

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



September 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.

A New Start!

As we have now reached the end of September, I am pleased to report that everyone here in school has settled well back into the new school term.

As the dark evenings are closing in quickly, can I remind you to please ensure children are kept safe when out and about with their friends in the evenings and of course are getting to bed at a reasonable time - this will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the next day!

As tomorrow marks the 1st day of a new month, can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, school website and SeeSaw app as updates.

Please note that all newsletters are sent out at the end of every month via the school app, and also available on the school website however if you would prefer a hard copy of this, please request this from the school office.



I am aware that a small number of our pupils (P6 AND P7) have been given permission (by you their parents) to walk home on their own after school. I am aware that this is your decision however I would also like to make you aware that on a few occasions it has been reported that not all are doing so in a sensible manner and sadly a number of arguments have started on the way home resulting in a phone call to the school in the afternoon! Perhaps allowing your child/children to walk home on their own and without adult supervision is maybe not a good idea? I will leave it up to you their parents to make the decision!!

If you decide to make this a permanent arrangement please take time to have a 'little chat' with them beforehand about their behaviour and keeping safe. And please remember if you have not already done so, this decision must be sent in a letter to inform the school.

WOW Wall

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each classroom every week for their achievements (both within and outside of school). in our main corridor and just outside the assembly hall we have created a WOW wall!

Which contains 5 display frames (one for each class Nursery, P1/2, P3/4, P4/5 and P6/7). Each week on a Friday staff will chose one piece of work which they feel deserves to be highlighted and celebrated. This could be a piece of artwork, writing, numeracy etc or even a photograph which shows that a pupil has made great progress throughout the past week! The piece of work will remain on the WOW wall for the next week and pupils will be given a certificate to mark this!

Parent Pay

I feel I must again 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.

Unfortunately, despite my recent on going requests, a small number of negative balances from last year still remain outstanding! Please arrange to pay these ASAP!!!

Asda Rewards

Can I say a huge thanks to those of you who have already signed up for this 'Cash pot for Schools' initiative. If you haven't done so, please consider this. Remember it's easy and doesn't cost you anything- anyone can sign up please start spreading the news and help to raise funds for our school. To date our total is £ 138.85. With almost two month to go! Don't relay, sign up today!

NSPCC- Speak out, Stay Safe

As you have been made aware this term we have been participating in the **NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe online programme**. This is a safeguarding programme available to all primary school in the UK which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way.

Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or ChildLine. All classes P1-P7 enjoyed the online assembly on Wednesday 18th September which was delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy as well as Ant and Dec.

House Captains, Head Boy & Girl

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2024-2025 are as follows:

Lissanduff	Klondyke	Blackrock	Portcamon
Captain Anna Simpson	Captain Grace Wilmont	Captain Rebecca McIntyre	Captain Lola McKay



Deputy Captain Ryan McAleese	Deputy Captain Casey McKay	Deputy Captain Logan McKillop	Deputy Captain Victoria Gilmour
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Junior Captain Oliver McKendry	Junior Captain Molly Wilmont	Junior Captain Emma Simpson	Junior Captain Emily Dornan
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Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Deputies and we wish them well for the coming year as they each take on this new and exciting challenge.



Also, congratulations to our incoming Head Boy, Leo McKendry and Head Girl, Eliana McAfee, as they represent our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit.



The School Day

Please be reminded of the following school day times:

School will start at **9:00am sharp** with the bell ringing at 8:45am when pupils can enter the building. Don't forget Breakfast Club will be open for **all pupils** Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 8:45am and finishing times are as follows:



P1 & P2	1.50pm	Monday to Friday
P3	1.50pm	Tuesday and Thursday
	3.00pm	Monday and Wednesday
	2:00pm	Friday
P4 to P7	3.00pm	Monday to Thursday
	2:00pm	Friday

Unfortunately, already a small number of children are not arriving in school and ready to start at 9:00am. This not only causes disruption to classes but also means that teachers are unable to forward registration files to the office on time! Please ensure this situation does not get out of hand especially so early in the term!

P.E.

P.E. lessons have now commenced and the hall timetable for P.E. has now been finalised

Designated days for P.E. will be as follows:



Monday	P1/2 & P4&5
Tuesday	P3&4
Wednesday	P1/2 & P6/7
Friday	P4/5 (swimming)

Please note on days that pupils have P.E. they should come to school in their P.E. kits. This should be **plain** black jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos) and trainers along with school polo shirts and sweatshirt.

Healthy Snacks



I am aware that several children are bringing in their own snacks to school each morning. Can I please remind you that these should be Healthy Snacks such as fresh fruit, raw vegetables (e.g. carrot, celery), pancakes etc. (If you are sending grapes please ensure these are 'cut up' especially for our younger pupils). These are also available to purchase from the school canteen. **Please do not send in sweets, crisps, chocolate or buns as these items do not comply with our Healthy Breaks policy!**

Order Forms



Please be reminded that the Extended Schools form, Snack form and School Meals forms for the following week are given out in class every Friday.

