

# Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

## October 2017 Newsletter



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## 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 6th November when the new term will commence!

## 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.

## Flu Vaccination

On Wednesday 18th 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.



## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews have just taken place on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th 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!



## Hallowe'en Disco

Thanks to our P.T.A. who organised a successful Hallowe'en Disco last night (26th October). A large number of pupils were in attendance and an enjoyable evening was had by all.



## October Assemblies

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

Wednesday 4th October -	Rev. N Cubbitt
Wednesday 11th October -	Stephen Chambers
Wednesday 18th October -	Rev. McLernon
Wednesday 25th October -	Alice McAlary

On Wednesday 25th October we held a very special 'Harvest' Assembly which saw Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils perform "The Little Red Hen".

All pupils certainly stepped up to the challenge and a great performance was enjoyed by all, after which our guest for assembly that morning, Alice McAlary gave a brief but challenging epilogue!

Thanks to all staff in Primaries 1 to 3 who worked hard with pupils over the past number of weeks. Also thanks to parents and friends who came along to support our pupils. The retiring offering at the end raised a total of £56.46 which will go towards this year's chosen charity, Autism NI.



## RADAR Visit

Monday 2nd October proved to be an exciting day for our Primary 6 and 7 class as they travelled (along with Mrs Nicholl and Miss Thompson) to the RADAR (Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource) Centre in Belfast.

This is not the first time our school has visited the centre and once again the class represented our school well.

Opened in December 2015, RADAR is interactive, informative and fun and is Northern Ireland's first fully interactive, safety and life skills education centre. Throughout the visit pupils took part in a range of interactive workshops on Road Safety, Fire Safety, E-Safety, Personal Safety and Youth Justice. The centre contained a full sized street scene with a house, bus, train, court room, prison cell, shop, police station and much more. As you can imagine a great day out was had by all and the evidence can be seen in just a few of the photographs below.



## Tempest Photography

The school photographer visited school on Tuesday 3rd October when all individual and family photographs were taken. We patiently await the final publications!



## STEM Outreach

Primary 6 and 7 pupils travelled to the University of Ulster in Coleraine to take part in an “All Systems Go” event which was organised in partnership with Ulster University and Causeway Enterprise Agency.

The aim of the event was to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through a variety of workstations and activities. Pupils arrived home after having had a great day out and staff were delighted at how other adults who were there had commented on the behaviour and manners of our pupils. Well done boys and girls!



## The Tharp Family

All pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 enjoyed a visit from the ever popular Tharp family this week on Tuesday 24th October. Pupils enjoyed the music and dancing (not forgetting the popular song 'I love Jesus better than ice-cream,') before all being given a copy of this CD.



## Friday CEF

Representatives from the local CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) continue to take workshops on Friday afternoons between 2:00pm and 3:00pm.



## Coffee Morning

Again our P.T.A. organised another successful 'Wear It Pink@ coffee morning this morning (Friday 27th October) when we were delighted to have a large turnout of both parents and visitors come to our school. Pupils were also allowed to wear their own clothes as well as something 'pink' in return for donating £1.00 towards Breast Cancer Awareness.

An enjoyable morning was had by all with pupils taking part in a range of games and challenges later that afternoon.

Thanks to all who came along and also very kindly donated buns, cakes, tray bakes etc. We will update you in next month's newsletter for the total collect at the event.



## Miniversity

A new and exciting club called 'Miniversity' has got underway as part of our Extended Schools Programme. 'Miniversity' is a computer club with a careers theme where each week the children learn about a new career through the use of ICT. So far all pupils attending are thoroughly enjoying this new club!

## Travelling Books

Just a quick reminder that our Autumn Book fair with 'Travelling Books' arrived in school last week and will run until Wednesday 8th November.



## Attendance

The Attendance Cup for October will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 8th November. The school's overall average attendance for the month of October was 96.0%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	98.4%
2nd:	Mrs McAllister (P1/2)	96.2%
3rd:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	96.0%
4th:	Miss Cochrane (Nursery)	94.9%
5th:	Mrs Nicholl (P6/7)	94.6%



**Well Done Miss Fulton's P2/3 class!**

## It's a boy!



Congratulations to Mrs Sheridan and her husband on the recent birth of their son! Connor Calvin Sheridan was born on 6th October and I am delighted to report both mum and baby are doing well and we look forward to seeing them both soon!

## Transfer Tests

As we are now at the end of October, our Primary 7 pupils sitting the Transfer tests have been working hard preparing.



The first AQE Test will take place on Saturday 11th November, the second on Saturday 25th November with the final test taking place on Saturday 2nd December 2017.

For those children who are completing the GL Examination registration closed on 22nd September and the exam will take place on Saturday 18th November 2017.

## Poppy Appeal

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



## 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'.



P1	Logan Cross	P2	Emma Neill
	Cameryn Greer		Evan Cauley
	Marie Taggart		Sam Thompson
	Madison McKeeman		Ollie Costello
P3	Holly Clarke	P4	Georgia Gault
	Iona Sharkey		Patrick McKenna
	Lum Lum Aw		Alison Nutt
	Brooke Mulholland		Ella Dixon
P5	Alex Hogg	P6	Devon Sharkey
	Katie Jamieson		Amber Greer
	Ella McKay		Ruby Neill
	Kayleigh Parke		Marissa Mulholland
P7	Grace Gault		Taylor Maxwell
	Ryan Wilmont		Jonathan Horner

## Diary Dates

Travelling Books (Book Fair)		Available until 08-Nov-17
Half Term Vacation	30-Oct-17 to 03- Nov-17	Inclusive
Start of Term	06-Nov-17	9:00am sharp
Open Afternoon	22-Nov-17	1:00pm to 4:00pm
Christmas Production (P1-P7)	14-Dec-17	7:00pm
Staff Training	15-Dec-17	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	19-Dec-17	9:30am
End of Term (Christmas)	21-Dec-17	12:00 noon following annual Carol Service which will commence @ 10:00am
Christmas Vacation	22-Dec-17 to 02- Jan-18	Inclusive
Staff Training	03-Jan-18	School closed for ALL pupils
Start of Term	04-Jan-18	9:00am sharp