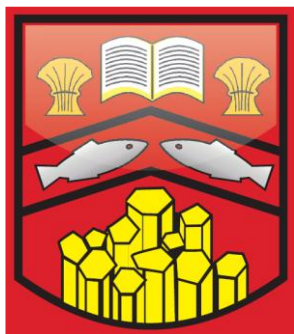


Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



December 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.

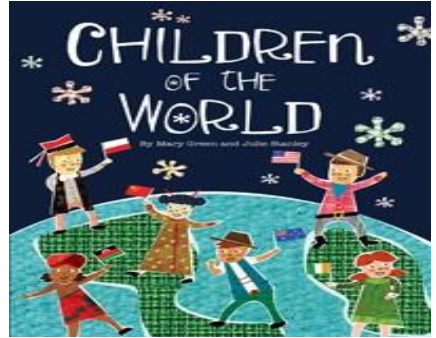
Contact Details

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.

It's Christmas

Wow! We have made it!! The first term has without a doubt been a tough one but 'Thanks' to everyone we have all worked together to help keep our children and school community safe!

I am delighted to inform you that at the beginning of this month rehearsals took place for this year's Christmas production of "Children of the World" and all recordings have now taken place.



All pupils (from Nursery right through to Primary 7) were involved and each family will receive a copy of the DVD to take home and keep. As you are aware you were unable to come into school to watch the performance but hopefully the DVD will make up for this! I do have to say that we are very pleased with the final product and a huge 'Thank you' and 'Well Done' to all pupils and staff who helped make this all possible

Shared Reading

Shared Reading afternoons have already taken place for our Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils on Monday afternoons. These will continue in January on the following dates:

- 11th January
- 18th January
- 25th January



Thanks to Spar Bushmills!

A huge 'Thank you' to Spar Bushmills who have supported local Primary Schools during these difficult times.

Representatives from the Spar visited school last week (Friday 11th December) to hand over PPE equipment and also **ALL** pupils have received a magnetic whiteboard each. This great donation has been very much appreciated!



Christmas Card Creations

All pupils in Primaries 4 to 7 got involved this week in an initiative set up by 'Life Style' which involved our pupils making their own Christmas Cards to send to a local Nursing Home. The idea was to help support the elderly especially those who may have been impacted by COVID-19 and are feeling particularly lonely this year. All cards have now been collected and are going to Madelayne Court in Portstewart. Well done P4 to P7!!



Attendance

The Attendance Cup for December will be presented to the winning class today. The overall attendance for December was 93.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P4/5	97.0%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	95.8%
3rd:	Miss Brown (Mrs Sheridan)	P3/4	92.3%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	90.5%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur.	88.2%



Well done to Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow'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 can 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 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!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will recommence again on Tuesday 5th January 2021 (at 8:00am). Numbers have increased prior to the Christmas break, so we look forward to seeing everyone back on the 5th January and hopefully some new pupils as well.



School Assemblies

At present we are unfortunately unable to welcome our usual visitors into our school on a weekly basis to take assemblies on a Wednesday morning.

However, all classes continue 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!

Colin Tinsley (Hope for Youth Ministries) runs a competition every week which encourages teachers to send a text message or email (everyday) to say that their class is watching. Two classes are then selected each day, with all winners announced every Monday and they then receive a prize (puzzle book) for each pupil. Great News is our P4/5 Class won a Prize this Monday and have now received the free Puzzle Book!



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 on the Education Authority website from 18th December 2020.

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 December, the following pupils were awarded ‘Star of the Week’:

	4th Dec	11th Dec
Yr 1	Emily Wilmont	Luka Tweed
Yr 2	Lola McKay	Charley Keys
Yr 3	Eliana McAfee	Jessy Chen
Yr 4 (LS)	Rosie Clarke	Marie Taggart
Yr 4 (JL)	Alfie Armstrong	Paige Greer
Yr 5	Yi Jean Aw	Isaac Horner
Yr 6	Charlie McMullan	Lauren Kane
Yr 7	Millie Parke	Alison Nutt

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Staff Development Day	04-Jan-21	School closed for ALL pupils
Start of Term	05-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

I do trust that you all enjoy the well-earned rest and just in case you may need to contact me during the holidays this can be done via email.

jlogan335@c2kni.net

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

From:

The Principal, Staff and Pupils of Bushmills Primary School 2020.

