

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



November 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.

## It's Christmas!

We made it! Christmas preparations are well underway. There is no doubt this first term has been both busy and challenging but a huge thanks to everyone who has worked hard to help keep our children safe and school an enjoyable place to be!

As mentioned, preparations are now underway for our Christmas Production which this year will take place on here in school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. All pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 will be taking part and I hope you will be able to come along (and bring family and friends) to what I know will be an enjoyable performance.



Further information in relation to the actual day will be sent out in due course so please keep an eye on the school app for these updates.

*Merry Christmas*



## Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day



On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our school Christmas dinner pupils are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper/T-shirt to school! There will be no charge for wearing Christmas jumpers however pupils can wear their proper school sweatshirts if they wish.

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

ROAST TURKEY AND STUFFING

COCKTAIL SAUSAGES & GRAVY

PEAS, CARROT BATONS,

ROAST & MASH POTATOES

VANILLA CHOC ICE

ORANGE JUICE



## Remembrance Day

This year again pupils were given the opportunity to purchase poppies and other merchandise here in school in the lead up to Remembrance Day and I am delighted to report that a total of £134.07 was collected for this years "Poppy Appeal". A wreath was also laid by our Head Boy, Leo McKendry and Head Girl, Eliana McAfee on behalf of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit at the annual Poppy Day Remembrance Service which was held here in the town on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

In addition Miss Logan, Miss Swanson along with head boy, head girl and house captains represented our school at the annual remembrance day service in the centre of Bushmills on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.



## Football Tournament

The first round of this year's Coleraine and District Small Schools Football Tournament took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November when once again our team travelled to Ballycastle to take part and again this was another successful day for Bushmills Primary School.



Not only did the team perform well on the pitch but their attitude and behaviour continued to remain exemplary even when they were not playing - Thanks to each one of you - you have made us proud!

The second round will take place in the new term. Further details will be sent out when we return following the Christmas 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 a game 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 and Mrs Elliott's P4/5 class on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre. Please note as we approach the Christmas break the final lesson has now taken place today Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and will then recommence on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January when we return after the Christmas holidays.



## Music Lessons

All music lessons continue in school with string lessons on a Monday and woodwind on a Tuesday. Fees are now payable on ParentPay. Piano, guitar and ukulele lessons on a Thursday.



## Road Safety Week

On Road safety week (18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> November) Nursery had a special visit from our very own lollipop man Mr Heaney.



## Attendance

At the end of the third month of this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for November will be presented to the winning class at the next whole school assembly. The overall attendance for November was 89.7%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Elliott	P4/5	92.3%
2nd:	Mrs Bateman & Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	91.9%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	91.5%
4th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	87.3%
5th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	85.3%



**Well done to Miss Logan & 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](mailto: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 in Nursery to Primary 7, here in school on Wednesday mornings.



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

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Pastor Billy Jones  
Dunseverick Baptist

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Alice McAlary  
Family Support Worker

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Rev. Sam Livingstone  
Causeway Methodist  
Churches

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Robert Plant

## Diary Dates

<b>Term 1</b>		
End of Term	20-Dec-24	School finishes for all pupils at 12:00 noon
Christmas Holiday	23-Dec-24 to 3-Jan-25 (Inclusive)	School closed to ALL pupils

<b>Term 2</b>		
Start of Term	06-Jan-25	Starts 9:00am sharp.
School Trip	10-Jan-25	P3 to P7. Further details to follow
School Photographer	28-Jan-25	Further details to follow
Half Term Holidays	13-Feb-25 to 18-Feb-25	School closed to ALL pupils
End of Term	15-Apr-25	School day ends at 12 noon for ALL pupils