

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



December 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.

It's Christmas

Wow! We have made it!! There is no doubt this first term has been challenging but a huge "Thanks" to everyone who has worked together to help keep the school open until the Christmas break!

As you are aware at the beginning of this month rehearsals took place for this year's Christmas production of "No One Wraps Like an Elf". All pupils (from Nursery right through to Primary 7) were involved however due to matters out of our control sadly we had to make the difficult decision to postpone our production until after the Christmas holidays. As you have all been made aware the new "Show Day" will be Tuesday 10th January 2023 when we look forward to seeing you all here after the Christmas break.



As you have all been made aware sadly Miss Logan's mother passed away earlier this month. The school have made a donation to the chosen charity N.I. Chest, Heart & Stroke Association, on behalf of the Board of Governors and pupils here at Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Miss Logan at this time.

Car Parking

We have received a letter from the Management Company for the Ritchies Wood Development, which is on the opposite side of the Priestland Road from the school, requesting that we ask parents **not to park** in their car park when dropping off or collecting your child/children from school as this is a private development.

Dalriada - The Sound of Music

On Wednesday 7th December, Primary 6 and 7 were invited to Dalriada to see their school production, "The Sound of Music". We had a thoroughly enjoyable time, watching pupils from Year 8 to Year 14 performing on stage, and we especially enjoyed all the songs! We even had ice cream at the interval! A great afternoon outing.

Football

The second round of this year's Coleraine and District Small School's Football Tournament which was due to take place on 8th December was postponed. A new date in January has yet to be agreed however further details will follow after the Christmas holidays.



Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner

On Friday 9th December it was Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day here in school. Thank you to the kitchen staff for the delicious Christmas Dinner which was enjoyed by both pupils and staff alike.



AQE

We are so incredibly proud of our P7's who have worked so hard and have now finished their AQE papers!! Roll on Christmas! What better way to celebrate than with cake! Well done to you all!



Assemblies

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



Wednesday 7th Dec	Dr Cubitt (Bushmills Presbyterian)
Wednesday 14th Dec	Rev Livingstone (Causeway Methodist Churches)
Tuesday 20th Dec	Lynda McAuley (CEF)

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

Attendance

As we reach the end of the first term, we seek to attain high levels of attendance within our school, however sadly the month of December has dramatically brought our attendance levels down. We hope to see a vast improvement as we begin a new year in January!

The attendance cup for December will be presented to the winning class at the start of the new term. The overall attendance for December was 77.9%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	82.8%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	82.0%
3rd:	Miss Logan & Miss Brown	P5/6	79.6%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	79.4%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	61.1%



Well done to Miss Rowe'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.

Popcorn Competition



Over the last term we have introduced a Popcorn Attendance competition. For each day a class has 100% attendance they receive a piece of Popcorn on the notice board in the main reception. This term has been a very close-run race however the P6/7 Class have just pipped the P5/6 class to the post and have won the first term's prize. This will be awarded to the class following the Christmas holidays.

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 year every week for their achievements. These certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



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

	02/12	09/12	20/12
Yr 1	Priya Henderson	Orin Canavan	Oscar Parke
Yr 2	Milly Chen	Lyla Mulholland	Molly Wilmont
Yr 3	Jacob Greer	Isaac Parke	Finlay Taylor
Yr 4	Charley Keys	Ella Scott	Oscar Liken
Yr 5	Lydia Connor	Noah Spratt	Evie Tweed
Yr 6	Summer Montgomery	Olivia McFaull	Becky McKay
Yr 7	Harvey Gault	Hayden Parke	Leo Harrison

Footballer of the Week

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

	01/12	08/12
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Leo Harrison	Oscar Wilmont



Breakfast Club & Extended Schools

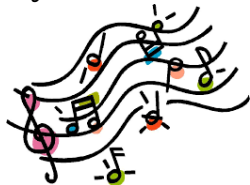
Breakfast Club will recommence again on Wednesday 4th January at 8:15am. We look forward to seeing everyone back on this day along with possibly some new faces.



Extended Schools sessions will recommence on Monday 9th January.

Music Lessons

Piano lessons will recommence on Thursday 5th January here in school. Don't forget if your child is currently in Primary 3 to Primary 7 and would like to start piano lessons please do not hesitate to contact the school office for further information.



String lessons will recommence on Friday 6th January 2023 and the date when Woodwind lessons will recommence will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Library Van Visits



Please be reminded the mobile library van continues to visit our school every fortnight on a Monday morning. The next visit will be on Monday 9th January 2023 at 10:30am, therefore please ensure your child brings back any books borrowed on that date.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 5/6 class will recommence on Friday 13th January and these will take place every Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre until the end of January, with the final day being Friday 27th January. Swimming lessons will then commence for the P6/7 class on Friday 3rd February. Further details will be sent home with the P6/7 pupils in the New Year.



