

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



September 2022
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.

Where does the time go?

I am delighted to report that as we have now reached the end of September, everyone here in school has settled well back into the new school term.

As the dark evenings are closing in quickly can I remind you to please ensure children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings and of course are getting into bed at a reasonable time – this will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

Research shows that putting children to bed early is beneficial for their physical, emotional and cognitive development. Not only do children tend to sleep more when the lights go out sooner, but they also may get a greater proportion of restorative sleep too.

Whilst there is no hard and fast rule, the general guide regarding sleep is:

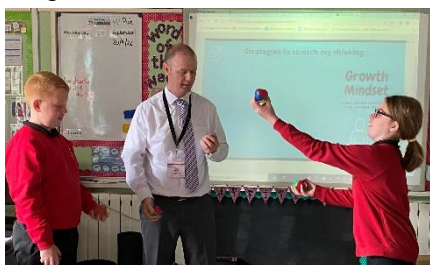
- Children aged 3 to 6 years – 10-12 hours
- Children aged 7 to 12 years – 10-11 hours

Please be reminded that well rested children lead to improved performance with regards to schoolwork and fewer playground squabbles!!

As tomorrow marks the beginning of a new month, can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, School Website and See-Saw App as updates are posted on these on a regular basis. Finally, can I say a huge “Thanks” to you the parents for your ongoing support in working alongside us here in school to help everyone settle back into the new school term!

P7 'Stretch Resilience Programme'

The P7 'Stretch' Resilience Workshops were on the road again. What a great face to face session in [Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit](#) on 21st September 2022 When Richard Reid came to our school. Some terrific discussion points raised by the pupils as we considered how to use positive psychology to recover from setbacks, adapt well to change and persevere through challenge. I'm sure, in the weeks ahead, you will enjoy the follow-up lessons online as you embed the learning from today's workshop. Well done everyone. www.richardreidcoaching.com



NSPCC

Throughout this past week in school our pupils have been participating in the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe online programme. This consisted of an online assembly and a range of classroom based activities. This safeguarding programme has been available to all primary schools in the UK and aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or child line. The speak Out Stay Safe messages were delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of NSPCC's mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. All our pupils did engage well with this programme.

House Captains, Head Boy & Girl

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Lissanduff	Klondyke	Blackrock	Portcamon
Captain Evan Cauley	Captain Leon Myers	Captain Olivia McFaull	Captain Sam Thompson



Deputy Captain Chloe Ferguson	Deputy Captain Becky Mckay	Deputy Captain Ollie Costello	Deputy Captain Summer Montgomery
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Junior Captain Anna Simpson	Junior Captain Grace Wilmont	Junior Captain Rebecca McIntyre	Junior Captain Caleb Kane
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Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Deputies and we wish them well for the coming year as they each take on this new and exciting challenge.

Also congratulations to our incoming Head Boy and Head



Girl, Hayden Parke and Lily-Mae McAfee, as they represent our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit.



The School Day

Please be reminded of the following school day times:

School will start at **9:00am sharp** with bell ringing at 8:45am when pupils can enter the building. Don't forget

Breakfast Club will be open for all pupils Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 8:45am and finishing times are as follows:



P1 & P2	1.50pm	Monday to Friday
P3	1.50pm	Tuesday and Thursday
	3.00pm	Monday and Wednesday
	2:00pm	Friday
P4 to P7	3.00pm	Monday to Thursday
	2:00pm	Friday

Unfortunately, already a small number of children are not arriving in school and ready to start at 9:00am. This not only causes disruption to classes but also means that teachers are unable to forward registration files to the office on time! Please please ensure this situation does not get out of hand especially so early in the term!

P.E.

P.E. lessons have now commenced and the hall timetable for P.E. has now been finalised

Designated days for P.E. will be as follows:



Monday	PI/2 & P3&4
Tuesday	P5&6
Wednesday	PI/2 & P6/7
Friday	P5/6 (swimming)

Please note on days that pupils have P.E. they should come to school in their P.E. kits. This should be plain black jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos) and trainers along with school polo shirts and sweatshirt.

Order Forms



Please be reminded that the Extended Schools form, Snack form and School menu for the following week are given out in class every Friday.

If your child is off school, the following forms can be accessed on the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk> and printed off ready for the week ahead!

- The Extended Schools and Snack Order forms can be found in the "Parents Area - Forms" section of the school website
- The school menu was sent out to all pupils at the start of the school year

Healthy Snacks

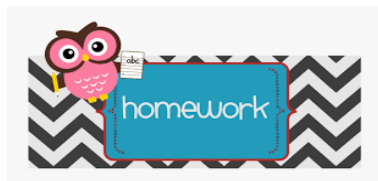


I am aware that a number of children are bringing in their own snacks to school each morning. Can I please remind you that these should be Healthy Snacks such as fresh fruit, raw vegetables (e.g. carrot, celery), pancakes etc. These are also available to purchase from the school canteen. **Please do not send in sweets, crisps, chocolate or buns as these items do not comply with our Healthy Breaks policy!**

Homework!

