

Bushmills Primary  
School  
&  
Nursery Unit



May 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.

## Here comes Summer

Where has the past year gone? As I think back to September it's hard to believe another school year is almost gone.

At this time of year, we do think about our Primary 7 pupils, who received their placement letters on Saturday past, which have determined where the next chapter of their educational journey will begin. I am delighted to report that **all pupils** have been placed in their first preference schools and are looking forward with excitement to moving to those places. Final destinations are: Dunluce School and Coleraine Grammar School.

Meanwhile, once again life here in school continues to be busy and our pupils need to be congratulated on all their achievements to date (whether within school and outside!) Well done to you all!

Can I also take this opportunity to say 'Thanks' to you as parents for co-operating with us here in school throughout the year - your on-going support is always appreciated and valued!



## All Set for Causeway Fun Farm!

On Friday 3rd May, the boys and girls from Nursery headed off on their school trip to Causeway fun farm. During the day, we had the opportunity to take part in lots of fun activities. Our busy day started in the indoor play area, where we played on the swings, slide, ball pool and also got to shoot balls out of the cannons. We then got to meet guinea pigs and rabbits and feed the kid goats their breakfast. The children also met calves, pot-bellied pigs and baby chicks. We then headed to the fields and fed some goats, donkeys and Shetland ponies. Our day ended with a picnic lunch and another play in the indoor play area. Needless to say, we had a fantastic fun day out.



## Nursery 100

On Friday 17th May Nursery held their annual sponsored trike ride. This year we decided to tie it in with the North West 200. Our plan was to raise £100 for Nursery funds, however we raised a fantastic £633. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that kindly donated. We have already ordered a musical stand which we hope will be up in the next few weeks.



## Dublin

On Tuesday 28th May 21 pupils along with 4 staff members set sail at 7:30am to head to Dublin for this year's residential trip. A busy and fantastic time was had by all.

**Day One:** A great time was had by all at the zoo. We then had dinner, followed by some outdoor play before a movie night and hot chocolate. Everyone enjoyed a great day and looked forward to bedtime!



**Day Two:** Another fabulous day in Dublin. The children had a great day splashing about on the Viking splash tour, had their Willy Wonka hat on at the Butler chocolate tour, then spent all their money shopping and finished

off the night with a game of bowling. What a day!

**Day Three:** What a busy day to end a fun filled trip. After breakfast in the morning all bags were packed and the bus loaded up to set sail for Tayto Park which really was the highlight for many. Pupils enjoyed an hour in the Adventure Zone followed by a hot lunch and a guided tour of the animals! Following that the rest of the day allowed pupils to access all areas within the park choosing which rides they wanted to have a go on - sometimes once was just not enough. Time was spent in the shop

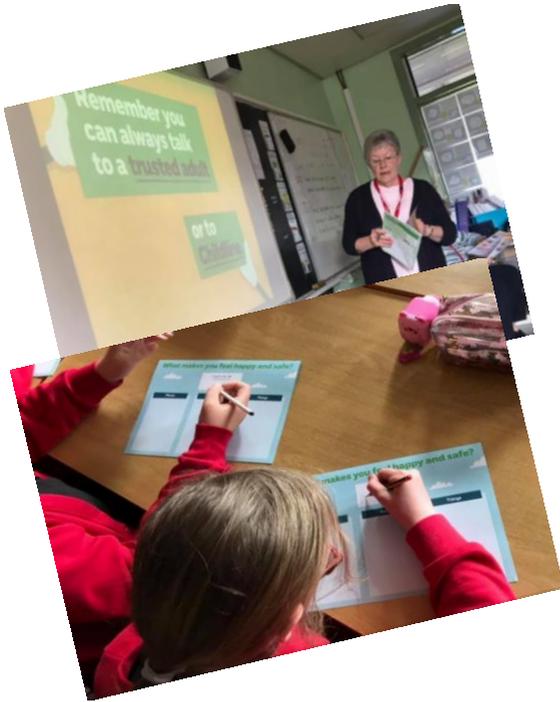


just to make sure that purses would be emptied before we headed for home calling at McDonald's on the way. Shortly after seven we reached Bushmills with 21 very tired boys and girls and of course not forgetting the adults (and Gerry!).

## Speak Out! Stay Safe!

On Tuesday 21st May, 3 representatives, Diana Campbell, Paula Mayrs and Pat Eardley, from the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) visited our school to deliver the 'Speak Out! Stay Safe!' programme to all pupils in Primaries 1 to 7.

