

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



December 2024
Newsletter

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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.

It's Christmas!

No Doubt this term has been a very busy one and a huge 'Thanks' to everyone who has worked hard over the coming weeks as we approached the Christmas break and prepared for our Christmas production 'A hint of Snow White' which was held last Thursday.

This was once again another success for our school and we are so proud of each and every one of our pupils who once again displayed that Bushmills Primary School does have talent!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year



P6/7 Trip to Ballymoney High School

Primary 6/7 pupils had a great morning at Ballymoney High School on Tuesday 3rd December when they went along to see their production of 'Hairspray'. A super morning, thanks to all the staff and pupils at Ballymoney High School.

Nursery and Primary 1/2 Christmas Trip

Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2 had their Christmas Trip to see Aladdin at the Riverside Theatre. The children even got to meet some of the performers after the show. 🙌



Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner

On Thursday 5th December it was Christmas Dinner Day here in school when all pupils swapped their school jumpers for their festive Christmas jumpers, Santa Hats etc.

Many thanks to Mrs McConachie and the kitchen staff for the delicious dinner which was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils alike.

Ulster Scots - Pupil Workshop



During the month of November and as part of our involvement in the Ulster Scots Schools Programme our pupils in P4/5 and P6/7 have been enjoying 'Piping' workshops which have given them an opportunity to learn a little about bagpipes as well as

the opportunity to learn the chanters.



Many thanks to Robert Couples who came along to share his expertise -perhaps through time we may have a few 'pipers' in the making!



Tesco Fruit and Veg Scheme

Congratulations to Pryia who to was selected as our Tesco fruit for schools scheme gift voucher winner!



Assemblies

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



Wednesday 4th Dec

Alan Buick
(Dunluce Presbyterian)

Wednesday 11th Dec

Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)

Attendance

As we reach the end of the first term, we seek to attain high levels of attendance within our school, however sadly the month of December has dramatically brought our attendance levels down. We hope to see a vast improvement as we begin a new year in January!

The attendance cup for December will be presented to the winning class at the start of the new term. The overall attendance for December was 88.1%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan/ Mrs Elliott	P4/5	92.4%
2nd:	Mrs Sheridan/ Mrs Bateman	P3/4	90.7%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	89.8%
4th:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	87.1%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	81.0%



Well done to Miss Logan and Mrs Elliott'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!

Breakfast Club & Extended Schools

Breakfast Club will recommence again on Monday 6th January at 8:15am. We look forward



to seeing everyone back on this day along with possibly some new faces.

Extended Schools sessions will also recommence on Monday 6th January. Some new clubs are coming this way so please keep an eye on the school app when we return in January.

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 on Monday 6th January 2025 at 10:30am, therefore please ensure your child brings back any books borrowed on that date.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 4/5 class will recommence on Friday 17th January and these will take place every Friday morning at Coleraine Leisure Centre until half-term with the final day being Friday 7th February. Swimming lessons will then commence for the P6/7 class on Friday 21st February. Further details will be sent home with the P6/7 pupils in the New Year.



Parent Pay

Currently there are several outstanding balances on Parent Pay, we would ask that each family check their accounts and settle any outstanding balances as soon as possible. If you have any problems or queries regarding your account/balance, please do not hesitate to contact the school or email rdunbar385@c2ken.net and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Admissions to Nursery & Primary School

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2025, you can apply for their place online from Friday 10th January 2025 at 12:00 noon.

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 24th January 2025.

If you would like to make an appointment to visit in person, please contact the school by phone or email on 028 2073 1416 or jlogan335@c2kni.net

Diary Dates

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	28-Jan-25	Further details to follow
Parent / Teacher Interviews	10-Feb-25 to 12-Feb-25	School will close at 1pm for all pupils each day (Mon-Wed)
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