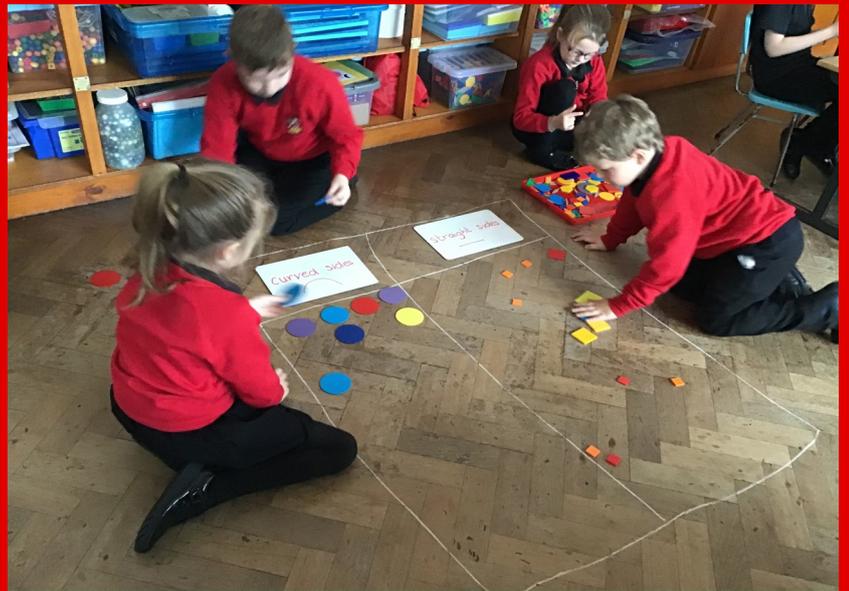


Welcome to...



Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit



Prospectus

Welcome

Welcome to Bushmills Primary School & Nursery Unit

A very warm welcome to Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit!

Bushmills Primary is a school at the centre of its community. We appreciate the support of a loyal body of parents who enthusiastically participate in the life of the school. The school has a motivated and dedicated teaching staff who work hard to ensure each child is happy here in Bushmills.

The children are at the very heart of Bushmills Primary and our mission statement is **'Building a Causeway to Success'**. We welcome children from lots of different backgrounds and cultures and we cherish everyone as a unique individual.

We are extremely proud of our children, our staff and our school and hope that in exploring this prospectus you get a flavour of the many aspects of school life and the excellent work that goes on within our school community. We are a vibrant, forward thinking school which continually strives to improve. We promote Christian values as we continue to focus on the positives and empower each child to reach their full potential and grasp every available opportunity.

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. I hope you find all the information you require. If you need any further information or would like to visit the school at any stage, please contact the school on 028 2073 1416 or by email jlogan335@c2kni.net

Thank you

J Logan (Principal)



Our School



Our School has:

- An excellent Nursery Unit with a new outdoor play area
- 9 fully functioning classrooms
- A well-resourced library
- Computer Suite
- Rainbow Room (well-being room)
- A large assembly hall
- 2 playgrounds
- Large playing fields

The school, individual classrooms and outdoor areas are well equipped with play related learning.

Board of Governors

The school's Board of Governors bring a wealth of enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring Bushmills Primary is an effective school, meeting the needs of the children and the community it serves. The Board of Governors make decisions on how the school is run. They are required to meet a minimum of three times a year and they have legal duties, powers and responsibilities.

