

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



September 2023
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.

A New Start!

As we have now reached the end of September, I am pleased to report that 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 to bed at a reasonable time - this will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

As Monday marks the 2nd day of a new month, can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, school website and SeeSaw app as updates are posted on these on a regular basis.

Please note that this will be the final Newsletter which is being sent home with your child/children. The October Newsletter and subsequent newsletters will be sent out at the end of every month via the school app, however if you would prefer a hard copy of this, please request this from the school office.



Parent Pay

I feel I must again highlight the issue of negative balances on Parent Pay. If you are unsure if you have a negative balance, please feel free to contact the school office and this can be checked for you.

In the event of you having a negative balance, please note these are supposed to be paid on a weekly basis and if you are unable to do this, please contact Miss Logan immediately.

House Captains, Head Boy & Girl

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2023-2024 are as follows:

Lissanduff	Klondyke	Blackrock	Portcamon
Captain Jayden Mulholland	Captain Cameryn Greer	Captain Lydia Connor	Captain Evie Tweed



Deputy Captain Ava O'Rawe	Deputy Captain Leo McKendry	Deputy Captain Eliana McAfee	Deputy Captain Alfie Armstrong
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Junior Captain Reuben McIntyre	Junior Captain Isaac Parke	Junior Captain Luka Tweed	Junior Captain Jacob Greer
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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, Callum Jamieson, and Head Girl, Ella McMullan, 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 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	P1/2 & P5&6
Tuesday	P3&4
Wednesday	P1/2 & 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.

Good News Club

As part of our Extended Schools programmes, Good News Club will commence for pupils in Primaries 1 to 3 on Tuesday 3rd October from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. The normal charge for Extended Schools will apply and should be paid on Parent Pay.

Good News Club will run on these dates:	Tues 3 rd Oct	Tues 14 th Nov
	Tues 10 th Oct	Tues 21 st Nov
	Tues 17 th Oct	Tues 28 th Nov
	Tues 7 th Nov	

Healthy Snacks



I am aware that several 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!

Order Forms



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

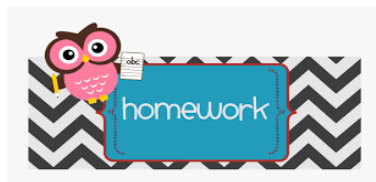
If your child is off school, the following forms can be accessed on the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk> and printed off ready for the week ahead!

- 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 and is also available to view on the school website

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 homework is set on a Monday afternoon and should be completed by Thursday. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils are not completing this homework 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. This is important and is a way of keeping in contact with



your child's teacher. 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!!

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 27th September 2023 when Richard Reid came to our school.

Some terrific discussion points were 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

Roald Dahl Day

This term, Primary 5 and 6 are learning about the life of Roald Dahl, author of many books including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Roald Dahl day is held every year on his birthday, 13th September.

As part of the activities planned to celebrate this day, Primary 5 and 6 took part in a 'live lesson' in our ICT room using 'Adobe Express' software. They were shown how to create their own book cover based on Roald Dahl's book 'James and the Giant Peach'.

Each pupil had to select their own piece of oversized fruit to feature and design a book title to go along with it. The pupils loved working along with the livestream and completing the tasks. They



developed many skills in digital art creation and received a 'Digital Leaders' certificate for showcasing their skills in their finished book covers.

Marine Conservation

On Friday 15th September, we had a special visit from Stephen who works for the Marine Conservation Society. Stephen delivered workshops to our Key Stage 2 classes as well as a whole school assembly about how we can look after our oceans and their inhabitants.

The children really enjoyed talking about the importance of the ocean to them and how we can look after it by limiting the amount of rubbish that enters the seas. It was particularly eye opening to discover the length of time it takes for some everyday items to completely disappear once they are finished with. This was particularly poignant as we are so privileged to live so close to so many wonderful beaches on the North Coast.

We hope to plan our own beach clean in the Spring or Summer term to play our part with this important work. Thankyou Stephen for a really enjoyable day.



Multi-Sports

Multi-sports sessions have commenced for all pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. These take place on Thursdays here in school and will run for a total of six weeks.

Breakfast Club

I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club has opened again since Monday 11th 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 is £1.10 per day 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 Biondo to Coleraine Leisure centre.



Music Lessons

All music lessons have now commenced in school with string lessons on a Monday taken by Mrs Eves, woodwind on a Tuesday taken by Mrs Kutlu and piano and guitar lessons on a Thursday taken by Miss Boyle.



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 95.3%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	97.5%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	95.2%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	95.0%
4th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	94.6%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	91.1%



Well done to Miss Rowe's class!

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 6th September Rev Dr N Cubitt

Wednesday 13th September Alice McAlary
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 20th September Pastor Billy Jones
Dunseverick Baptist

Wednesday 28th September Rev Harper
Dunluce Parish

Footballer of the Week

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

	14th Sept	21st Sept	28th Sept
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Noah Spratt	Luka Tweed	Logan Scott



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':



	8th Sept	15th Sept	22nd Sept	29th Sept
Yr 1	Alfie Brown	Hollie Simpson	Peyton Parke	Aidan Rowland
Yr 2	Priya Henderson	Lacey Connor	Olivia Wilmont	Oscar Parke
Yr 3	Isobella McGladdery	Roy Parke	Grace McElhinney	Emma Simpson
Yr 4	Emily Wilmont	Freddie Speers	Jacob Greer	Isaac Parke
Yr 5	Daniella Deineha	Charley Keys	Ella Scott	Oscar Wilmont
Yr 6	Ryan McAleese	Lydia Connor	Leo McKendry	Sofia McKenna
Yr 7	Ava O'Rawe	Ella McMullan	Summer Montgomery	Alex McLaughlin

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		
Flu Vaccination	10-Oct-23	
Travelling Books Book Fair	11-Oct-23 to 18-Oct-23	
Parent/Teacher Interviews	24-Oct-23 to 26-Oct-23	School will finish at 1:00pm for ALL pupils. Further information to follow
Harvest Assembly	27-Oct-23	Further details to follow
Half Term Holiday	30-Oct-23 to 03-Nov-23	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	20-Dec-23	School finishes for all pupils at 12:00 noon
Christmas Holiday	21-Dec-23 to 3-Jan-24	School closed to ALL pupils