 4th November — Canon G Graham
(Dunluce Parish)

Wednesday 18th November — Stephen Chambers
(CEF)

Wednesday 25th November — Rev. A. Buick
(Dunluce Presbyterian)

On Wednesday 11th November a special whole school assembly was held as we sadly said farewell to Myrtle as she stepped down from her position as lunch-time supervisor. Myrtle had faithfully served the school for a remarkable 28 years and we, as a school, wish her all the very best for the future!



Flu Vaccination

On Monday 2nd November the School Nursing Team visited Bushmills Primary to administer the Fluenz Tetra Vaccine

(nasal Spray) to pupils in Primaries 1-7. 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.



Feeding the Birds!



On Wednesday 4th November Megan Hamilton and Gayle Hastings from the National Trust visited the Primary 4/5 class to teach them all about the different types of birds we may see in our gardens over the winter months. The pupils then had the opportunity to make their own Bird Feeders which they took home later that day.

Potato Workshop

On Thursday 5th November Primary 4/5 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 the potatoes they had planted last year.

Hopefully some of you had the opportunity to try some later that night!



Hockey Coaching

Hockey Coaching sessions for our Primary 6/7 pupils have continued on Wednesdays between 11:00am and 12:00 noon.

A further two sessions are planned before the Christmas break. (Wednesday 9th and Wednesday 16th November).



Sport for Life



“Sport for Life” health programme for Primary 4/5 pupils has continued on Thursday mornings.

Please note there will be no more sessions before Christmas although these will resume again next term on Thursday 7th January 2016.

Swimming Lessons

There will be no more swimming lessons for Primary 4/5 pupils until Friday 8th January 2016.



Choir Rehearsals



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

Farm to Fork

Primary 4/5 pupils travelled to the Tesco Store in Ballymoney on Thursday 12th November to take part in the Tesco's Farm to Fork Trail. Pupils were given the opportunity to walk around the store and discover where many of the foods we buy come from as well as learning all about what goes on in a large supermarket. An enjoyable time was had by all and if you happen to be visiting the store over the next number of weeks, look carefully at the photographs displayed in the entrance area — you may see a few familiar faces!



Open Afternoon

Our whole school Open Afternoon was held on Thursday 12th November with a very large turnout of prospective parents (who have children planning to start Nursery or Primary One in September) attending.

Feedback was once again very positive and “Well Done” and “Thanks” to all pupils and staff who remained in school to help out with the planned activities.

OPEN AFTERNOON

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16th — Friday 20th November marked Anti-Bullying Week.

The week long campaign, under the theme “What Bullying Means to Me” provided an opportunity to focus on what bullying is all about.



Throughout the week teachers planned some activities linked to the theme of Anti-Bullying. In addition to this, Stephen Chambers (CEF) took a special assembly based on a story about Bullying while Miss Logan presented a powerpoint which was aimed at Bullying in Schools and how pupils need to closely consider their attitudes towards others and at all times have respect for their peers.

All our pupils (Nursery—Primary 7) were also presented with Anti-Bullying wristbands which contained the school badge and the words “Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit—Against Bullying”.

Here in school we work hard throughout the year to make it clear that bullying is never acceptable. Anti-Bullying Week gives us the opportunity, as a whole school community, to focus on this important issue and send a clear message that bullying has no place in our school.

Bonjour Amigos



Christina McGarvey (“Bonjour Amigos” French and Spanish Language tutor) has commenced language sessions for all pupils (Primaries 1–7) on Friday mornings.

Pupils are enjoying learning Spanish and hopefully some of our older pupils will be displaying what they have learnt at our Christmas Carol Service at the end of term.

P.T.A. Update

This year our PTA again plan to organise the Christmas Hampers. Each class will make up a hamper which will be raffled just before the Christmas Holidays. Pupils will be asked to bring in an item of food or drink for their hamper e.g. tin of peas, box of Pringles, Matchmakers etc. Further details will follow.



Around the World in Story Tales

Our Primary 6/7 pupils travelled to W5 in Belfast on Wednesday 18th November for the official launch of the "Around the World in Story Tales" programme. This is a programme funded by the Department of Education Northern Ireland and the British Council.



Our Primary 6/7 class is one of only seven key stage 2 classes from schools across Northern Ireland to have been successful in gaining a place on the programme. The class has been paired with a language assistant from Germany therefore they will be learning all about the culture and language in Germany through stories, art music etc.

On Wednesday 18th November, Miss McBride, Miss Thompson and Primary 6/7 pupils met their assistant for the first time before she visits Bushmills Primary on Tuesday 8th December.

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!

Attendance

The attendance cup and punctuality prizes for the month of November will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 9th December.

Attendance remains steady with the average class attendance for November being 95.2%



Well done to Miss Fulton's Primary 2/3 class

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton (Primary 2/3)	97.7%
2nd:	Miss Logan (Primary 4/5)	95.5%
3rd:	Miss McBride (Primary 6/7)	95.2%
4th:	Mrs McAllister (Primary 1)	95.0%
5th	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	93.2%

Well Done to Miss Fulton's class this month.



Dates for
the Diary:

Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st December	Dress Rehearsal @ 10:00am (Nursery Pupils will come along and be our first audience)
Wednesday 2nd December	Grease - Dunluce School (P4-P7) (Further details to follow)
Thursday 3rd December	"Porridge" (Morning performance @ 10:00am with school finishing for all pupils (Nursery - P7) @ 1:00pm) (Evening performance @ 7:00pm)
Friday 4th December	Staff Training Day (School closed for all pupils)
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Dinner (Please see attached menu)
Friday 11th December	Whole School Trip to Riverside Theatre in Coleraine followed by lunch @ The Royal Court Hotel. (Details will follow)
Monday 14th December	Visit to Ratheane Nursing Home (Choir)
Wednesday 16th December	Visit to Bushmills Presbyterian Church (Choir)
Thursday 17th December	Nursery Christmas Play @ 9:30am
Friday 18th December	Whole School Carol Service (Nursery - P7) @ 10:00am (School will finish for all pupils @ 12:00 noon)
Monday 4th January	New term begins @ 9:00am