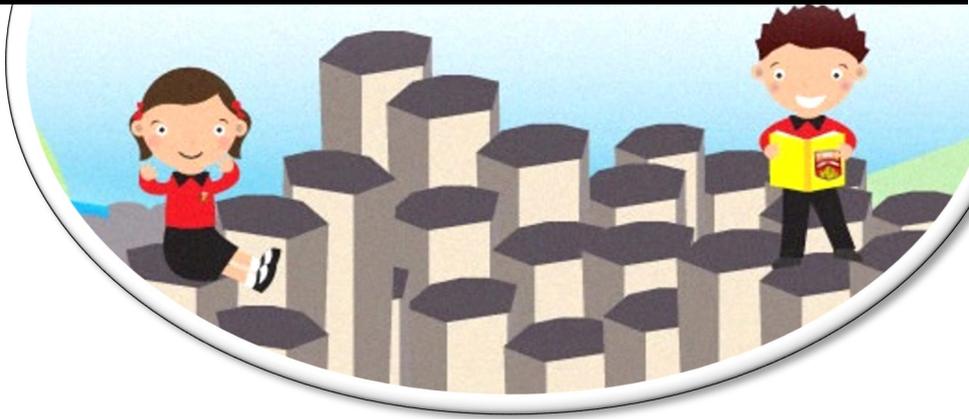
- **Oversight of the curriculum**
- **Staff interviews and appointments**
- **Decisions regarding how the school budget is spent**
- **Maintenance of the buildings**
- **Development of links with the community**

Our Vision Statement

Our Vision

Bushmills Primary School believes that every child is entitled to enjoy his/her childhood. They should be valued for their individuality, culture and heritage. They should be

encouraged to develop their full potential in a safe, stimulating and caring environment so that they can make their best contribution to society. As a staff we seek to develop our children socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and academically and ensure they flourish in our care.



Our Mission

'Building a Causeway to Success'.

We the Staff along with Parents and Governors aim to encourage each and every child in all aspects of learning through these stepping stones to success:

- Working together as a team (**TEAMWORK**)
- Fostering an enthusiastic desire to succeed (**ENTHUSIASM**)
- Promoting self-confidence (**CONFIDENCE**)
- Fostering independent thinking and actions (**INDEPENDENCE**)
- Promoting both self-respect and respect for others (**RESPECTFUL**)
- Teaching the value of perseverance in all we do (**PERSERVERANCE**)
- Promoting logical, creative thinking and reflection (**REFLECTION**)



Our Nursery Unit



‘Setting the wheels in motion for learning!’

The team at Bushmills Nursery Unit are all very experienced and dedicated early years practitioners. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment: meeting the social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of all children that come into our care. By celebrating the individuality of every child and simultaneously recognising their differing needs, we intend to create a nurturing educational context within which all children may achieve their full potential.

The Curriculum

We aim to provide a balanced curriculum by:

- Providing a happy, safe and caring environment.
- Teaching acceptable social behaviour.
- Providing a stimulating and challenging environment with opportunities for exploration and discovery.
- Preparing the children for their future development.

There are six Areas of Learning:

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development.
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- Physical Development & Movement
- The Arts
- The World Around US



Foundation Stage - P1 & 2



Starting School in Foundation Stage

Primary 1 & 2, known as 'The Foundation Stage', aims to build on children's pre-school learning experiences. We have a very strong link between our Nursery Unit and Primary 1 class ensuring children will make a smooth transition into Primary 1 from our Nursery Unit and other Early Years settings. We meet with parents in September as we understand that a good relationship with our parents is vital.

Our foundation classroom and separate playroom are vibrant. We provide high quality teaching and opportunities for formal and active learning. The pupils also continue to learn through play based activity. Before our pupils begin Primary 1, we meet with you the parents to start to talk about your child, about their strengths, areas for improvement and any concerns you might have.

Each day will follow learning the eight curricular areas and include healthy break and lunchtime. Pupils will be monitored closely in terms of progress over the year and parents will be informed of their child's progress throughout the year.



Key Stage 1 & 2

Key stage 1 is Primary 3 & 4 and Key Stage 2 is Primary 5, 6 & 7.

Learning through the Curriculum

We offer a wide and balanced curriculum designed to meet the needs of all our pupils and to help them reach their full potential. The pupils will have an opportunity to learn in eight curricular areas:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics
- ICT
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Religious Education

The Children will use the 'Cross Curricular skills of:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics and
- Using ICT

