

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



April 2022
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.

Welcome Back!!

Now that Easter is over, the final term of this academic year will pass by very quickly. It was great seeing all pupils and staff back and well rested following the two week break!

We do have a busy term ahead and look forward to the slow, but gentle easing of restrictions which will hopefully see us return to some form of normality here in school.

For now, can I remind you of a few important dates (i.e. Revision Weeks and Assessment Weeks) which can once again be seen in the 'Diary Dates' section at the back of this newsletter. Other events such as Sports Day and Rewards Day will be marked in some way and again updates and details of how these will be done will be sent out in due course.



Portstewart Music Festival

Well Done to our super choir who performed at Portstewart Music Festival on 31st March 2022! They sang so well and received a first and a second place! We are so proud of you all!

Special mention to Miss Swanson and Mrs Witherow for all their efforts training the choir.



P7 Cycling Proficiency!

I am pleased to report that the P7 Cycling Proficiency Training Scheme will commence on Tuesday 3rd May. The aim of this scheme is to teach children how to ride their bicycles safely and has a combination of theoretical and practical aspects. These sessions will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 3rd May
- Tuesday 10th May
- Tuesday 17th May
- Tuesday 24th May
- Tuesday 7th June
- Tuesday 14th June



P7 Visit to Ulster Museum.

On Wednesday 6th April, as part of their Egyptian topic last term, Primary 7 went on an educational visit to the Ulster Museum in Belfast. We had a great day, travelling on the train and exploring and learning all about history from dinosaurs to minerals and nature to the solar system! The highlight of the day was the Egyptian exhibition, where we saw the Egyptian mummy, Takabuti from 5000 years ago!

We concluded our tour with a chippy lunch before travelling home again on the train - what a fabulous day out!



P5 World War 2 Day

Primary 5's topic during term 2 was 'Operation Pied Piper' which focused on the life of two evacuees during World War 2. To finish off the topic, the class dressed up as school children in the 1940s, completed some rationing activities, made an apple dessert, studied propaganda, investigated the best materials for blackout blinds and completed some artwork on the Blitz. The day was finished off with a very interesting talk by Glenda Rogers BEM who brought in lots of amazing artefacts which we were able to hold and look at up close!



A great day was had by all, and a special thanks must go to Glenda for taking the time to come and speak to us.



P5 'What's Going On?'



On Tuesday 26th April Primary 5 pupils enjoyed a 'What's Going On?' Drama Workshop which was taken by Chris from 'Play it by Ear' Christian Drama Company.

The workshop focused on recognising our emotions. We took part in lots of activities where we had to act out a range of emotions such as fear, anger and happiness in different situations and we even had an emotions orchestra where we were given emotions in groups and we had to 'play' our emotions as part of a musical song. It was great fun and everyone got really well involved in all the fun activities!

Nursey Gardening Club

Nursery were absolutely delighted this morning to welcome Orin's family along to help us do some planting with seeds and planters they had very kindly donated. We were very lucky to have such a lovely



sunny morning to complete our task - we filled the planters with compost, planted the seeds and gave them a big drink of water with our watering cans - now we just have to be patient and wait for our carrots, radishes and peas to grow!

Orin's Granny also left us a lovely story book to read and played a great guessing game with some vegetables with us in our outdoor classroom! We thank Orin's family for such a great morning in Nursery and gifting us these great items for our lovely garden!



Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club continues every morning, Monday to Friday, from 8:15am for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7.



Library Van Visits



Our next visit by the Library Van is due to take place on Monday 16th May, please ensure all library books are returned in preparation for this visit.

Music Lessons

Woodwind and violin lessons continue on Tuesday mornings while piano lessons continue on Thursday mornings.



Swimming Lessons



Lessons for our Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

Assemblies

Assemblies continue on Wednesday mornings as usual when classes meet in their different key stages.

This month the assemblies were taken by the following:

Wednesday 6th April

Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)



Classes also continue watching Hope for Youth assemblies online when possible.

Extended Schools

As you have previously been informed our Extended Schools Programme has now come to an end.

However, as mentioned in our last newsletter some additional clubs will run during this third term.

These are as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Good News Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday afternoons• 2:00pm to 3:00pm• P1 to P3 only • This club will commence on Tuesday 10th May and will run for a total of 6 weeks• There will be NO CHARGE for this club• Further details will be sent home with pupils closer to the date	<p style="text-align: center;">Ukulele Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday afternoons• 3:00pm to 4:00pm• P5 to P7 only • Please note spaces will be limited• This club will commence on Tuesday 10th May and will run for a total of 6 weeks• The normal charge of £2.00 per session will apply• Further details will be sent home with pupils
<p style="text-align: center;">Gardening Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday afternoons• 3:00pm - 4:00pm• P4 to P7 • Thursday afternoons• 2:00pm - 3:00pm• P1 to P3 • This is now fully booked up and payments should now be made on payment pay for those who have been allocated a space	<p style="text-align: center;">Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday afternoons• 3:00pm - 4:00pm• P4 to P7 only • The normal charge of £2.00 per session will apply• Please note unfortunately there is no football available for P1 to P3

Star of the Week

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 April, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	1st April	8th April	29th April
Nur	Skyler Leighton	Lacey Connor	Holly Simpson
Yr 1	Sam Mogey	Milly Chen	Ben Neill
Yr 2	Jacob Greer	Freddie Speers	Luka Tweed
Yr 3	Zara-Mae Mairs	Charley Keys	Nate Wilmont
Yr 4	Lydia Connor	Noah Spratt	Jessy Chen
Yr 5	Kaley Corscadden	Alex McLaughlin & Logan Cross	Becky McKay
Yr 6	Millie Montgomery	Ruby-Jane Waller	Ollie Costello
Yr 7	Sam Hogg	Charlotte Hume	Keira Dixon

Attendance

The attendance cup for April will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The school's overall average attendance for the month of April was 91.3%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	94.8%
2nd:	Miss McCabe	P3/4	93.9%
3rd:	Miss Brown	P6	89.6%
4th equal:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane	Nur	} 89.1%
	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5	
6th:	Miss Swanson	P7	87.9%



Well done to Miss Fulton'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 (jlogan335@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.

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!

Diary Dates

Term 3		
Bank Holiday	02-May-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Foundation & KSI Revision Week	09-May-22 to 13-May-22	
Foundation & KSI Assessment Week	16-May-22 to 20-May-22	
KS2 Revision Week	16-May-22 to 20-May-22	
KS2 Assessment Week	23-May-22 to 27-May-22	
Staff Development Day	01-Jun-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Jubilee Bank Holiday	02-Jun-22 & 03-Jun-22	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	30-Jun-22	Finish at 12:00noon for all pupils