

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



November 2020  
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.

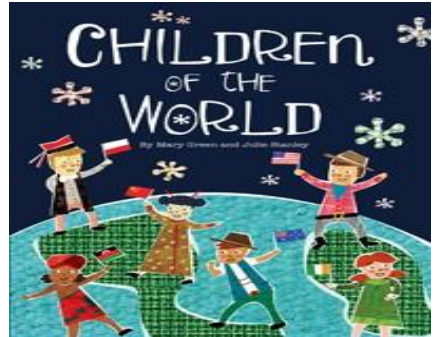
### Contact Details

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.

## Where does time go?

Like all of us here in school I am sure you can't believe that already we have reached the end of November. Although we haven't had the usual 'buzz' which comes with the run up to Christmas it has still been busy here in school!

Believe it or not pupils are working hard in preparation for this year's Christmas production of "Children of The World". Although you are unable to come into school to enjoy the show, this year we will bring the production to you! Recording will take place during the second week of December and will be available for all to view shortly afterwards.



## Remembrance Day

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to allow pupils the opportunity to purchase poppies here in school in the lead up to Remembrance Day.

However, as usual a wreath was laid (by Miss Logan) on behalf of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit at the annual Poppy Day Remembrance Service which was held here in the town on Sunday 8th November. Sadly, our Head Boy and Head Girl (Jay Parke and Alison Nutt) were unable to attend the service although here is a photograph of both Jay and Alison with the school Wreath prior to Remembrance Day.



## Flu Vaccinations!!

On Thursday 12th November the school Nursing Team visited Bushmills Primary to administer the Fluenz Tetra Vaccine (nasal spray) to pupils in primaries 1 to 7. The benefits of this program will be that children will be better protected against flu bringing both health benefits and also ensuring less time off school.



## Mindfulness Workshops / "Hello Yellow"

On Wednesday 21st October all classes (Primary 1 to Primary 7) enjoyed a mindfulness Workshop which was taken by Julia Brown (Qualified Teacher) and seeks to target the Mental Well-Being of pupils.

The Workshops consisted of a number of fun activities and challenges and everyone really got involved and enjoyed the programme. We hope to see Julia again just before the Christmas break!



Pupils and staff also wore Yellow on Friday 9th October as part of the #Hello Yellow Challenge to help highlight 'Mental Health Awareness Day' which focuses on the fact that young people are not alone with their Mental Health and together



as a whole school family we can feel positive even through these strange times we are living in. A fun-filled day finished with a surprise visit from Keith in the ice-cream van.

## Book Fair

Travelling Books Book Fair visited our school from Wednesday 15th October until Wednesday

4th November. Sales totalled £280.19. Thanks to all who supported our fair!



## All-Tex Recycling

Way back at the beginning of last year (October 2019), our schools Eco-Committee launched a clothing initiative (through All-Tex Recyclers) which allowed us to raise money through a clothing reuse scheme. Families were encouraged to send in unwanted clothes and other items (to include shoes, curtains, bed linen, etc.) which in turn would help raise money for school funds. A large number of bags were collected just last week by All-Tex and I am delighted to report that a total £114.00 has now been raised! Well done and thanks to Miss Fulton and the Eco-Committee for all their help with this initiative!



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has been open again since the beginning of October and I am delighted to report that numbers are steadily increasing.

The club is open each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 8:45am before children go to their own classes. Things are somewhat different this year although once children have eaten their breakfast, they will have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!

The cost remains at £1.00 and items available include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water.

We look forward to see all the 'old faces' as well as new ones at our Breakfast Club over the coming weeks! Please be reminded that Breakfast Club is open to all pupils from



Nursery to Primary 7 and the cut off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom.

## Water Bottles

Just a quick reminder that all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) should now have their own "School Water Bottles" which have been marked clearly with their name. Rather than paying for water on a monthly basis, pupils can now bring their own personalised bottles with them to school each day. Please note, these bottles should be filled at home with water only. If required these can be refilled at school (this will be tap water only!). If for any reason your child requires another water bottle, these can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.50.



## Money, Money, Money

Could I please again request that when organising your child for the week ahead at school, you complete the money slips provided and send the exact amount required, if you are aware of the plans for the week ahead (regarding dinner money and extended school's money). Please where possible send all monies on a Monday morning.

A massive thanks to those of you who have been continuing to follow this request since the beginning of September - it really is greatly appreciated, especially in these new times!

Please be reminded that all money forms and the school menu for the following week are uploaded onto the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk/> every Friday afternoon therefore if your child is off school these can be accessed and printed off ready for the week ahead!



## Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

As Friday 11th December we will be having our school Christmas dinner as it is also officially "Christmas Jumper Day", pupils are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper/T-shirt to school! There will be no charge for wearing Christmas jumpers however pupils can wear their proper school sweatshirts if they wish.





## Attendance

The Attendance Cup for November will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for November was 95.8%.



Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	(P4/5)	98.3%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	(P1/2)	97.9%
3rd:	Miss Brown (Mrs Sheridan)	P3/4)	96.6%
4th:	Miss Swanson	(P6/7)	92.9%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	(Nursery)	92.6%

**Well done to Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow's P4/5 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 can send a note into school on their first day back or send an email to the Principal ([jlogan335@c2kni.net](mailto: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 to attend an appointment, under COVID-19 guidance, they will be unable to return to school again that day. I would therefore ask that when possible any appointments are made outside of school hours.

Finally, if your child's absence is related to COVID you **must inform the school immediately** to allow proper procedures to be followed! This is extremely important should other pupils have to isolate as a result.



## 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!**

## School Assemblies

At present we are unfortunately not able to welcome our usual visitors into our school on a weekly basis to take assemblies on a Wednesday morning.

However, all classes have been watching assemblies online (Hope for Youth Ministries). These short assemblies are a great way to start the school day and where time allows pupils get to watch a few every week. Although it is not the same as coming together as a whole school, pupils are enjoying the new songs and short messages that they hear and we look forward to the future when we can meet together in the school assembly hall!

Ending on a positive note, we had a special visit from Alice McAlary on Thursday 15th October when she gave up of her time to come to our school and give a brief talk to all classes. There was lots of excitement that day and we even learned a new song!! We look forward to seeing Alice again soon!



## Admissions to Nursery & Primary School

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2021, you can apply for their place online from **Thursday 7th January 2021 at 12:00noon.**

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be **12.00 noon on 29th January 2021.**

Further information on the admissions procedure will be available in the coming weeks as it is made available to us.

Pre-school places are available for children who are in the target age group, i.e. who were born on or between 2nd July 2017 and 1st July 2018.

All children born on or between 2nd July 2016 and 1st July 2017 must begin their primary education from September 2020 because by that date they will have reached **COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE.**



## Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. Due to classes being in their “bubbles”, these certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



During the month of November, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	6th Nov	13th Nov	20th Nov	27th Nov
Yr 1	Freddie Speers	Ruben McIntrye	Jacob Greer	Isaac Parke
Yr 2	Nate Wilmont	Anna Simpson	Hollie McKay	Grace Wilmont
Yr 3	Ryan McAleese	Adam McConachie	Lucy Parke	Leo McKendry
Yr 4 (LS)	Logan Scott	Cameryn Greer	Madison McKeeman	Logan cross
Yr 4 (JL)	Becky McKay	Jyden Mulholland	Alex McLaughlin	Callum Jamieson
Yr 5	Liam Nutt	Lily-Mae McAfee	Leon Myers	Emma Neill
Yr 6	Iona Sharkey	Sophie Greer	Brooke Cummins	Charlotte Hume
Yr 7	Alfie Neill	Alison Nutt	Megan Mulholland	Daniel Kerr

## Important Reminder

Can I please remind everyone of the following safety issues when dropping off / collecting your children from school:

- Cars **should not (at any time)** be driving into the school grounds to drop off or collect pupils (if you feel this is something you have to do (possibly for health reasons) then I would ask that you speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement)
- Please remember that the wearing of Face Coverings is strongly encouraged especially when inside our school grounds!!
- Sadly, over the past few weeks a number of pupils are not being collected **promptly** at the end of the school day! Can I remind you that although school finishes for your child at 1:50pm or 3:00pm, the day is not over for staff who may be covering afternoon classes, going straight into meetings or have further work to complete prior to the next day! Unfortunately, if pupils are not collected promptly (and to avoid a lot of time being spent trying to contact parents) they will be sent to After-Schools where the normal fee of £2.00 will be charged. Please please be assured that all pupils will be looked after until they are collected although sadly to avoid constant late collections I have had to make this decision!
- A quick reminder that schools finishes early for **all pupils** (Primary 1 to Primary 7) at 2:00pm **every Friday**
- Finally, can I remind you that once pupils are collected from their classes they are your responsibility! Unfortunately, in the afternoon a number of our younger pupils are running around 'unsupervised' as they wait for their older siblings. This is happening

outside the 'Surestart' area next to the driveway and also at the P4/5 entry and exit doors. Please do be vigilant around these areas as accidents at the end of the school day are not what we want to see

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests and if you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Diary Dates

Term 1		
End of term	18-Dec-20	School closes at 12 Noon
Christmas Vacation	21-Dec-20 to 01-Jan-21	Inclusive

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-21	9:00am sharp
Half Term	18-Feb-21 to 23-Feb-21	Inclusive
Back to School	24-Feb-21	9:00am Sharp
School Closed	17-Mar-21	School closed for ALL pupils
Back to School	18-Mar-21	9:00am Sharp
Easter Vacation	29-Mar-21 to 09-Apr-21	Inclusive

# CHRISTMAS DINNER



Friday 11th December 2020



Roast Turkey & Stuffing  
Chipolata Sausage  
Carrots & Peas  
Roast Potatoes  
Creamed Potatoes  
Gravy

Tub Ice-Cream



Orange Squash