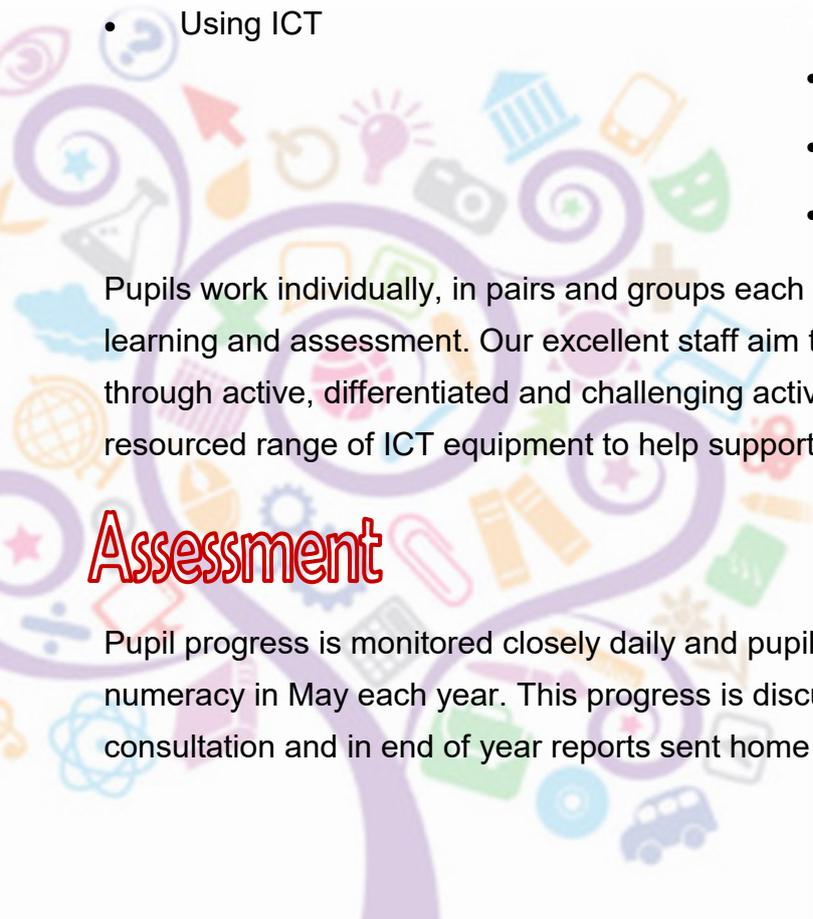
Along with 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities' of:

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem-solving and Decision making
- Being Creative
- Working with Others and
- Self-Management

Pupils work individually, in pairs and groups each week and are directly involved in their own learning and assessment. Our excellent staff aim to motivate and inspire pupils in their learning through active, differentiated and challenging activities. Our pupils have access to a well resourced range of ICT equipment to help support their learning.

Assessment

Pupil progress is monitored closely daily and pupils are formally assessed in literacy and numeracy in May each year. This progress is discussed with parents through parental consultation and in end of year reports sent home in June.

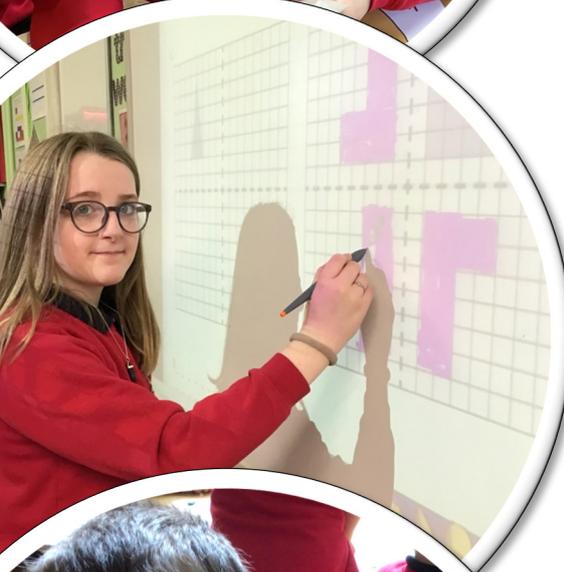


The Curriculum



Language and Literacy

Literacy is central to primary education. It is our aim to lead children, through a progressive and balanced curriculum which provides opportunities to engage in talking and listening activities and reading and writing, to a level of competence which will equip them to meet the needs of secondary level education with confidence. Ultimately, having mastered the mechanics of reading, the goal for our pupils is to read competently both for pleasure and information.