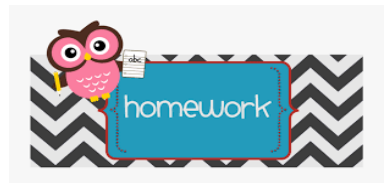
If your child is off school, the following forms can be accessed on the school website <https://www.bushmillsprimary.co.uk> and printed off ready for the week ahead!

- The Extended Schools and Snack Order forms can be found in the “Parents Area - Forms” section of the school website
- The school menu was sent out to all pupils at the start of the school year and is also available to view on the school website

Homework!

As you are aware homework has now commenced for all pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. Individual class teachers will have sent out homework letters for their class and what is required each week.

At present homework is set on a Monday afternoon and should be completed by Thursday. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils are not completing this homework which therefore means time must be set aside in school (usually at break-time or lunchtime) for these to be completed! As far as we are aware all parents have now downloaded the See-Saw App and scanned their QR Code. This is important and is a way of keeping in contact with your child’s teacher. If you are having problems with the app, please contact your child’s class teacher as soon as possible to ensure your child does not miss out!!



Multi-Sports

Multi-sports sessions have commenced after-school for pupils in Primaries 1 to 7. These take place on Tuesdays here in school and will run for a further four weeks throughout October.

Breakfast Club

I am pleased to report that Breakfast Club has opened again and numbers attending have been good with pupils attending from all classes (Nursery right through to Primary 7).

Breakfast club opens each morning (Monday to Friday) from 8:15am to 8:45am before children will be allowed to go to their own classes.

The cost is £1.50 per day and items available include a choice of cereal, toast, apple juice, milk and water. Please note the cut off time for entry is 8:35am to allow pupils time to eat their breakfast before moving on to their classroom.



Swimming

Swimming lessons have now commenced this term for our Primary 4/5 class. These take place on Friday mornings when pupils travel along with Miss Logan and Miss Biondo to Coleraine Leisure centre.



Music Lessons

All music lessons have now commenced in school with string lessons on a Monday taken by Mrs Eves, woodwind on a Tuesday taken by Mrs Kutlu and piano and guitar lessons on a Thursday taken by Miss Boyle.



Attendance

As we begin a new school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for September will be presented to the winning class in the next few days. The overall attendance for September was 95.9%.

Results are as follows:

1 st :	Miss Logan & Mrs Elliott	P4/5	98.1%
2 nd :	Miss Fulton	P1/2	96.1%
3 rd :	Mrs Sheridan & Mrs Bateman	P3/4	94.9%
4 th :	Miss Swanson	P6/7	94.3%



Well done to Miss Logan and Mrs Elliott'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!

Assemblies



We have welcomed the opportunity to be able to take part in whole school assemblies throughout the month of September. These assemblies have taken place on Wednesday mornings, and we are delighted to welcome back the following visitors:

Wednesday 4th September Alice McAlary
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 11th September Pastor Billy Jones
Dunseverick Baptist

Wednesday 25th September Rev A Buick
Dunluce Presbyterian

Safety Reminder



Sadly, I have noticed of a few actions which I feel could put the safety of our pupils (your children!) at risk. I would ask you to take note of the following:

Some parents are driving into the school grounds, in order to drop off or collect pupils. If you feel this is something that you have to do (perhaps for health reasons) then I would ask that you come and speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement. Sadly, this is not the case with a number of people therefore I would insist that you do not drive into the school grounds as pupils' safety is our top priority!

Due to Health and Safety concerns, when dropping off and collecting your child/children, I would ask that you walk children along the path and not over the driveway. Also, when crossing the road please use the school's crossing patrol, as failure to do so can cause confusion for drivers passing by who concentrate on the designated crossing patrol outside school gates especially in the afternoons when it can be extremely busy.

Can I ask if you happen to be dropping off or collecting pupils from our nurse unit please be aware that due to current timings, on occasions, pupils are possibly outside in the playground. At times the smaller gates are closed over and the bar is put across to lock them. If this is the case, please take the time to open the gate rather than jumping over it! To do so is setting a poor and dangerous example to young children!

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests as unfortunately too many accidents happen outside school gates and I am sure you would agree we do not want the gates of Bushmills Primary on the news for this reason!

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Diary Dates

Term 1		
Extended School Starts	30-Sep-24	Please see the timetable for more information
Travelling Books Book Fair	09-Oct24 to 16-Oct-24	
Flu Vaccination	08-Oct-24	
Parent/Teacher Interviews	23-Oct-24 to 25-Oct-24	School closes at 1:00pm for all pupils each day (Wed-Fri)
Half Term Holiday	28-Oct-24 to 01-Nov-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-24 to 03-Jan-25	School closed to ALL pupils

Extended Schools
September 2024 - March 2025

MONDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.15am - 8.45am) - £1.50

P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.50

Football - P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.50

TUESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.15am - 8.45am) - £1.50

P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm) - Multi sports

P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm-4pm) - Multi Sports

WEDNESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.15am - 8.45am) - £1.50

P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.50

P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm -4pm) - £2.50

THURSDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.15am - 8.45am) - £1.50

P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.50

P1, P2 + P3 - (3pm-4pm) - £4.00

P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm -4pm) - £2.50

FRIDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.15am - 8.45am) - £1.50

This timetable may be subject to change