Parent Pay

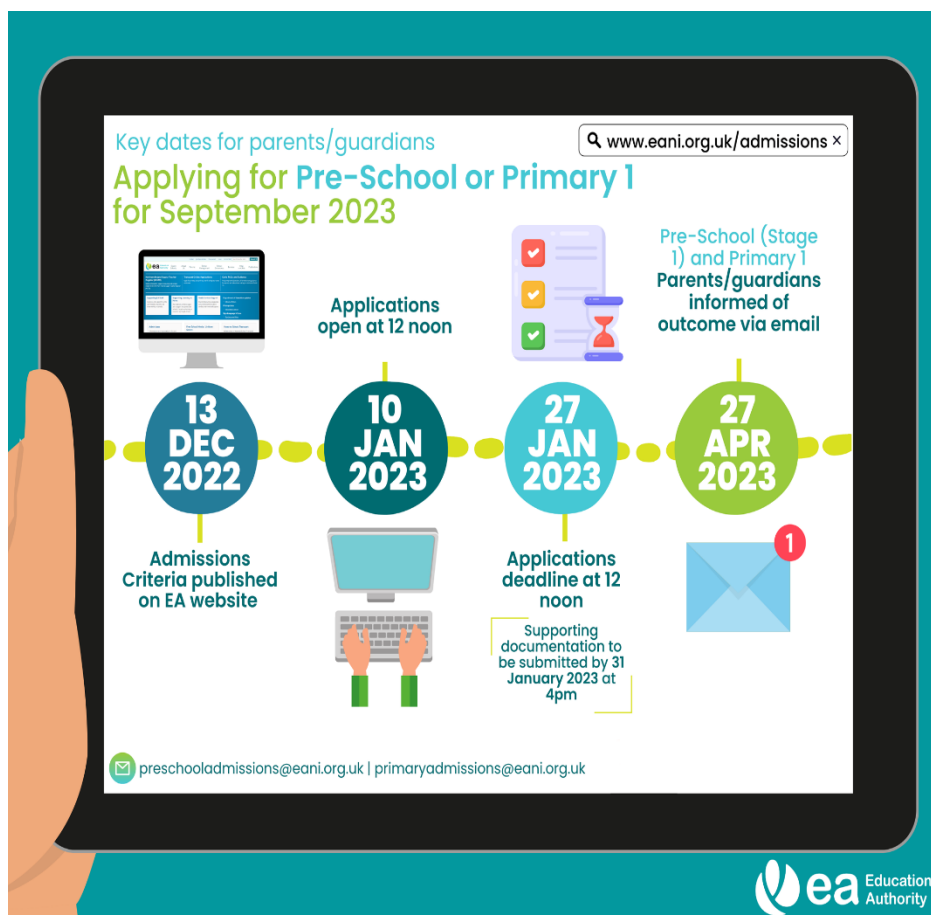
Currently there are several outstanding balances on Parent Pay, we would ask that each family check their accounts and settle any outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you have any problems or queries regarding your account/balance, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email gcollins135@c2kni.net and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Admissions to Nursery & Primary School

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2023, you can apply for their place online from **Monday 10th January 2022 at 12:00 noon**.

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be **12.00 noon on Friday 27th January 2023**.

If you would like to make an appointment to visit in person, please contact the school by phone or email on 028 2073 1416 or gcollins135@c2kni.net.





A caring school which is 'meeting effectively the educational and pastoral needs of all the children'. (ETI)

BUSHMILLS PS AND NURSERY UNIT

**2023
ENROLMENT**

'BUILDING A CAUSEWAY TO SUCCESS'

If you would like to visit our school and meet the staff, appointments are available throughout the month of January.

PRE-SCHOOL PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE BORN ON OR BETWEEN 2ND JULY 2019 AND 1ST JULY 2020.

PRIMARY 1 PLACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN BORN ON OR BETWEEN 2ND JULY 2018 AND 1ST JULY 2019.

*PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING DEFERRED ENTRY.



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Phone: 02820731416

Email: gcollins135@c2kni.net

Scarlet fever Signs & symptoms



The symptoms of scarlet fever are non-specific in early illness and may include:

- sore throat,
- headache,
- high temperature,
- nausea and vomiting.

After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.

Anyone who thinks they or a child may have it should contact a GP for a proper diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Strep A symptoms

UK parents have been told to look out for signs of strep A in their children after six deaths

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Fine, pink or red body rash
- Rash with 'sandpapery feel'

- According to the UK Health Security Agency

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-23	School starts 9:00am sharp
Full School Trip	06-Jan-23	Details were sent home on Monday 19 th December
School Photographer	13-Feb-23	Further details to follow
Peace Proms	26-Feb-23	Further details to follow

Change to the Menu

Please note the change on the menu for the first few days when we return to school following the Christmas holidays.

Wednesday 4 th Jan 2023	Thursday 5 th Jan 2023	Friday 6 th Jan 2023
Mince Bolognaise or Pizza Sweetcorn & Potato Wedges Ice Cream & Fruit	Chicken Nuggets or Beefburger & Bap Beans & Chips Milkshake & Biscuit	P1 to P7 school trip to The Grand Opera House Nursery Buffet Lunch

We all trust that you enjoy the well-earned rest and just in case you may need to contact school during the holidays this can be done via email.

gcollins135@c2kni.net

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

From:
The Principal, Staff and Pupils of Bushmills Primary School 2022.