Mathematics and Numeracy

The school's Mathematics and Numeracy Policy and schemes of work have been prepared in accordance with the N.I Curriculum. Children study number, processes in mathematics, shape and space, measures and data handling. Emphasis is given to quick recall of basic number facts and the development of the ability to tackle problems in a practical and systematic way.



Information Communications Technology (ICT)

As a school we attach importance to the use of digital technologies. During their time at Bushmills Primary your child will have the opportunity to explore and express their understanding using a range of ICT equipment, including digital cameras, programmable robots and tablets. They will use the computers in our well equipped computer suite to learn ICT skills from word processing, design, spreadsheets and coding to name a few.



The World Around Us

We believe that children are innately imaginative and creative so these dispositions are valued and nurtured by providing your child with exciting and relevant contexts for their learning.

Teachers will enable children to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in four connected strands:

- Interdependence
- Place
- Movement and Energy
- Change Over Time.

The World Around Us promotes an enquiry-based approach to learning. Children must have broad and balanced experiences across the three statutory contributory elements of Geography, History, Science and Technology.

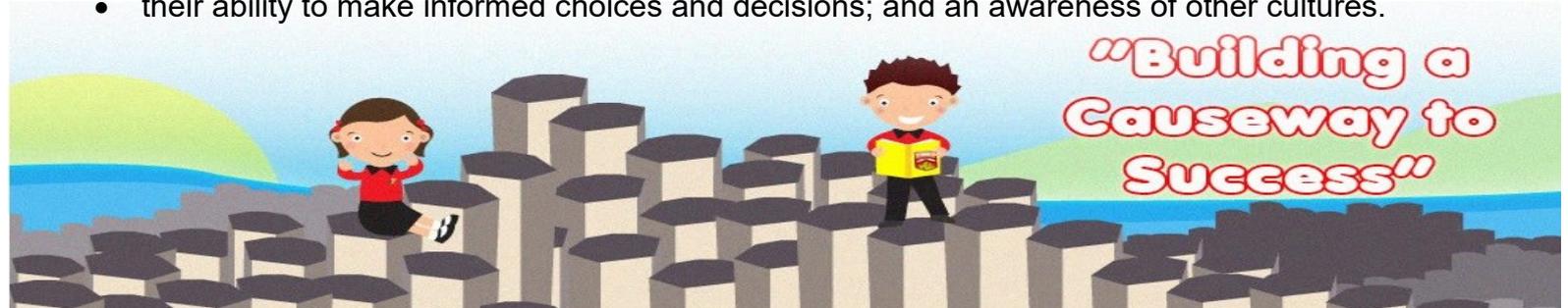
The Arts

In Bushmills Primary the children's creativity is developed through every area of the curriculum and closely linked with all aspects of their learning.

Teachers will enable children to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in Art and Design, Drama and Music.

The Arts provides opportunities for children to develop:

- their curiosity, imagination and creativity;
- their self-confidence and self-esteem;
- their artistic, musical and kinaesthetic abilities, including gross and fine motor skills;
- verbal and non-verbal modes of expression;
- an appreciation of the beauty and wonder of the world around them;
- their ability to make informed choices and decisions; and an awareness of other cultures.



"Building a Causeway to Success"

The Curriculum Continued...

Physical Education

The purpose of Physical Education is to provide the opportunity for specific attention to be given to the physical development, health and well-being of your child.

Children experience a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging activities in P.E. Children develop a variety of physical skills and are encouraged to participate in many individual and team sports including Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics, Games and Swimming.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) is an Area of Learning in the primary curriculum. It focuses on encouraging children's emotional and social development, confidence, independence, and health and safety awareness, and on developing their moral thinking, values and actions.

PDMU encourages children to become personally, emotionally and socially effective. It also encourages them to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

Children should have opportunities to investigate issues for themselves, suggest solutions and make decisions based on what they have learned. This helps them to naturally develop positive values and attitudes.



