

Bushmills Primary
School
&
Nursery Unit



February 2019
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.

WELCOME BACK !

With half term over I know we are all happy to welcome the

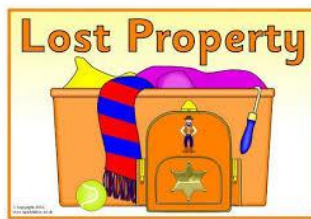
beginning of clearer evenings and say good-bye to the dark winter mornings. I trust everyone enjoyed the break and had a good rest.

Once again we have another busy term ahead so here's hoping it continues to not only be challenging but also enjoyable for all of us!

Lost Property

Have you recently had a sweatshirt, shoes, polo-shirt, trousers, a hat or glove, etc. go missing?? I would like to make all parents aware that we now have a 'Lost Property Box' which is situated in Mrs Collins' office.

Sadly, this box is slowly filling up so please don't forget to 'pop in' just in case something in it may belong to you or your child!



After-Schools

Can I please remind all parents to use the reply slips which have been provided to allow school staff to make arrangements in the afternoons regarding which children are planning to stay for After-Schools which in turn will avoid confusion at the school gate.



After School

Clubs

Can I also ask that parents walk up to the first gate (beside the bicycle shed) to collect their child/children rather than encouraging pupils to run on down to the bottom gate at the side of the road.

Football Tournament

In our first tournament back in the New Year, the kids returned to a very cold and very windy Ballycastle to take part in their 3rd competition as a team.



After losing a very close first game to the hosts, they picked themselves up and battled back to win their second game 2-0.

Unfortunately, after their second game and following an injury, the team failed to gather any more momentum and lost their last 2 games.

Of course no-one likes losing but the kids never fail to play with a smile on their face and we're still able to sing a few songs on the bus journey home!

We will be welcoming the other participating schools to Bushmills Primary School on Thursday 7th March as we host the final set of league games.

We would encourage all parents to come along and show their support to the kids, as from experience nothing beats playing in front of friends and family in your own school, and we would love nothing more than to finish the year on a high.

N.I.F.R.S. - P4/5 Fire Talk

On Friday 8th February we welcomed David and James from the N.I.F.R.S. (Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service) who gave a 'Fire Safety Talk' to our P4/5 Pupils. This proved to be an enjoyable and worthwhile talk when pupils were reminded about 'Fire Safety' in the home.

February in Nursery

This month our topic has been 'People Who Help Us'. We had lots of special visitors. We have had a visit from Fire Service, we got to use a hose and go inside the fire engine. Mr Heaney our crossing patrol person showed us how to cross the road safely., Mrs Klein a dietitian was telling us all about healthy eating. Val from the RNLI taught us the importance of staying safe near water. The PSNI brought their police car and we heard the siren. We also went on a lovely sunny walk to find all the people who help us in Bushmills, we saw the hairdressers, chemist, vet and post office.



P6/7 Art Days

12 of our P6/7 pupils took part in half-term Art Workshops which were planned by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. These took place on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th February and were held at Flowerfield Arts Centre in Portstewart. Miss Glass and Miss Milliken also accompanied the pupils to this event!

Peace Proms

After weeks of rehearsals and lots of planning the big day finally arrived and last Sunday (24th February) our Peace Proms choir travelled to the SSE Arena in Belfast accompanied by Mrs Sheridan, Mrs Witherow and Miss Logan. This, once again, proved to be a great day for all who took part! Thanks to the parents who came along to support us!

The day began with a short rehearsal at 1:00pm followed by the main concert commencing at 3:00pm. Our choir of 19 pupils once again had the opportunity to sing with a choir of around 2000 children as well as perform with the Cross Border Symphony Orchestra. All involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many many thanks and well done to all who took part.



Shared Reading Programme

Primary One and Two had a fantastic trip to Waterstones in Coleraine to mark the conclusion of the Shared Reading Programme. Neil from Waterstones read two very funny stories before the children had the opportunity to browse and select two books for themselves to take home. A great treat for everyone taking part!



R.N.L.I. Charity Update

Our fundraising efforts continue for the local R.N.L.I. I can now let you know that the second count of the pots raised an amazing £93.70 bringing the total raised to date (including the retiring offering at the Christmas Carol Service) to £395.81.

The friendly competition between the classes continues and so far the results are as follows:

Class	2nd Count Total	Total To Date
Nursery	£16.30	£44.45
P1/2	£16.40	£42.75
P2/3	£29.10	£74.95
P4/5	£16.25	£57.50
P6/7	£15.65	£42.91



Breakfast Club

Please be reminded that Breakfast Club runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 8:20am to 8:50am. All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 will be made most welcome. Please note, pupils are then supervised as usual in the playground from 8:50am to 9:00am.



Please also note that final entry to the Breakfast Club will be at 8:40am in order to allow all pupils time to eat their breakfast before heading out to the playground.

I am pleased to report numbers in Breakfast Club are slowly rising but there is still room for lots more!

Library Van Visit!

Please be reminded that the mobile library van visits our school every two weeks on a Monday morning. As the last visit was Monday past (25th February) the next visit is scheduled for Monday 11th March.



Swimming Lessons



Swimming lessons for Primary 6 and 7 pupils start tomorrow morning (Friday 1st March) until Friday 14th June 2019.

Bonjour Amigos



Spanish lessons for all pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7 continue on Friday mornings with 'Bonjour Amigos' language tutor, Christina McGarvey. I am also delighted to add that Nursery pupils have recently started Spanish lessons as well.

