

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



January 2024
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.

New Year!

As we begin yet another New Year, we look forward with excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead!

Everyone has settled well back into the new term following Christmas break and all school activities are well underway!

Can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, school website and the Schools N.I app as updates continue to be posted on these on a regular basis.

Please also note that should you prefer a hard copy of this newsletter, this can be requested from the school office.

Snow White

All pupils (P1-P7) travelled to the Grand Opera House in Belfast on Friday 5th January to see their production of Snow White. Once again our pupils were well mannered and certainly were very well behaved displaying pleasing behaviour at all times! An enjoyable day was had by all!

Shared Story Reading

Shared Story Reading afternoons for our Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils have commenced on Monday afternoons with a large number of pupils staying each week.

There is no charge for the pupils attending this programme and it will continue for a further two weeks including a visit to Waterstones Bookshop in Coleraine on Tuesday 6th February (for the pupils who have been attending the shared reading sessions).

Ulster Scots

The Ulster Scots programme continues on Monday afternoons for our P4-P7 pupils. These have been thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend and will continue for another two weeks (5th February and 26th February). If your child has not been attending but would like to do so, this will not be a problem and payment of £2 each can be made on Parent Pay in the usual way.

Parent Pay

Sadly, once again I feel I must highlight the issue of negative balances on Parent Pay. If you are unsure if you have a negative balance, please feel free to contact the school office and this can be checked for you.

In the event of you having a negative balance, please note these are supposed to be paid on a weekly basis and if you are unable to do this, please contact Miss Logan immediately.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Don't forget interviews will be held on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February.

Letters have already been sent out to all pupils and I am taking this opportunity to remind you that reply slips must be returned to your child's class teacher no later than this Friday 2nd February.

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 10th January

Alice McAlary
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 17^h January

Robert Plant

Wednesday 24th January

Pastor Billy Jones
(Dunseverick Baptist)

Wednesday 31st January

Rev. Morrow
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

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 January will be presented to the winning class at the next whole school assembly. The overall attendance for January was 82.2%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	90.2%
2nd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	89.6%
3rd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	82.7%
4th:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	92.1%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	66.5%



Well done to Miss Rowe'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 (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 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!

Footballer of the Week

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

	12 th Jan	19 th Jan	26 th Jan
Yr 4 to Yr 7		No Football	No Football



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



	12 th Jan	19 th Jan	26 th Jan
Yr 1	Holly Simpson	AJ Greer	Aidan Rowland
Yr 2	Lucy Neill	Oliver Ferguson	Eli McKay
Yr 3	Evie McKeown	Emily Dornan	Oliver McKendry
Yr 4	Jacob Greer	Reuben McIntyre	Finlay Taylor
Yr 5	Caleb Kane	Charlie Gilmour	Anna Simpson
Yr 6	Lucy Parke	Noah Spratt	Evie Tweed
Yr 7	Becky McKay	Kaley Corscadden	Olivia McFaull

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 Monday 5th February.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 5/6 pupils have now finished and this morning achievement certificates awarded to all pupils were given out at our whole school assembly - Well Done to you all for working so hard!

This now means that swimming lessons for our Primary 6/7 pupils will commence this Friday 2nd February, at Coleraine Leisure Centre

School Calendars

I am delighted to report that our 2024 School Calendars which were available to purchase at the end of last term were a great success and helped raise a total of £469.00 for school funds.

Please note if anyone would like to purchase one of these calendars, they can be ordered through the school office at a cost of £7.00 each.

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Parent/Teacher Interviews	12-Feb-24 to 14-Feb-24	Further details have been sent.
Half Term Holidays	15-Feb-24 to 16-Feb-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Days	19-Feb-24 to 20-Feb-24	School Closed to ALL pupils
St. Patrick's Holiday	18-Mar-24	School closed to ALL pupils.
End of Term	22-Mar-24	School finishes at 12noon for ALL pupils
Term 3 Starts	08-Apr-24	School starts at 9am Sharp for all pupils