Religious Education

Religious Education is an integral part of our curriculum as it is a compulsory subject within the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Assemblies play an important part in the life of our school. Assemblies take place every Wednesday for all pupils in Primary 1-7 and are taken by a local minister or youth group. Nursery pupils attend once a month.

Special Educational Needs

We aim to support all children in accessing the full curriculum at every stage of their development. The School's Special Needs Policy ensures that children who are experiencing learning or other difficulties are identified as early as possible. Parents of children who are identified as having Special Educational Needs will be kept fully informed and invited to discuss their child's progress at parent interviews, when appropriate individual education plans will be discussed.

Throughout the year children may also receive additional learning support for literacy and numeracy when appropriate.

Close liaison is maintained between the school and various external agencies. Parents who have concerns about their child should make an appointment to speak with the class teacher, SENCO or Principal.

Homework/ Home Learning

At Bushmills Primary School we recognise that education is a responsibility shared between school and home and we appreciate the interest, help and co-operation of parents. Homework is often further practice of work already learnt in school and may include reading, spellings, number facts and written activities. Parents are asked to supervise homework and sign books and reading records as appropriate.

If your child experiences difficulty completing set tasks please speak to the class teacher so that any problems can be dealt with quickly.



General Information



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is a vital part of a child's primary schooling with Parent's, Teachers, Principal, Board of Governors and Support Services playing an important role.

At all times we focus on the positive achievements of our pupils, academic and otherwise. This is fostered by positive marking and classroom reward schemes. We strive at all times to develop each child to his/her potential by creating an atmosphere based upon good relationships between teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional wellbeing. At all times the school will endeavour to provide a secure, caring and safe environment for learning.

Child Protection and Personal Safety

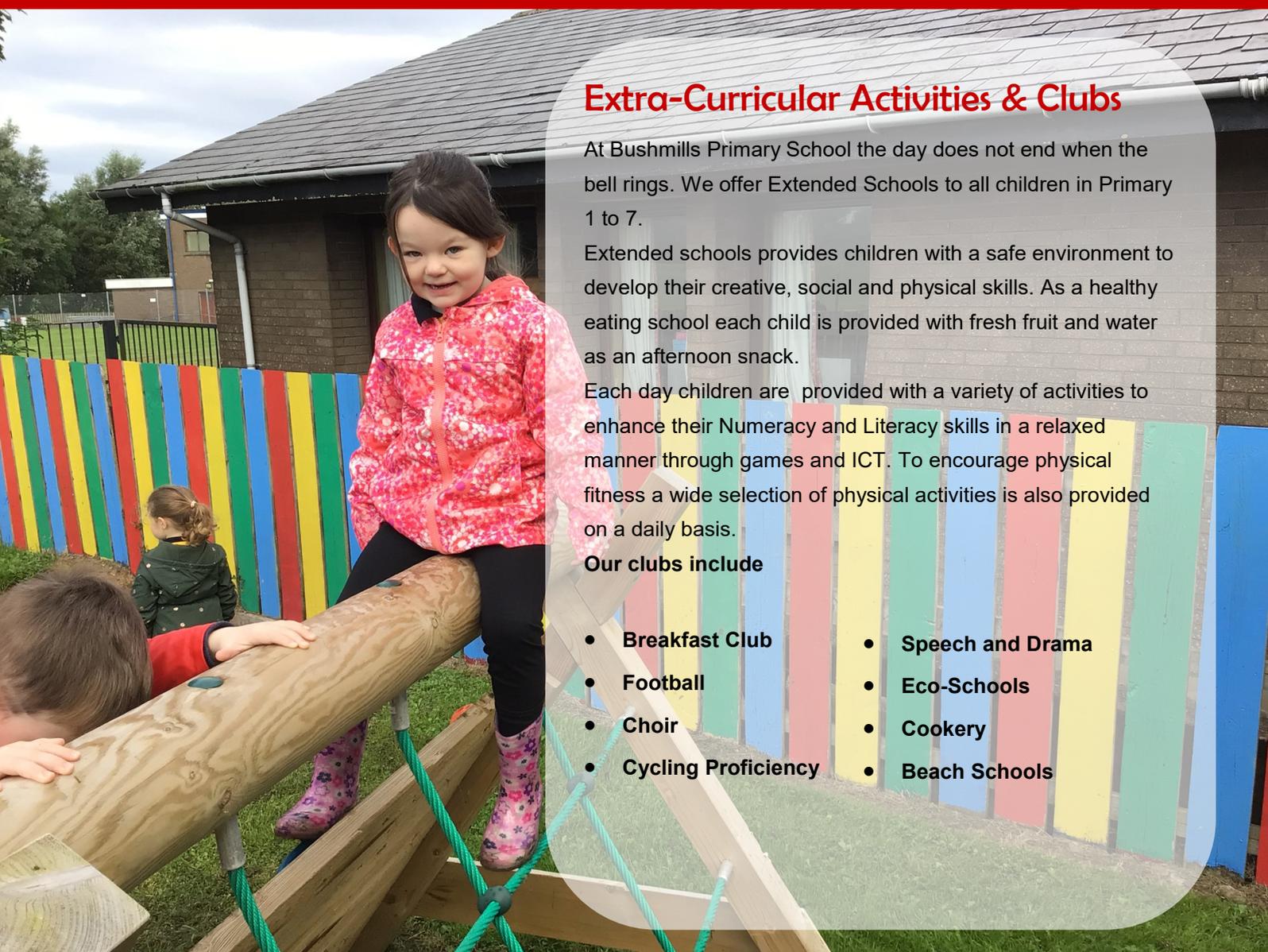
The welfare of each child is paramount and the school has a duty of care to report any concerns about abuse or neglect to social services.

