

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



October 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.

End of October

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of October and life continues to be very busy for us all here in school.

I would like to wish every-one an enjoyable half-term break and look forward to seeing all staff and pupils back again (and well rested) on Thursday 3rd November when school will open again at 9:00am sharp. Please note Breakfast Club will run as normal from 8:15am to 8.45am.



Travelling Book Fair

Travelling Book Fair visited our school from Wednesday 12th October until Wednesday 19th October. Sales totalled an amazing £588.63 which in turn has allowed the school to earn £293.17 to purchase additional books for our classrooms. Thanks to all who supported our fair!



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!



P6/7 NSPCC Workshop

On Monday 24th October, P6 and P7 were visited by Jackie Cochrane and took part in a NSPCC Workshop, where they learnt all about Speaking Out and Staying Safe. They worked in groups to discuss ideas and met buddy the speech bubble, who taught them and watched a video all about keeping safe.



We learnt how to ask for support and get help when we need it and speaking out is the best way to keep children safe! A great opportunity for us!

Community Choices

As part of the Bushmills Community Choices Bid, Bushmills Primary School took part in a workshop where they decided upon a bid to help the school and the community. They then created beautiful artwork for Bushmills Landscapes with local artist Sarah Carrington to display in the Community Centre for the bid.

Bushmills Primary School have entered a bid and the vote for this will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday 29th October - everybody is welcome to come along and vote!

Football Arrangements

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament will take place following the half term break on Thursday 10th November. Further details will be sent out when we return following the half term break although please note that this means there will be NO after-schools football on this date. Please also note that on the



first day back following half-term (Thursday 3rd November) there will only be football practice for P4 to P7 pupils!

Swimming

Swimming lessons continue for Miss Logan's P5/6 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

Please note that due to the half-term break there will be no lessons on Friday 4th November, these will however resume on Friday 11th November.



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 90.7%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Miss Brown	P5/6	93.9%
2 nd ==:	Miss Fulton Miss Swanson	P1/2 P6/7	93.7%
4th:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	90.7%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	79.5%



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 (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 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 October. These assemblies have taken place on Wednesday mornings, and we are delighted to welcome back the following visitors:

Wednesday 5th October	Rev Dr N Cubitt Bushmills Presbyterian
Wednesday 12th October	Rev. A Buick Dunluce Presbyterian
Wednesday 19th October	Chancellor G Graham Dunluce Parish
Wednesday 26th October	Paster B Jones Dunseverick Baptist

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 October:

	6 th Oct	13 th Oct	20 th Oct
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Orin Canavan	Jacob Greer	Luka Tweed
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Leo McKendry	Evan Cauley	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 October, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':



	7 th Oct	14 th Oct	21 st Oct
Yr 1	Frankie Glass	Oliver Ferguson	Amber Dornan
Yr 2	Oliver McKendry	Grace McElhinney	Evie McKeown
Yr 3	Finlay Taylor	Luka Tweed	Reuben McIntyre
Yr 4	Carter Waring	Charlie Gilmour	Rebecca McIntyre
Yr 5	Noah Spratt	Victoria Gilmour	Eliana McAfee
Yr 6	Ava O'Rawe	Paige Greer	Marie Taggart
Yr 7	Ollie Costello	Liam Nutt	Chloe Ferguson

Safety Reminder

Sadly, over the past two months 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 still 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		
Half Term Holiday	27-Oct-22 to 02-Nov-22	Inclusive School closed to ALL pupils
Term Recommences	03-Nov-22	School begins at 9:00am sharp for all pupils
Peace Proms Rehearsal	08-Nov-22	Further details to follow to pupils sign up
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

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-23	Starts 9:00am sharp
Full School Trip	06-Jan-23	Further details to follow
School Photographer	13-Feb-23	Further details to follow