

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



October 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.

The End of October!

It is hard to believe we have already reached the end of October and life continues to be very busy for us all here in school.



I do hope that every-one has an enjoyable half-term break and I look forward to seeing all staff and pupils back again, and well rested, on Monday 4th November when school will open again at 9:00am sharp for all pupils.

Please note, Breakfast Club will run as normal, for all pupils, Nursery to Primary 7, from 8:15am to 8:45am each school day.

Book Fair

Scholastic "Travelling Books" Book Fair visited our school from Wednesday 9th October until Wednesday 16th October. Sales totalled £455.10 which in turn has allowed the school to earn £182.04 to purchase additional books for our classrooms. Thanks to all who supported our fair!

Multi-Sports

For the past six weeks our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils have had the opportunity to be attending multi-sports sessions here in school on Tuesday afternoons.

Please note that on Tuesday due to a mix-up with bookings coaches were not here in school at 2pm for the first session of multi-sports. This will now be delivered when we return to school following the half-term break on Tuesday 5th November. On that day all pupils (P1-P7) who have been attended these session will be given the opportunity to attend on this day free of charge! If you have any queries regarding this information do not hesitate to contact me here in school.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews have just taken place this week. Many thanks to all parents who attended and for us as a school, it has certainly highlighted that your child's/children's education is important to you!

As parents you play a vital role in helping to give your child the best start in life and your support is crucial! I am aware that unfortunately a small number of parents were unable to attend the arranged appointments. If this was the case, I would ask that you please contact the school to arrange another time!



Harvest Assembly

Throughout this morning's assembly all classes took part sharing their individual songs and harvest poems. Our special speaker this year was Pastor Billy Jones (Dunservick Baptist). Once our assembly was over two of our lunch-time supervisors Linda and Mrs J Witherow were presented with flowers and gifts to say Thank you for all their support and dedication to our school over the last few years. To conclude our Pastor Jones congratulated all pupils on their performance before closing in prayer. Following that a large number of parents joined us for a special Harvest lunch.

Football Tournament

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament will take place on Thursday 9th November. Further details will be sent out when we return following the half-term break.



Breakfast Club

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. Once pupils have eaten their breakfast, they have time to enjoy some games before heading to class!

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 continue for Miss Logan's P4/5 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. Lessons will resume on Friday 8th November following the half-term break.



Music Lessons

All music lessons continue in school with string lessons on a Monday woodwind on a Tuesday and piano and guitar lessons on a Thursday.



Attendance

At the end of the second month of this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for October will be presented to the winning class following the half-term break. The overall attendance for October was 92.6%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan	P4/5	94.6%
2nd:	Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	94.4%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	93.5%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	92.5%
5th:	Mrs Garrett	Nur	88.4%



Well done to Miss Logan'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 continue to hold whole school assemblies for all pupils Nursery to Primary 7, here in school on Wednesday mornings.



This month we have been delighted to welcome the following visitors:

Wednesday 6th October

Alice McAlary(Family Support Woker)

Wednesday 16th October

Colin Tinsley (Hope for Youth Ministries)
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 23rd October

Rev. Sam Livingstone
(Causeway Methodist churches)

Baby Joy

Congratulations to Mrs Witherow and her husband David on the recent birth of their daughter Eliza Margaret who was born last Tuesday 15th October. All are doing well, and we are looking forward to a visit very soon!

Diary Dates

Term 1		
Half Term Holiday	28-Oct-24 to 01-Nov-24	School closed to ALL pupils
Start of Term	04-Nov-24	School Starts 9am Sharp
End of Term	20-Dec-23	School finishes for all pupils at 12:00 noon
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-24 to 3-Jan-25	School closed to ALL pupils

Term 2		
Start of Term	06-Jan-25	Starts 9:00am sharp
School Trip	10-Jan-25	P3 to P7. Further details to follow
School Photographer	30-Jan-25	Further details to follow