

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



April 2024
Newsletter

Inside this issue....

| | | | |
|--|-----|----------------------------|----|
| Final Term P7 Cycling Proficiency | 3 | Every School Day Counts | 9 |
| NI Water Visit | 4 | Star of the Week | 10 |
| Term Two Thursday Clubs Round-Up! | 5&6 | Diary Dates | 11 |
| Breakfast Club Library Van Service Swimming Music Lessons | 7 | | |
| Attendance | 8 | | |

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.

Final Term

Now that Easter is over, the final term of this academic year will pass very quickly. It was great seeing all pupils and staff back and well rested following the well-deserved break.

We do have a busy term ahead, however, please keep an eye on Facebook, the school app and any letters which will keep you up to date on what is happening during the coming weeks.

For now, can I remind you of a few very important dates, i.e. Revision weeks and Assessment weeks, which can once again be seen in the 'Diary Dates' section at the back of this newsletter. Other events such as Sports Day and class trips will be taking place throughout this term and again updates and details will be sent out in due course.

P7 Cycling Proficiency

I am pleased to report that the P7 Cycling Proficiency Training Scheme has already commenced. The aim of this scheme is to teach children how to ride their bicycles safely and has a combination of theoretical and practical aspects. These sessions will continue to take place on the following dates:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Wednesday 1st May | 3pm to 4pm |
| Wednesday 8th May | 3pm to 4pm |
| Tuesday 14 th May | 3pm to 4pm |

Wednesday 15th May - FINAL ASSESSMENT



Please note pupils must attend **all** sessions to be fully prepared for both the **theory** (which will take place in school during the week commencing 6th May) and **practical** assessment at the end.

NI Water Visit

On Tuesday 16th April we had a visit from NI Water. Key Stage 2 got a chance to visit the Water Bus, see experiments with water and find out lots of information about water. In the afternoon, Foundation and Key Stage 1 had an assembly with Anna and her friend H₂O. She told them what we need water for and how we can help save water. We also took delivery of our own waterbutt that we can collect water in to use in our garden. 🇬🇧 🇮🇪 🇬🇧



Term Two Thursday Clubs

Round-Up!



During Term Two, pupils were given a choice to attend 3 clubs out of 5. The clubs on offer were Circuits, Computer Club, Drama Club, Sewing Club and Board Games Club.

In **Circuits Club**, the pupils exercised all of their muscles in a range of fun circuit activities such as squats, tricep dips and press-ups. The pupils even had the opportunity to create their own circuit activities. Well done to all the athletes!

During **Computer Club**, the pupils were introduced to the BBC Micro:Bit, a mini computer which could be coded to respond to various inputs. The pupils were able to develop their coding skills using Microsoft Make Space in order to create a name badge, a beating heart, an emotions badge, a step counter, a night light and a rock-paper-scissors game.

In **Drama Club**, the pupils developed their listening and voice production skills through a range of drama games and they worked collaboratively to perform a play about climate change. The pupils talked about staging, costumes and developed their dramatic performances.

During the **Sewing Club** sessions, the pupils all enjoyed developing their sewing skills in order to create some felt fruit creations.

The **Board Game Club** pupils developed skills such as strategy and problem-solving when playing a range of table top and card games, many of which were new games for the pupils. They had lots of fun, enjoyed learning new skills and were delighted to be able to play these games with new friends.

Term Three's clubs are already underway and we look forward to seeing our pupils developing some new skills during their next set of clubs.



Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club continues every morning, Monday to Friday from 8:15am for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7.



Library Van Service



Our next visit by the Library Van is due to take place on Monday 13th May, please ensure all library books are returned in preparation for this visit.

Swimming



Lessons for our P6/7 pupils, Miss Swanson's class, continue every Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

Music Lessons

Violin lessons continue every Monday afternoon with Woodwind lessons taking place every Tuesday morning.



Attendance

During this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school.

The attendance cup for April will be presented to the winning class at our whole school assembly tomorrow. The overall attendance for April was 91.7%.

Results are as follows:

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1st: | Miss Fulton | P1/2 | 94.9% |
| 2nd: | Miss Rowe | P3/4 | 93.0% |
| 3rd: | Miss Swanson | P6/7 | 92.2% |
| 4th: | Miss Logan & Mrs Witherow | P5/6 | 88.7% |
| 5th: | Mrs Garrett | Nursery | 88.0% |



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.**

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 year every week for their achievements. These certificates are being issued in each class on a Friday.



During the month of April, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':

| | 12/04 | 19/04 | 26/04 |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Yr 1 | Amelia Speers - Jamieson | Peyton Parke | Theo Kennedy |
| Yr 2 | - | Oscar Parke | Amber Dornan |
| Yr 3 | Bella McGladdery | Millie Chen | Lyla Mulholland |
| Yr 4 | Freddie Speers | Jacob Greer | Emily Wilmont |
| Yr 5 | Nate Wilmont | Charlie Gilmour | Oscar Wilmont |
| Yr 6 | Eliana McAfee | Sofia McKenna | Grace Moge |
| Yr 7 | Cameryn Greer | Paige Greer | Ava O'Rawe |

Diary Dates

| Term 3 | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Bank Holiday | 06-May-24 | School closed to ALL pupils |
| Foundation & KSI Revision Week | 06-May-24 to 10-May-24 | |
| Foundation & KSI Assessment Week | 13-May-24 to 17-May-24 | |
| KS2 Revision Week | 13-May-24 to 17-May-24 | |
| KS2 Assessment Week | 20-May-24 to 24-May-24 | |
| Bank Holiday | 27-May-24 | School closed to ALL pupils |
| Staff Development Day | 28-May-24 | School closed to ALL pupils |
| Sports Day | 07-June-24 | Further details to follow |
| Sponsored Colour Run | 14-June-24 | Further details to follow |
| P7 Leavers Assembly | 21-June-24 | Further details to follow |
| Nursery Graduation | 26-June-24 | Further details to follow |
| End of Term | 28-Jun-24 | School finishes at 12:00noon for ALL pupils |