All staff are vetted under Education Authority procedures and they all have been trained to be aware of the signs of possible abuse or neglect and of the procedure to follow.



Our designated team for Safeguarding and Child Protection consists of a Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teacher, Principal and Members of the Board of Governors. Posters are displayed throughout the school so that all children know who to go to if they have any concerns or worries.

Copies of our Safeguarding and Staff Code of Conduct Policies are available on request from the school office.



Extra-Curricular Activities & Clubs

At Bushmills Primary School the day does not end when the bell rings. We offer Extended Schools to all children in Primary 1 to 7.

Extended schools provides children with a safe environment to develop their creative, social and physical skills. As a healthy eating school each child is provided with fresh fruit and water as an afternoon snack.

Each day children are provided with a variety of activities to enhance their Numeracy and Literacy skills in a relaxed manner through games and ICT. To encourage physical fitness a wide selection of physical activities is also provided on a daily basis.

Our clubs include

- Breakfast Club
- Football
- Choir
- Cycling Proficiency
- Speech and Drama
- Eco-Schools
- Cookery
- Beach Schools

School Trips

Trips are undertaken by all classes during the school year and most trips are connected to learning that is going on in school. We normally undertake various trips throughout the year including a Christmas outing to a pantomime and an end of year trip to celebrate our children's successes throughout the year.

Residential Trips

Residential trips are offered to children in Primaries 5, 6 & 7. These trips would consist of 2-3 days away from home concentrating on team-building skills and outdoor activities.

Ulsterbus Trips

Every two years Bushmills Primary organises trips further afield. In the past we have gone to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin where the children have visited many exciting tourist attractions and educational sites.

General Information



Communication

At Bushmills Primary our aim is to work closely alongside parents in their child's education. To this end we believe that excellent communication is vital. Parents can speak to the teachers at the beginning and end of the school day about minor matters, or make an appointment to discuss more serious issues, meaning that parents can always be assured of their child's safety, happiness and progress.

Beyond this we seek to communicate effectively with parents and indeed the wider community in a variety of ways.