As you are aware homework has now commenced for all pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. Individual class teachers will have sent out homework letters for their class and what is required each week.

At present each class is receiving one homework each week on See-Saw using their See-Saw class app. This homework is set on a Monday afternoon and should be completed by Thursday. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils are not completing this homework on See-Saw which therefore means time must be set aside in school (usually at break-time or lunchtime) for these to be completed! As far as we are aware all parents have now downloaded the See-Saw App and scanned their QR Code. If you are having problems with the app, please contact your child's class teacher as soon as possible to ensure your child does not miss out!!



Water Bottles

Just a quick reminder that all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) should now have their own "School Water Bottles" which have been marked clearly with their name. Rather than paying for water on a monthly basis, pupils can now bring their own personalised bottles with them to school each day. Please note, these bottles should be filled at home with water only. If required these can be refilled at school (this will be tap water only!). If for any reason your child requires another water bottle, these can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.50.



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.

Breakfast Club

I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club has opened again since Monday 5th September and numbers attending have been good with pupils attending from all classes (Nursery right through to Primary 7).

Breakfast club opens each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:15am to 8:45am before children will be allowed to go to their own classes. Once pupils have eaten their breakfast, they have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!

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.



Swimming

Swimming lessons have now commenced this term for our Primary 5/6 class. These take place on Friday mornings when pupils travel along with Miss Logan and Miss Thompson to Coleraine Leisure centre.



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 September will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for September was 95.6%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Miss Brown	P4/5	97.6%
2nd:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	95.6%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	95.3%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	95.2%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	93.8%



**Well done to Miss Logan & 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 must 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.

In addition to this I must make you aware that if your child has to leave school throughout the day you must send a letter to your child's class teacher to excuse your child from school or complete a form which is available on the school website or from the school office. 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!

Assemblies



We have welcomed the opportunity to be able to take part in whole school assemblies throughout the month of September. These assemblies have taken place on Wednesday mornings and we are delighted to welcome back the following visitors:

Wednesday 7th September	Rev Dr N Cubitt Bushmills Presbyterian
Wednesday 14th September	Chancellor G Graham Dunluce Parish
Wednesday 21st September	Rev R Morrow Bushmills Free Presbyterian
Wednesday 28th September	Alice McAlary Family Support Worker

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

Footballer of the Week

The following players of the week have been picked for the month of September:

	15th Sept	21st Sept	29th Sept
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Just getting started!!	Oliver McKendry & Reuben McIntyre	Luka Tweed
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Noah Spratt	Sam Thompson	Leo Harrison



Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. These certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.

During the month of September, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':



	9th Sept	16th Sept	23rd Sept	30th Sept
Yr 1	Oliver McKay	Eli McKay	Olivia Wilmont	Lacey Connor
Yr 2	Ben Neill	Roy Parke	Scarlett Kennedy	Emma Simpson
Yr 3	Freddie Speers	Emme Gault	Isaac Parke	Jacob Greer
Yr 4	Lola McKay	Logan-James McKillop	Oscar Wilmont	Grace Wilmont
Yr 5	Lucy Parke	Ryan McAleese	Evie Tweed	Adam McConachie
Yr 6	Becky McKay	Madison McKeeman	Alex McLaughlin	Cameron Greer
Yr 7	Isaac Horner	Lily-Mae McAfee	Braylen Daley	Leon Myers

Safety Reminder

Sadly, over the month of September I have noticed (and have been made aware) of a few actions which I feel could put the safety of our pupils (your children!) at risk. I would ask you to take note of the following:



Some parents are driving into the school grounds, **especially in the mornings**, in order to drop off or collect pupils. If you feel this is something that you have to do (perhaps for health reasons) then I would ask that you come and speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement. Sadly, this is not the case with a number of people therefore I would insist that you do not drive into the school grounds as pupils' safety is our top priority!

Due to Health and Safety concerns, along with social distancing guidelines which have been raised, when dropping off and collecting your child/children, I would ask that you walk children along the path and not over the driveway. Also when crossing the road please use the school's crossing patrol, as failure to do so can cause confusion for drivers passing by who concentrate on the designated crossing patrol outside school gates especially in the afternoons when it can be extremely busy. Please also continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines when within our school grounds. This will help avoid the spreading of COVID-19.

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests as unfortunately too many accidents happen outside school gates and I am sure you would agree we do not want the gates of Bushmills Primary on the news for this reason!

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Diary Dates

Term 1		
Staff Development Day	07-Oct-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Travelling Books Book Fair	11-Oct-22 to 18-Oct-22	Further details to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	24-Oct-22 to 26-Oct-22	School closes at 1:00pm for all pupils on these days
Half Term Holiday	27-Oct-22 to 02-Nov-22	Inclusive School closed to ALL pupils
Flu Vaccination	17-Nov-22	Further details to follow
Christmas Show	15-Dec-22	Further details to follow
Half Day	16-Dec-22	School will finish at 12:00noon for all pupils
Last Day of Term	21-Dec-22	School will finish at 12:00noon for all pupils
Christmas Holiday	22-Dec-22 to 03-Jan-23	School closed to ALL pupils