Extended Schools - Sports

Please be reminded that there are only 2 'Sports' sessions left for Primary 1 and 2 pupils. The details are as follows:

- Tuesday
- 2:00pm - 3:00pm
- 5th March
- 12th March



February Assemblies

Again we continue to welcome visitors to our whole school assemblies which are held every Wednesday morning. During the month of February, we had the following visitors:



assembly

Wednesday 7th February

Rev. Cubitt
(Bushmills Presbyterian)

Wednesday 13th February

Chancellor Graham
(Dunluce Parish)

Wednesday 20th February

Rev McLernon
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)

Wednesday 27th February

Alice McAlary
(Family Support Worker)

Attendance

The Attendance Cup for February will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 6th March 2019. The school's overall average attendance for the month of February was 91.6%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs McAllister / Miss Cochrane (P1/2)	95.3%
2nd:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	94.1%
3rd:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	92.0%
4th:	Miss Logan / Mrs Witherow (P4/5)	91.9%
5th:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	85%

**Well Done Mrs McAllister's & Miss
Cochrane's P1/2 class!**



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!!

Farewell Mrs McAllister!

Bushmills Primary School held a very special assembly in the school on Thursday 14th February when they paid tribute to their longest serving member of staff Mrs Heather McAllister who had faithfully served the school and its community for 34 years.

Family, Friends, Governors, Staff (past and present), Pupils and Parents filled the hall to say 'Farewell' to Mrs McAllister. Principal, Miss Jayne Logan got proceedings underway by welcoming everyone who had come along to this special occasion before pupils and staff joined in singing one of Mrs McAllister's favourite assembly songs, 'My Lighthouse'. Miss Logan then paid tribute to Mrs McAllister describing her as a well-respected member of the team who had displayed remarkable enthusiasm, devotion and commitment during the past 34 years when she had taught a range of classes from Primary 7 right down to Primary 1.

Head Girl and Head Boy (Amber Greer and Aaron Adair) then recited a poem entitled 'Why God Made Teachers' before a PowerPoint presentation displaying pictures of Mrs McAllister (drawn by each child in the school) was shown.

Rev. Dr N Cubitt (Chairperson of the Board of Governors) then formally thanked Mrs McAllister for her outstanding years of service to the school and on behalf of Governors wished her well in her years of retirement.

Teacher Miss Stephanie Fulton who had worked alongside Mrs McAllister for over 14 years described her as a committed, inventive and loving teacher who would without doubt be greatly missed at the school. Finally, Miss Marie Glass who had also worked very closely with Mrs McAllister for many years in the classroom spoke of her love and kindness not only towards her as a member of staff but also towards all the children who were in her care on a daily basis.

Mrs Lorraine Purcell then presented Mrs McAllister with a gift on behalf of the school's PTA before Amber (Head Girl) and Aaron (Head Boy) along with Leo and Sophia (Primary 1 pupils) presented her with a selection of gifts and cards from the pupils.

Following the presentations Mrs McAllister then spoke to thank all who had come along to this memorable assembly and to acknowledge all pupils and staff (past and present) who had supported her throughout her time at the school. She reminisced on her years at the school as being, 'the happiest days spent in a school which she described as being her family for the past 34 years'. She concluded by wishing the school, its staff and pupils, the very best in the years that lie ahead and hoped that the school would continue to go from strength to strength!

The assembly concluded with a video presentation which had been specially created and included footage of all staff and pupils relaying their 'Best Wishes' to Mrs McAllister.



Star of the Week

Each week one pupil from each class will be rewarded for their achievements. A special assembly is held each Friday afternoon to celebrate these awards. During the month of February, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week'.



	1st Feb	8th Feb	22nd Feb
Yr 1	Lucy Parke	Jake Allen	Grace Mogeey
Yr 2	Paige Greer	Madison McKeeman	Alex McLaughlin
Yr 3	Lily-Mae McAfee	Millie Montgomery	Isaac Horner
Yr 4	Megan Taggart	Charlie McMullan	Brooke Cummins
Yr 5	Jay Parke	Georgia Gault	Kelbie Burns
Yr 6	Charlie Millar	Teya Cummins	Lucy McKay
Yr 7	Haleigh Crawford	Karen Walker	Devon Sharkey

Footballer of the Week

The following players of the week have been picked for the month of February:

	1st Feb	8th Feb	22nd Feb
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Leo McKendry	No Footballer of the week due to a football tournament in Ballycastle	Sam Thompson
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Caprice McCrellis		Lucy McKay

Diary Dates

Term 2			
Book Fair	27-Mar-17 03-Apr-19	to	
Parent/Teacher Interviews	10-Apr-19 11-Apr-19	&	2:00pm - 4:00pm All pupils (P1 to P7) finish at 1:50pm
End of Term (Easter)	12-Apr-19		All pupils (P1 to P7) finish at 1:50pm
Easter Vacation	15-Apr-19 26-Apr-19	to	Inclusive

Please note the Parent/Teacher Interviews and
Easter Holiday Dates

Term 3

Start of Term	29-Apr-19	9:00am sharp
Revision Week (P1-P4)	29-Apr-19 to 3-May-19	Inclusive
May Bank Holiday	06-May-19	
Assessment Week (P1-P4)	07-May-19 to 10-May-19	Inclusive
Revision Week (P5-P7)	07-May-19 to 10-May-19	Inclusive
Assessment Week (P5-P7)	13-May-19 to 17-May-19	Inclusive
Sports Day	23-May-19	Weather permitting
School Closure	24-May-19 to 27-May-19	Inclusive
Rewards Day	14-Jun-19	
Prize Day	21-Jun-19	
Nursery Graduation	28-Jun-19	9:30am
End of Term	28-Jun-19	12:00 Noon

Car Park Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked down by their teachers to the school gate, where they **must be collected.**

I would again request that cars **should not** be entering the school grounds to drop off or pick up pupils as the safety of our children is paramount!