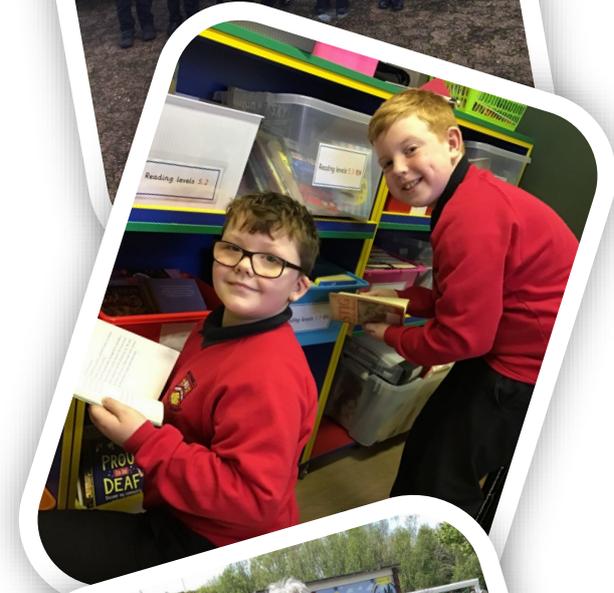
- **SeeSaw (An informative app for parents and teachers) - This is updated regularly with photographs and comments relating to learning and teaching.**
- **Private messaging through Seesaw**
- **Bushmills Primary School App - This allows teachers to private message individual parents, share-announcements, photos and information of what has been happening in school.**
- **www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk**
- **Texting service**
- **Parent/Teacher meetings which happen twice a year.**
- **Annual Reports**



Library

We are extremely fortunate to have our own central library, which provides an attractive and welcoming environment to support promotion of reading. It is well resourced with a variety of fiction, non-fiction and reference material suited to all ages, needs and preferences.

We also welcome a visit from the library van fortnightly, where children are given the opportunity to borrow books.



Eco-Committee

Bushmills Primary School prides itself on being heavily involved in environmental issues. We operate an active Eco-Committee and through their issues and drive we strive to educate our children on all issues that will help improve our environment.



Music & Drama

Music & Drama plays a significant role within our school, with all children being given the opportunity to participate in singing, playing simple instruments, getting involved in assemblies and Christmas productions.

We work with a variety of musical tutors to provide tuition in a range of instruments at a reasonable cost.

We have a school choir and have great fun getting out and about at every opportunity.



At Christmas we put on a large Christmas production which involves all classes, this is a great opportunity for children to express themselves through music and drama.

We also get involved in all the local music and drama festivals.



School Uniform



Hair & Jewellery

Hair should be kept neat and tidy and long hair should be tied back. Appropriate cuts and natural colours of hair are required.

In the interest of safety only stud earrings should be worn. A watch can also be worn.

Children wearing other types of jewellery will be asked to remove them during the day.

At Bushmills Primary School, the wearing of school uniform is regarded as very important. It helps create a sense of community and belonging among our pupils and encourages them to take pride in their appearance.

It is school policy that all children are expected to wear school uniform everyday as follows:

Girls

- Black skirt, trousers or pinafore (not leggings or tracksuit bottoms)
- Black polo shirt with school logo
- Red school sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- White, grey or black socks or tights

Boys

- Black trousers
- Black polo shirt with school logo
- Red school sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey or black socks
- Black shoes

Physical Education

- Black tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts
- Black polo shirt with school logo
- Black slip-on PE slippers or trainers

Nursery Uniform

- Black tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Black polo shirt with nursery logo
- Yellow sweatshirt with nursery logo
- Dark shoes or trainers

All items of clothing, including shoes, should be clearly marked with child's name

All items of clothing with school or nursery logo can be purchased at S&T Moore Coleraine or Heart & Home Coleraine and Ballymoney.

School Day

Breakfast Club:	8.15am
Last entry:	8.35am
Entry into classrooms from:	8.45am
School Begins:	9am
Snack time:	10.15am
Outside Play:	10.30 –10.50am
Lunch time:	12pm - 1pm
Home Times	
Nursery	1.30pm (Mon-Fri)
Primary 1 & 2 finish:	1.50pm (Mon - Fri)
Primary 3 finish:	1.50pm (Tue & Thur)
Primary 4- 7 finish:	3pm (Mon - Fri)
Primary 3- 7 finish:	2pm (Fri)

Extended School Times

MONDAY

Breakfast Club – (8.15am – 8.45am)
P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm)
P1 + P2 – (2pm – 4pm)
P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 – (3pm – 4pm)

