

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



March 2024
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 Term 2

As we have now reached the end of Term 2, it has certainly remained busy for all of us here in school.

It is great to see the clearer mornings and evenings and hopefully the weather will pick up as we enter the Easter holidays.

With this in mind I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Easter break and look forward to seeing all pupils and staff back here in school on Monday 8th April when Term 3 will begin at 9.00am sharp (please note Breakfast club will be running as usual from 8.15am - 8.45am).

School Photographs

I am pleased to report that school photographs have arrived here in school a few weeks ago and have now all been sent home. I do hope that everyone was happy with their final photographs!

If you wish to order photographs, this can be done online directly with the photographer.

Extended Schools

Once again, our Extended Schools Programme has been running since the beginning of the new school year, however, as was the case in previous years, we have once again been informed that as the end of March sees the end of the financial year, funding for Extended Schools has come to an end, meaning all After Schools sessions have now finished.

Library Van Visits

The library van will visit our school following the Easter holidays with the first visit scheduled for Monday 15th April. Please ensure all library books are returned to school in preparation for this visit.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 6/7 pupils (Miss Swanson's class) continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre the final lessons for this term were held today and these will continue again after Easter with the first lesson commencing on Friday 12th April.

World Book Day

It was a busy day in school for World Book Day. Nursery joined with P1/2 to go on 'A Bear Hunt' before having their own teddy bear's picnic.

P1/2 joined with P3/4 to share a story together before heading outside to do a book hunt while P5/6 & 7 joined to do a live lesson for World Book Day

School Uniform

Sadly, over recent weeks I have noticed that a number of pupils are not wearing the correct uniform to school.

Please be reminded that on designated P.E days pupils can wear jogging bottoms/leggings and trainers otherwise it must be black trousers (or skirts/ pinafores for girls if they wish) and black shoes - **not** trainers!

Can I remind you that this has been the case since the beginning of the school year in September.

Reminders

Sadly, over the past few months I have noticed (and have been made aware) of a few actions which I feel is putting the safety of our pupils, your children, at risk! Please note the following:

- Some parents are still driving into the school grounds, especially in the mornings to drop off or collect pupils. I feel I have mentioned this too many times before, however unfortunately it continues to happen. Please remember the safety of our pupils is my top priority!!
- Can I also ask that when dropping off and collecting your child/children, you walk along the path and not over the driveway as using the driveway is not only setting a poor example for pupils it is also putting yourself and other people at danger
- Please continue to check school bags for notes etc. as on many occasions letters are sent out requiring reply slips to be completed by certain dates and quite often we seem to be continually chasing up reply slips – this is your responsibility as parents!
- once we return to school following the Easter break can I ask that all parents drop off their children at the designated doors and encourage them to walk to class independently. Unfortunately, a number of adults are still coming into the building, and this can be upsetting for other children in the mornings

Celebration of Sport

On Friday 15th March P6/7 pupils attended a 'Celebration of Sport' event in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre in Ballymoney. During the day they had the opportunity to try a range of both favourite and new sports including football, hockey, golf, American Football, circuits and even skateboarding!

This was a great opportunity for our pupils to learn new skills and try a range of different sports.

They also met some sports men and women who were able to share why sport had been important in their lives.

Brazilian Soccer Skills

Our P1/2 and P3/4 pupils have been enjoying learning different soccer skills through a range of fun challenges every Thursday morning. This has been led here in school by soccer coach, Reuben Smyth.

Sports Skills / New Equipment

On Tuesday 19th March P3/4 and P5/6 pupils enjoyed a range of fun sporting activities throughout the morning when Diane (representing Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council) came along to deliver 'free' sporting equipment to our school and allowed pupils to get the opportunity to learn how best to make use of the goodies! Thank you, Diane!



Coleraine/Portstewart Music Festivals

Both our P3/4 Choir and senior Choir (P5-P7) enjoyed success at Coleraine & Portstewart Music Festivals this year.

Many Thanks to Miss Rowe, Miss Swanson, and Mrs Witherow for all their hard work in preparing the choirs for these events and also travelling with them to and from these events.

We are delighted with all the results and a huge 'Well Done' also needs to go to our pupils for their hard work and determination.

We are all so proud of you!

Assemblies

We continue to hold whole school assemblies for all pupils in Nursery to Primary 7, here in school on Wednesday mornings.



This month we have been delighted to welcome the following visitors:

Wednesday 6th March

Abaana
New Life Children's Choir

Wednesday 13th March

Rev. A Buick
Dunluce Presbyterian Church

Attendance

During this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for March will be presented to the winning class at the next whole school assembly.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	91.1%
2nd:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	85.7%
3rd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	84.9%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	81.5%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	71.2%



Well done to Miss Fulton'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!

Footballer of the Week

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

	7 th March	14 th March	21 st March
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Caleb Kane	No Football	Leo McKendry



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 March, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':



	1 st March	8 th March	15 th March
Yr 1	Alfie Brown	AJ Greer	Holly Simpson
Yr 2	Frankie Glass	Lacey Connor	Robbie Barrett
Yr 3	Aria Stevenson-Lampard	Grace McElhinney	Roy Parke
Yr 4	Reuben McIntyre	Jacob Greer	Luka Tweed
Yr 5	Casey McKay	Carter Waring	Grace Wilmont
Yr 6	Lydia Connor		Lydia Connor
Yr 7	Jayden Mulholland		Logan Cross

Diary Dates

Term 3		
Bank Holiday	06-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Foundation & KSI Revision Week	06-May-24 10-May-24	
Foundation & KSI Assessment Week	13-May-24 17-May-24	
Key Stage 2 Revision Week	13-May-24 17-May-24	
Key Stage 2 Assessment Week	20-May-23 24-May-24	
Bank Holiday	27-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	28-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Nursery Graduation	26-Jun-24	Further details to follow
End Of Term	28-Jun-24	School finished at 12noon for ALL pupils

Please note Diary Dates for 2024-2025 will be available early in Term 3 however I can inform you that the new school term will commence for all pupils (P1-P7) on Wednesday 28th August 2024!

Please note Wed 28th and Thursday 29th August will be from 9.00am to 12noon (both days) with the first **full** day being Friday 30th August!