

Bushmills Primary School
&
Nursery Unit



January 2025
Newsletter

Inside this issue....

New Year! PeterPan Library van	3	Every School Day Counts	8
ParentPay Parent/Teacher Interviews Swimming	4	Fun with Drums Workshops	9
Scripture Union Class Visit Eco-Committee	5	P7 Resilience Workshop Storytelling trip for P6/7	10
Assemblies	6	Diary Dates	11
Attendance	7		

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.

New Year!

As we begin yet another New Year, we look forward with excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead!

Everyone has settled well back into the new term following the Christmas break and all school activities are well underway!

Can I please remind you to continue to keep an eye on our Facebook page, school website and the Schools N.I app as updates continue to be posted on these on a regular basis and I am aware that a number of parents are still not receiving the information on time!

Please also note that should you prefer a hard copy of this newsletter, this can be requested from the school office.

Peter Pan.

All pupils (P3-P7) travelled to the Grand Opera House in Belfast on Friday 10th January to see their production of Peter Pan. Once again our pupils were well mannered and certainly were very well behaved displaying pleasing behaviour at all times! An enjoyable day was had by all!

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 Monday 3rd February.

Parent Pay

Sadly, once again I feel I must continue to 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.

Ending on a positive note, I am delighted to report that during the past number of days some of those parents with quite large outstanding balances have made a super effort to reduce these either greatly or completely!! Many thanks for this.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Don't forget interviews will be held on Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February.

Letters have already been sent out to all pupils and I am taking this opportunity to remind you that reply slips were to be in be returned to your child's class teacher no later than today Friday 31st January.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for our Primary 4/5 class recommenced 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



Scripture Union Class Visit

This month Primary 3, 4 and 5 had Catherine and Callum from Scripture Union in to teach us some of the 'Awesome Miracles' we can find in the Bible. During the three weeks we used the book of Mark to learn about 'Calming the Storm', 'Feeding the 5000' and 'Healing the blind Man'.



Eco-Committee

P3 Representatives: Lacey Connor, Lucy Neill, Olivia Wilmont and Priya Henderson

P4 Representatives: Emma Simpson, Evie McKeown, Molly Wilmont and Sam Moge

P5 Representatives: Emme Gault, Jacob Greer and Reuben McIntyre

P6 Representatives:
Anna Simpson, Caleb Kane, Lola McKay and Rebecca McIntyre

P7 Representatives:
Evie Tweed, Leo McKendry and Lydia Connor



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 8th January

Pastor Billy Jones
(Dunseverick Baptist)

Wednesday 15^h January

Rev Brian Harper
(Dunluce Parish)

Wednesday 22nd January

Robert Plant

Wednesday 29th January

Rev. Sam Livingstone
(Causeway Methodist
Churches)

Attendance

At the end of the first term of this school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for January will be presented to the winning class at the next whole school assembly. The overall attendance for January was 91.8%.

Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Logan & Mrs Elliott	P4/5	95.4%
2nd:	Miss Fulton	P1/2	94.6%
3rd:	Miss Swanson	P6/7	91.0%
4th:	Mrs Bateman & Mrs Sheridan	P3/4	90.4%
5th:	Mrs Garrett & Miss Cochrane	Nur	88.5%



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) 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!

Fun with Drums Workshops

As part of our Extended Schools Programme a large number of pupils have been enjoying 'Fun with Drums' workshops on Thursday afternoons with James. These sessions help pupils to interact and engage with other whilst learning new skills, building confidence and encouraging creativity, As you can see from the photographs a enjoyable time is had by everyone (including the staff). Sadly, there are only two more sessions of these workshops left and these are du to take place on Thursday 6th February and Thursday 20th February.



P7 Resilience Workshop

P7 recently enjoyed taking part in a Resilience Workshop with Richard Reid Coaching. They learnt skills to cope with stress and develop their growth mindset, as well as practical strategies to support their well-being. Thanks Richard for all the tips and resources - we will definitely try some out!

Storytelling trip for P6/7

Primary 6/7 had a great morning on Wednesday at the Courthouse in Bushmills listening to stories told by Colin Urwin. We heard some excellent stories told in different ways, including rhyme, song and folktales, and finished by making our own bookmarks! A great morning enjoyed by all!



Members of the Safeguarding Team

Our safeguarding policy has been updated and copies are available upon request from the school office, please find below a list of our safeguarding team.

Miss Logan

Principal

Miss Fulton

Designated teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Garrett

Deputy designated teacher for Child Protection

Miss J Cochrane

Deputy Designated Teacher

Dr N Cubitt

Board of Governors Chairperson

Ms R Lavery

Designated Governor

Diary Dates

Term 2		
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