TUESDAY

Breakfast Club – (8.15am – 8.45am)
P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm)
P1, P2 + P3 – (2pm – 4pm)
P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm-4pm)

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast Club – (8.15am – 8.45am)
P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm)
P1 + P2 – (2pm – 4pm)
P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm -4pm)

THURSDAY

Breakfast Club – (8.15am – 8.45am)
Football - P1, P2 + P3 (2pm-3pm)
Football – P4, P5, P6 + P7 – (3pm – 4pm)

FRIDAY

Breakfast Club – (8.15am – 8.45am)



A group of children in school uniforms are celebrating outdoors. They are holding up a large rainbow flag with the word 'WIN' written on it. The air is filled with colorful confetti in shades of pink, purple, and blue. The children have their arms raised in the air, and the background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds.

Charities, fundraising and PTA

Charities

Throughout the school we encourage the children in helping people less fortunate than themselves, through a wide range of interesting and diverse fund-raising activities. The generosity of parents and friends associated with the school means substantial funding can be donated to a wide range of charities.

Fundraising

The school may hold fund-raising events throughout the school year to help raise funds for school resources.

PTA

We have a very supportive and enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association who organise numerous events throughout the year to raise funds for our school and help to promote our school in the local community. Events include fun fairs, discos, breakfast mornings and movie nights to name just a few. The PTA also provide many rewards to our pupils throughout the year including school trips and transport to events.

Nursery Unit & Primary 1 Admissions

Admission to Nursery Unit

Admission Number: 26

1. Children born between 2 July and 1 July and who are from socially disadvantaged circumstances.
2. Children born between 2 July and 1 July

In the event of over-subscription in any of the above criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- a. Children already attending Bushmills Primary School.
- b. Children who are deemed to have special circumstances e.g. medical or social. The Board of Governors will determine the merits of each individual case with reference to supporting evidence as provided by the parents.
- c. Children who have siblings attending Bushmills Primary School or Nursery Unit.
- d. Children who are:
 - the only child in the family
 - the eldest child in the family
- e. Children whose parent's home is closest to the school as measured by driving on the public roads as per Google Maps.

Admissions to Primary School Year 1

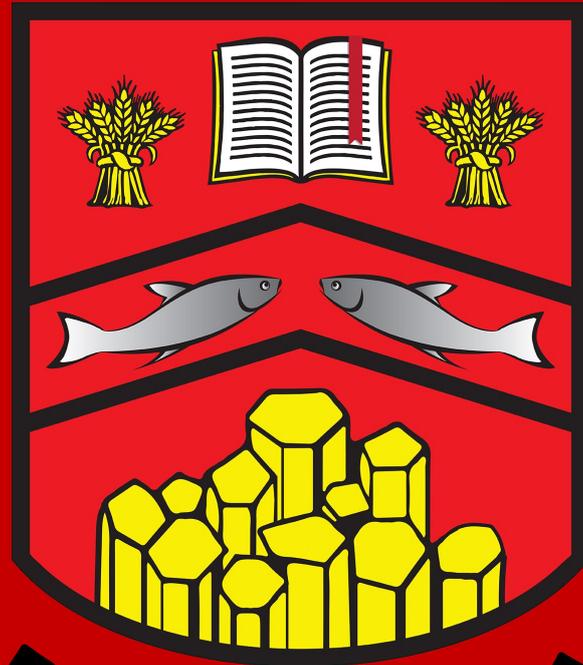
Admission Number: 30

1. Those children who have arrived at compulsory school age.

In the event of over-subscription in any of the above criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- a. Children who have siblings currently attending the school.
- b. Eldest/only child in the family.
- c. Children whose parents work in the school.
- d. The child whose home is closest to Bushmills Primary School as measured by public road.

Bushmills



**Primary School
and Nursery Unit**

Bushmills Primary School

5 Priestland Road

Bushmills

Co, Antrim

BT57 8QW

Tel: 028 207 31416

Email: info@bushmillsp.s.bushmills.ni.sch.uk

www.bushmillsp.s.co.uk



Bushmills-Primary-School-and-Nursery-Unit/