

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



December 2023
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!

No Doubt this term has been a very busy one and a huge 'Thanks' to everyone who has worked hard over the coming weeks as we approached the Christmas break and prepared for our Christmas Carol Concert which was held last night.

This was once again another success for our school, and I am delighted to report that the retiring offering amounted to **£229.87** which goes towards school funds and once again is very much appreciated.

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



P7 Ballymoney High School Taster Day

Primary 7 had a great morning at Ballymoney High School's 'Taster Day' on Tuesday 5th December. They experienced what life is like in a Secondary School environment, explored different subjects and got out their creative skills in History, Technology, and ICT. A super morning, thanks to all the staff at Ballymoney High School!

KS2 Christmas Choir

What a fabulous morning for our KS2 Choir, who were performing in Coleraine Library on Friday 15th December. We sang our Christmas Choir pieces along with a selection of our favourite Christmas songs and our flutes and violins performed the pieces they have been practising!

We are so proud of all our children who have worked so hard-well done everybody!

A big thanks to everyone who came to support us and to all the staff at Coleraine Library for welcoming us and treating us at the end.



Hope for Youth Ministries

All week from Monday 4th December we had enjoyed Colin Tinsley from Hope for Youth Ministries coming in to take our assemblies. Colin answered all our questions about the bible, we did lots of singing and played games. We hope to see Colin again soon!

Christmas Dinner Day!

On Thursday 14th December we had our Christmas Dinner here in school when all pupils swapped their school jumpers for their festive Christmas jumpers, Santa Hats etc.

Many thanks to Mrs McConachie and the kitchen staff for the delicious dinner which was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils alike.

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 December

Colin Tinsley
(Hope for Youth Ministries)

Wednesday 13th November

Alice McAlary
Family Support Worker

Attendance

At the end of the first term of this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for December will be presented to the winning class following the Christmas break. The overall attendance for December was 90.4%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	99.6%
2nd:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	95.9%
3rd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	94.9%
4th:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	94.8%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	67.4%



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!

Breakfast Club & Extended Schools

Breakfast Club will recommence again on Thursday 4th January at 8.15am

Extended Schools sessions will recommence the following week on Monday 8th January.



Footballer of the Week

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

	1 st Dec	8 th Dec	15 th Dec
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Leo McKendry	Luka Tweed	Casey McKay



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



	1 st Dec	8 th Dec	15 th Dec
Yr 1	Alfie Brown	Frankie Speers	Orin Canavan & Elena Gault
Yr 2	Oliver Ferguson	Robbie Barrett	Cody Wilmont
Yr 3	Scarlett Kennedy	Emily Dornan	
Yr 4	Isaac Parke	Luka Tweed	Emme Gault
Yr 5	Lola McKay	Charlie Gilmour	Rebecca McIntyre
Yr 6	Eliana McAfee	Adam McConachie	Jessy Chen
Yr 7	Madison McKeeman	Logan Scott	Jayden Mulholland

Library Van Visits

Please be reminded the mobile library van comes on a Monday morning. The next visit will be the 8th January 2024 at 10.30am, therefore please ensure your child brings back any books borrowed on that date.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 5/6 class will recommence on Friday 12th January 2024 and these will take place every Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre until the end of January, with the final day being Friday 26th January. Swimming lessons will then commence for the P6/7 class on Friday 2nd February. Further details will be sent home with P6/7 pupils in the New Year.

Parent Pay

Currently there are several outstanding balances on Parent Pay, we would ask that each family check their accounts and settle any outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you have any problems or queries regarding your account/balance, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email rwilmont289@c2kni.net and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Admissions to Nursery & Primary School

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2024, you can apply for their place online from Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 12.00 noon.

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 26th January 2024. If you would like to make an appointment to visit in person, please contact the school by phone or email on 028 207 31416 or rwilmont289@c2kni.net

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Start of Term	04-Jan-24	Starts 9:00am sharp. (Please note this will be a half day due to staff training) School will close at 1PM for all pupils
School Trip	05-Jan-24	P1 to P7. Further details have now been sent out.
School Photographer	30-Jan-24	Further details to follow
Parent/Teacher Interviews	12-Feb-24 to 14-Feb-24	Further details to follow
Half Term Holidays	15-Feb-24 to 16-Feb-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Days	19-Feb-24 20-Feb-24	School Closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	22-Mar-24	School day ends at 12 noon for ALL pupils