

Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit



February 2016

First Minister visits Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit.

Thursday 11th February saw the arrival of Northern Ireland's First Minister Arlene Foster at our school. As a whole school we were extremely proud when asked to host this visit. The First Minister arrived along with Finance Minister, Mervyn Storey and North Antrim MP, Ian Paisley Junior where they were welcomed by the School Principal and Chairman of the Board of Governors before being shown into the school assembly hall. There she was introduced to many of the staff as well as pupils in Primaries 2-7. Following a formal welcome and introductions, the pupils present sang for the First Minister before Miss Logan took all guests on a short tour of the school stopping off in Primary One and Nursery to meet the remainder of staff and pupils. Before departing, the First Minister returned to the assembly hall where she spoke to all pupils and a short presentation was made by our Head Boy (Kai McCrellis) and Head Girl (Kaitlin Myers). This was certainly a very special day for all at Bushmills Primary and one which will go down in history!



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With half-term just past I know we are all happy to welcome the beginning of clearer evenings and say good-bye to the dark, winter mornings. I would also like to take the opportunity to say a huge "Thanks" to you the parents for ensuring that your child/children arrive at school for 9:00am sharp. Since last month I am pleased to say that issues around punctuality have improved so hopefully you will continue to support the school with this matter!

Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair ran from Tuesday 2nd to Tuesday 9th February. Once again this provided a great opportunity for all our pupils to purchase their own books as well as other items of stationery, posters, key rings etc. As our Book Fair was yet again a huge success the commission earned has allowed teachers to purchase additional books for our school library.



AQE Results

We would like to say "Well Done" to 2 of our pupils who sat the AQE exams and received their results on Saturday 30th January. We are proud of Kaitlin and Stephen who worked extremely hard at the test and we were so pleased with the outcomes.



In addition all Transfer Forms for our Primary 7 pupils have now been completed and forwarded to County Hall. Pupils will be informed in May about where they will be going next and we trust they all get to the schools of their choice!

Visit to Waterstones



On Wednesday 24th February our Primary 1 and 2 pupils travelled to Waterstones Book shop in Coleraine where they were given the chance to have a good look around the shop before being allowed to choose a book for themselves to bring home. Before heading back to school they also had a quiet time when they sat down and listened to one of their favourite stories being read. A special thanks to all parents who came along each week to help with the Shared Story Reading afternoons which lead up to the Waterstones visit.

Football Coaching

Football coaching sessions for all Primary 1—Primary 7 pupils continue on Monday afternoons and are taken by IFA coach Reuben Smyth.



Hockey Coaching

Hockey coaching sessions for our Primary 6 and pupils continue on Wednesday mornings.



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Causeway Archers



Archery classes continue for Primary 5—Primary 7 pupils on Tuesday afternoons and form part of our Extended Schools Programme.

Bonjour Amigos

Spanish lessons for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils continue on Friday morning with “Bonjour Amigos” language tutor, Christina McGarvey.



Around the World in Story Tales

On Thursday 18th February Primary 6 and 7 were visited by 2 staff members from W5 in Belfast to help them make animations for comics they have been writing over the past few weeks. The children worked in pairs using iPads and an animation app to bring to life the characters and settings in the comics books using hand-made backgrounds and characters. The pupils were able to add music, sound effects, transitions between scenes and record



their own voices to explain what was happening. These were then all uploaded onto a website and the pupils really enjoyed watching each other’s final creations, indeed there was a lot of laughter.

We are now looking forward to returning to W5 on 16th March to see who the winning comic and animation from our school will be.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for pupils in Primary 6 and 7 got underway last Friday (26th February). The pupils travel to Coleraine Leisure Centre each Friday morning and these arrangements will be in place up until the end of June.



Well Done to Primary 4 and 5 pupils who received their swimming certificates at assembly on Wednesday 24th February.

Portstewart Festival



I am delighted to report that 7 of our pupils have entered to take part in this year's Music Festival in Portstewart (Speech and Drama Section). The pupils are working both at home and in school to learn the poems and we wish them all the best as they perform at the festival which will run from Monday 14th March—Friday 18th March.

Spring Fair

Following last year's successful Spring Fair our PTA are already getting preparations underway for this year's Fair which as you have already been made aware will take place on Thursday 28th April.

There will be all the usual stalls, games, raffles, barbecue as well as great craic too.

Further details will follow but please spread the word and come along on the 28th April to what promises to be a great evening.



