

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



October 2021  
Newsletter

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### Head lice

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 1st November when the new term will commence!

## River Bush Salmon Station

As part of this year's Northern Ireland Centenary Events our Primary 6 and 7 pupils were invited to the River Bush Salmon Station here in Bushmills on Friday 1st October. That morning both classes enjoyed a short tour of the station and had the opportunity to find out what exactly takes place there!



## Assemblies

Assemblies have now commenced and it has been decided that as well as being able to view assemblies on line, classes will meet in the assembly hall in their different key stages, Primaries 1 to 4 and Primaries 5 to 7. In order to maintain a level of 'social distancing' classes will meet in these 'bubble groups' once a fortnight to enjoy assembly.



A number of assemblies have already taken place and those in the month of October were as follows:

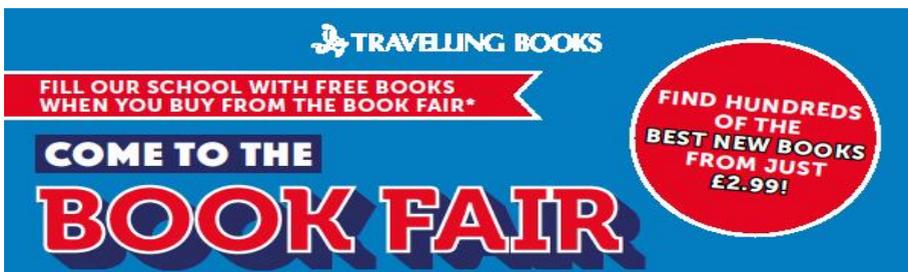
Wednesday 5th October (KS) Lynda McAuley  
(CEF)

Wednesday 13th October (KS2) Jacqui McVicker  
(CEF)

We do hope that these arrangements will help us move closer to some sort of normality here in school.

## Travelling Book Fair

Travelling Book Fair visited our school from Wednesday 13th October until Wednesday 20th October. Sales totalled an amazing £428.70 which in turn has allowed the school to earn £197.22 to purchase additional books for our classrooms. Thanks to all who supported our fair!

A promotional banner for Travelling Books. The background is blue. At the top, it says "TRAVELLING BOOKS" with a small logo. Below that, a white banner with red text says "FILL OUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR\*". In the center, it says "COME TO THE BOOK FAIR" in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. On the right, a red circular badge with white text says "FIND HUNDREDS OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99!".

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews have just taken place this week. 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

I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club continues each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 8:45am.

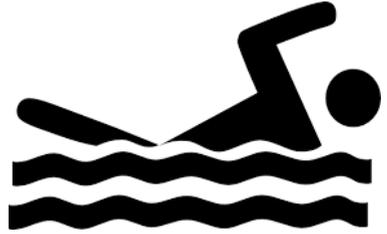
The cost remains at £1.00 and items available include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water. Please note the cut off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom.

Once pupils have eaten their breakfast, they have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!



## Swimming

Swimming lessons continue for our Primary 6 pupils. These take place on Friday mornings when pupils travel along with Miss Brown and Mrs Blair to Coleraine Leisure centre.



## Time for football



The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament will take place following the half-term break on Thursday 11th November. Further details will be sent out when we return following the half-term break although please note this means there will be **NO** after-schools football on this date.

## Keep up to date!!

Can I ask all parents to ensure they have completed the Data Capture forms which were sent out at the beginning of September. Your contact details are very important should we need to make contact at any stage during the school day.

I would also ask that any additional forms which were sent out to you on the first day of September, particularly Photograph Consent forms, are completed and returned to school as a matter of urgency!

Please continue to keep an eye on the school Facebook page, website, Schools NI app and See-Saw. These continue to be used as the main form of communication between the school and you the parents.



## Attendance

As we begin a new school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for October will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for October was 87.5%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Brown	(P6)	94.1%
2nd:	Miss McCabe	(P3/4)	91.7%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	(P1/2)	90.9%
4th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	(P5)	86.0%
5th:	Miss Swanson	(P7)	79.7%
6th:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane	(Nursery)	75.9%



### **Well done to Miss Brown's class!**

As you are aware unfortunately, in these uncertain times we have been seeing a lot of absences from school. If your child is ill, please telephone the school office to advise us of your child's absence and of the cause. When your child returns to school you can send a note into school on their first day back or send an email to the Principal ([jlogan.335@c2kni.net](mailto:jlogan.335@c2kni.net)) to confirm why your child has not been attending school. The reason for this is to ensure the correct codes are applied in relation to your child's absence.

In addition to this I must make you aware that if your child has to leave school throughout the day to attend an appointment, under COVID-19 guidance, they will be unable to return to school again that day. I would therefore ask that when possible any appointments are made outside of school hours.

## 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

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. Due to classes being in their “bubbles”, these certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



During the month of October, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	1st Oct	8th Oct	15th Oct	22nd Oct
Yr 1	Scarlett Kennedy	Molly Wilmont	Roy Parke	Emma Simpson
Yr 2	Reuben McIntyre	Finlay Taylor	Emily Wilmont	Isaac Parke
Yr 3	Lola McKay	Grace Wilmont	Rebecca McIntyre	Oscar Liken
Yr 4	Evie Tweed	Sofia McKenna	Leo McKendry	Ryan McAleese
Yr 5	Alex McLaughlin	Alfie Armstrong	Ella McMullan	Paige Greer
Yr 6	Ollie Costello	Millie Montgomery	Harvey Gault	Ruby-Jane Waller
Yr 7	Brooke Duncan	Zac Millar	Noah Cerutti	Kailan Boyce

## Diary Dates

Term 1		
Back to School	01-Nov-21	Starts 9:00am sharp
Flu Vaccination	11-Nov-21	
Football Tournament	11-Nov-21	Further details to follow
Christmas Dinner	10-Dec-21	Further details to follow
Staff Development Day	17-Dec-21	School closed to ALL pupils
Carol Service	22-Dec-21	To be confirmed
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-21 to 03-Jan-22	Inclusive

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-22	Starts 9:00am sharp
Half Term	17-Feb-22 to 18-Feb-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Bank Holiday	17-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	18-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Easter Holiday	14-Apr-22 to 22-Apr-22	