

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



November 2021  
Newsletter

## Inside this issue....

Where does time go? Fly Vaccinations!! Remembrance Day	3	Money, Money, Money Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day	10
Football Healthy Me Workshops	4	Attendance	11
Road Safety	5	Every School Day Counts	12
AQE Piano Lessons Library Van Visits	6	Star of the Week	13
Important Reminder	7	Footballer of the Week Diary Dates	14
Assemblies	8	Christmas Dinner Menu	15
Breakfast Club	9		

### Head lice

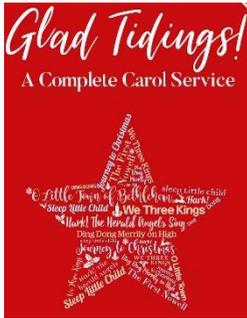
Again can I remind all parents/guardians that it is your responsibility to regularly check your child's hair. Treatment can be obtained for free from your local chemist. We would request that any pupils with long hair please tie their hair up.

### 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 "Glad Tidings". 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 first week of December and will be available for all to view shortly afterwards.

## Flu Vaccinations!!

On Thursday 11th 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.



## Remembrance Day

This year we were able to allow pupils the opportunity to purchase poppies and other merchandise here in school in the lead up to Remembrance Day and I am delighted to report that a total of £132.06 was collected for this year's "Poppy Appeal".

A wreath was laid 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 14th November by our Head Boy and Head Girl, Matthew McAleese and Lum Lum Aw.

## Football

The first round of this year's Colerain and District Small School's Football Tournament took place on Thursday 11th November when our team travelled to Ballycastle to take part and what a day it was!

The excitement that afternoon when Chris and the team returned to report that all matches played had been won!! (with goals scorers being Sam Thompson, Sam Hogg, Noah Cerutti and Callum Jamieson).



Not only did the team perform well on the pitch, their attitude and behaviour continued to remain exemplary even when they were not playing - Thanks to each and every one of you - you have made us proud!

We look forward to Round 2 this week when the team will again travel to Ballycastle on Thursday (2nd December) - All the best! We look forward to hearing how well you all get on!

## Healthy Me Workshops

We were delighted to welcome to our school Rachel Horner from 'Action Mental Health', who came along and spent three mornings in our P3/4 Class and also one day in our P5 Class delivering the 'Healthy Me' programme to our pupils.

'Healthy Me' is a vibrant and engaging health promotion programme designed to teach children about the importance of staying healthy - both physically and mentally with a focus on building emotional resilience. It also supports their key contacts in taking a whole-school/community approach to resilience and wellbeing.

To date all children have enjoyed the programme and Rachel plans to return after Christmas to visit the other classes!

# Road Safety Week

Monday 15th November marked the beginning of 'Road Safety Week' here in school. During that week all children had been learning about being safe on the roads and each class was given challenges to complete throughout the week.

To finish off the week of fun activities, we had a "Ditch the Dark Day" on the Friday when all pupils dressed in bright clothes or as a "Road Safety Hero" to highlight the importance of being 'safe' and 'seen in the dark' on these dark mornings evenings.



## AQE

Saturday 20th November and Saturday 27th November has already seen five of our pupils sit this year's AQE test. You have all been working so hard and we are so so proud of you! We wish you All the Best as you sit the FINAL TEST this Saturday.

GOOD LUCK!  
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
YOU CAN DO IT!  
TRY YOUR BEST  
STAY CALM  
SMASH IT!

## Piano Lessons

I am delighted to report that piano lessons have now commenced on Thursdays here in school and these are taken by a qualified music Teacher, Mary Boyle. Already 7 pupils are currently taking lessons and so far all is going well. If your child is in Primary 3 to Primary 7 and would like to start piano lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the school office for further information.



## Library Van Visits



Please be reminded the mobile library van continues to visit our school every fortnight on a Monday morning. The next visit will be on Monday 13th December at 10:30am, therefore please ensure your child brings back any books borrowed on that date!

## 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 school finishes early for all pupils (Primary 1 to Primary 7) at 1.50pm/2:00pm every Friday
- Finally, can I remind you that once pupils are collected from their classes they are your responsibility! Unfortunately, in the afternoons 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.

## Assemblies

As you have been made aware assemblies have now commenced and it has been decided that as well as being able to view assemblies on line, classes will meet in the assembly hall in their different key stages, Primaries 1 to 4 and Primaries 5 to 7. In order to maintain a level of 'social distancing' classes will meet in these 'bubble groups' once a fortnight to enjoy assembly.



A number of assemblies have already taken place and those in the month of November were as follows:

Wednesday 3rd November (KS1)	Lynda McAuley (CEF)
Wednesday 10th November (KS2)	Pastor Billy Jones (Dunseverick Baptist Church)
Wednesday 17th November (KS1)	Chancellor Graham (Dunluce Parish)
Wednesday 24th November (KS2)	Alice McAlary (Family Support Worker)

We do hope that these arrangements will help us move closer to some sort of normality here in school.

## Breakfast Club

I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club continues each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:00am to 8:45am.

The cost remains at £1.00 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.

Once pupils have eaten their breakfast, they have time to enjoy a cartoon or children's breakfast show before heading to class!



## 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

On Friday 10th 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

As we reach the end of the first term, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for November will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for November was 89.9%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	93.0%
2nd:	Miss Brown	P6	92.0%
3rd:	Miss McCabe	P3/4	90.8%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P7	89.5%
5th:	Mrs Strong & Miss Cochrane		
		Nursery	87.5%
6th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow		
		P5	84.5%



### Well done to Miss Fulton'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 ([jlogan.335@c2kni.net](mailto:jlogan.335@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.

## 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!**

## 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’:

	5th Nov	12th Nov	19th Nov	26th Nov
Yr 1	Aria Stevenson-Lampard	Ben Neill	Evie McKeown	Mason McRandle
Yr 2	Jacob Greer	Luka Tweed	Reuben McIntyre	Jacob Greer
Yr 3	Caleb Kane	Ella Scott	-	Zara-Mae Mairs
Yr 4	Lydia Connor	Eliana McAfee	-	Jessy Chen
Yr 5	Logan Cross	Logan Scott	Paige Greer	Alex McLaughlin
Yr 6	Evan Cauley	Yi Jean Aw	Chloe Ferguson	Sam Thompson
Yr 7	Keira Dixon	Iona Sharkey	Cameron McConachie	Brooke Mulholland

## Footballer of the Week

Again this year each week one pupil from each football session is picked as 'Footballer of the Week'. The following players have been picked for the month of November:

	19th Nov	26th Nov
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Luka Tweed	Jacob Greer
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Sam Thompson	Evan Cauley

## Diary Dates

Term 1		
Football Tournament	02-Dec-21	
Christmas Dinner	10-Dec-21	See attached Menu
Staff Development Day	17-Dec-21	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	22-Dec-21	School will finish for ALL pupils at 12:00 noon
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-21 to 03-Jan-22	Inclusive

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-22	Starts 9:00am sharp
School Photographer	14-Feb-22	Further details to follow
Half Term	17-Feb-22 to 18-Feb-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Bank Holiday	17-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	18-Mar-22	School closed to ALL pupils
Easter Holiday	14-Apr-22 to 22-Apr-22	

# CHRISTMAS DINNER



Friday 10th December 2021



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

Tub Ice-Cream



Orange Squash