Aerobics Classes



Our six week programme of Aerobics classes has sadly come to an end although were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A special thanks goes to all who faithfully came along each week and also to fitness instructor, Rosie McMullan.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Attendance Cup and Punctuality prizes for the month of February was presented today at the first whole school assembly of the month.

Attendance remains good with the average class attendance for February being 94.0%

Results are as follows:



1st:	Mrs J Garrett (Nursery)	96.5%
2nd:	Miss S Fulton (P2/3)	95.4%
3rd:	Miss J Logan (P4/5)	94.3%
4th:	Miss R McBride (P6/7)	94.0%
5th	Mrs H McAllister (P1)	89.4%

Well done Mrs Garrett's Nursery class.

Carpark Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked down by their teachers to the school gate, where they can be collected. I would again request that cars should not be entering the school grounds to drop off or pick up pupils as the safety of our children is paramount!



Football Tournament

The next round of the Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament was held here in school on Thursday 25th February. Thankfully weather was on our side and all teams enjoyed a great afternoon of football.



Breakfast Club



Just a quick reminder that Breakfast Club commenced today (1st March) and will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 8:20am and 8:50am. The cost each day will be £1.00

February Assemblies

Once again each week we welcomed visitors to school to take part in our assemblies. Assemblies during February were taken by:-

Wednesday 3rd February: Rev N Cubitt (Bushmills Presbyterian)

Wednesday 10th February: Rev R McLernon (Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Wednesday 17th February: Rev A Buick (Dunluce Presbyterian)

Wednesday 24th February: Lynda McAuley (C.E.F)



Ditch the Dark!

On Friday 26th February all pupils swapped their school uniform for bright outfits as part of "Ditch the Dark" day where the aim was to raise awareness of safe travel to school. Pupils rose to the challenge and joined in the fun by walking, cycling or scooting to school in their brightest outfits. The afternoon included pupils taking part in a Big Street Survey as well as an Art competition. Prizes were awarded for the best outfits as well as best decorated bikes and scooters.

A great day was had by all and a special word of thanks must go to Miss Calvin for organising the entire event.



Whole School Thanks!



As a whole school we are always grateful for any support we receive from local businesses or groups. We would therefore like to say "Thank You" to the following people:

Aw Family (Lum Lum and Jean) - for the 'Fortune Cookies' which were sent for each pupil as part of the 'Chinese New Year Celebrations.

Carleton Corner Shop — for the books and toys which were kindly donated and used as prizes for our 'Dress up and Dance' Event.

Faith Mission - For the generous gift of bibles which will be put to good use throughout the school.

Peach Proms Success



After weeks of rehearsals and lots of planning the big day finally arrived and on Sunday 28th February our Peach Proms choir travelled to the SSE arena in Belfast accompanied by Miss McBride, Miss Thompson and Miss Logan. This proved to be a great day for all involved which began with a short rehearsal at 1:00pm and then the main concert commencing at 3:00pm. Our choir had the opportunity to sing with a choir of around 2000 children as well as perform with a full symphony orchestra. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many, many thanks and Well Done to all who took part. We do hope to receive a copy of the DVD in due course to look back on what was a fantastic success for our school. Thanks also to all parents for allowing their children to take part (as well as being patient on Sunday evening regarding our late arrival home!). Our school was also selected to do a television interview prior to the concert and thanks to Rhianna Hartin for representing our school!

Dress Up & Dance

On Friday 29th January we held our successful 'Dress up and Dance' day to help raise funds for this years chosen charity Macmillan Cancer. The afternoon took the form of a whole school dance event with fun and games being led by Kelly Neill. A special work of thanks goes to Miss McBride who organised the event which raised a total of £145.50.





Diary Dates

Friday 4th March	Quiz Sheets to be returned
Thursday 10th March	School Photographer (Further details to follow)
Monday 14th March - Friday 18th March	Portstewart Music Festival
Wednesday 23rd March	School finishes at 12:00 noon for Easter Break
Monday 4th April	New Term Starts
Wednesday 6th April - Friday 15th April	Coleraine Music Festival
Thursday 28th April	Spring Fair (Further details will follow)
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday (School closed for all pupils)

Diary Dates

Monday 16th May to Friday 20th May	Revision Week
Friday 20th May	Sports Day Please note change of date
Monday 23rd May to Thursday 26th May	Assessment Week
Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June	School Closed for all Pupils
Friday 17th June	Treasure Trove Day
Wednesday 22nd June & Thursday 23rd June	Parent/Teacher Interviews (School will close for all pupils Primary 1 to 7 at 1:50pm)
Friday 24th June	Prize Day
Thursday 30th June	School finishes at 12:00 noon for all pupils