

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



February 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.

March

As tomorrow marks the first day of March, we welcome the brighter mornings and clearer evenings and on a few days we have seen the milder weather setting in.

Can I therefore take this opportunity to remind you to please ensure children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings (hopefully once homeworks have been completed 😊) and of course are getting into bed at a reasonable time – this will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

Waterstone's Visit

On Tuesday 6th February Primary 1 and 2 pupils visited Waterstone's Bookshop in Coleraine as part of this year's Shared Reading Programme. The children have enjoyed both parents and some of the older pupils reading to them in the afternoons. During their visit to Waterstone's they even got to pick books for themselves to take home.



Brazilian Soccer Skills

Our P1/2 and P3/4 pupils have been enjoying 'soccer skills workshops' which are delivered here in school on Thursday mornings and taken by local coach Reuben Smyth. These sessions will continue up until Easter.

Ulster Scots

Please be reminded the final Ulster Scots session (held on Monday afternoons for our P4-P7 pupils) will take place on Monday 4th March from 3pm-4pm when the focus will be on the 'Bagpipes'

Parent Pay

Can I please continue to remind you that Parent Pay balances are supposed to be paid on a weekly basis - sadly for a small number this is not the case!

As I repeatedly have said, if you are unable to do this you must contact Miss Logan immediately!

Table Tennis

Well done to our first ever Table Tennis Team who travelled to Ballymoney on Tuesday to take part in the Primary School Table Tennis Tournament which was held at the Elim Church in Ballymoney. Our team consisted of 4 Primary 7 pupils - Ella, Summer, Callum and Cameryn. To say 'proud' would be an understatement - the team fought off stiff competition and although they did not finish off being placed in the finals, their hard work, determination and sportsmanship certainly shone through! Thanks and Well Done to you all - you did our school proud 😊



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 7th February

Dr. Cubitt

Retired minister Bushmills
Presbyterian

Wednesday 14th February

Rev. R Morrow

Bushmills Free Presbyterian
Church

Wednesday 21st February

Alice McAlary

Family Support Worker

Wednesday 28th February

Rev. A Buick

Dunluce Presbyterian Church

Attendance

During this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for February will be presented to the winning class at the next whole school assembly.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Rowe	P3/4	94.2%
2nd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	92.8%
3rd:	Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow	P5/6	80.8%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	76.9%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	65.7%



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 February:

	2 nd Feb	9 th Feb	23 rd Feb	29 th Feb
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Callum Jamieson	No Football	Carter Waring	Caleb Kane

Pharmacy Schools

All classes (P1-P7) enjoyed a special few days (Wed 21st - Fri 23rd Feb) where they completed a number of activities (including a visit to the local chemist where they met the pharmacists and took the opportunity to ask them lots of questions). This Pharmacy Schools Programme is designed to promote self-care and awareness of childhood ailments such as common colds, sore throats, head lice etc as well as the importance of medication safety using a healthy Literacy approach for primary school children in Northern Ireland.



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



	2 nd Feb	9 th Feb	23 rd Feb
Yr 1	Elena Gault	Theo Kennedy	Amelia Speers-Jamieson
Yr 2	Orin Canavan	Priya Henderson	Oliver McKay
Yr 3	Emma Simpson	Molly Wilmont	Bella McGladdery
Yr 4	Isaac Parke	Emily Wilmont	Emme Gault
Yr 5	Ella Scott	Zara-Mae Mairs	Oscar Liken
Yr 6	Leo McKendry	Sofia McKenna	Ryan McAleese
Yr 7	Logan Scott	Alex McLaughlin	Ella McMullan

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 4th March.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 6/7 pupils (Miss Swanson's class) continue on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

Diary Dates

Term 2		
Bank Holiday	06-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Foundation & KSI Revision Week	06-May-24 10-May-24	
Foundation & KSI Assessment Week	13-May-24 17-May-24	
Key Stage 2 Revision Week	13-May-24 17-May-24	
Key Stage 2 Assessment Week	20-May-23 24-May-24	
Bank Holiday	27-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Staff Development Day	28-May-24	School closed to ALL pupils
End Of Term	28-Jun-24	School finished at 12noon for ALL pupils