The aim of this programme is to ensure all pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. Talks were given to all classes followed by a workshop designed specifically for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. The day proved to be not only enjoyable but also very informative for all pupils. Many thanks to the volunteers!



## Go Golf UU!

The first golf coaching session took place here in school on Wednesday 22nd May (from 3:00pm to 4:00pm). The remaining three sessions will take place on Wednesday 5th June, Wednesday 12th June and Wednesday 19th June with the celebration event taking place on Monday 17th June.

15 (Primary 5 to Primary 7) pupils have signed up for this fun initiative and already feedback has been very positive.



## Sports Day!

WOW! What a day - Thursday 23rd May proved weather forecasters wrong and ended up being one of the best days of the week!

Events got underway just before 10:00am and pupils took part in a wide range of track events (running, egg & spoon, ball & bat, etc.) and field events (long jump, high jump, javelin, etc.) throughout the morning. Nursery pupils then joined us to take part in their selected races before the day concluded with the popular House challenge event.



Thanks to everyone who came along and a special word of thanks to P.T.A. committee members who provided refreshments throughout the morning. Well done to all!

## Military Band

On Thursday 30th May we had a very special visit from the Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Lancashire Division).

All staff and pupils (Nursery to Primary 7) enjoyed hearing all about the band and the many places they have visited and the events they have taken part in.

The band entertained all the children with musical hits from 'The Greatest Showman', 'Lord of the Dance', Disney and some traditional military tunes. The children also got a quick lesson on all the instruments, with some getting an opportunity to try them out for themselves. Before the band left they answered some questions from the children.



## 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 third count of the pots raised a further £105.15 bringing the total raised to date to £500.96.

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

Class	3rd Count Total	Total To Date
Nursery	£36.40	£80.85
P1/2	£12.40	£55.15
P2/3	£30.30	£105.25
P4/5	£24.40	£81.90
P6/7	£1.65	£44.56



## Extended Schools Programme

Please be reminded that the following clubs will continue during June as listed below:



**Tuesday Tennis** P1 to P3 2:00pm to 3:00pm  
P4 to P7 3:00pm to 4:00pm  
(Tuesday 4th, Tuesday 11th, Tuesday 18th, Tuesday 25th)

**Thursday Football** P1 to P3 2:00pm to 3:00pm  
P4 to P7 3:00pm to 4:00pm  
(Thursday 13th, Thursday 20th)

## Breakfast Club

Just a quick reminder that Breakfast Club continues as usual on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 8:20am and 8:50am.

Again can I please remind you that Breakfast Club does not open until 8:20am.



## Football



Football continues on Thursday afternoons for pupils in Primaries 1 to 3 between 2:00pm and 3:00pm and pupils in Primaries 4 to 7 between 3:00pm and 4:00pm. Final sessions will take place on Thursday 20th June 2019.

Once again this year, Bushmills Primary School is hosting a football tournament. Already 7 teams have signed up and all being well and weather permitting this will be held here in school on Thursday 13th June 2019 at 10:00am. We encourage parents to come along and help cheer on our footballers!

## Swimming Lessons

Please note, due to other school activities, there are only 2 swimming lessons left this year for our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. These will take place on Friday 7th June and Friday 14th June.



## Library Van Visit



Please note the final two visits from the mobile library van are scheduled for:

- Monday 3rd June
- Monday 17th June

Please ensure all books are returned prior to the summer break.

## May Assemblies

Once again we welcomed visitors to our whole school assemblies held on Wednesday mornings here in school. These were taken by:

Wednesday 1st May

Dr. Cubitt  
(Bushmills Presbyterian)

Wednesday 8th May

Chancellor Graham  
(Dunluce Parish)

Wednesday 15th May

Alice McAlary  
(Family Support Worker)

Wednesday 22nd May

Rev. Buick  
(Dunluce Presbyterian)

Wednesday 29th May

Rev. McLernon  
(Bushmills Free Presbyterian)



## Attendance

The Attendance Cup for May will be presented at a whole school assembly on Wednesday 5th June. The school's overall average attendance for the month of May was 93.8%. Results are as follows:

1st:	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	97.9%
2nd:	Miss Cochrane (P1/2)	94.1%
3rd:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	93.3%
4th:	Miss Logan (P4/5)	93.0%
5th:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	90.4%



### Well Done Miss Fulton's class!

Sadly (following my recent letter), again an increasing number of our pupils are arriving late in school and also an increasing number of our pupils are being collected early in the afternoons with no valid reason being provided. It has also been noted that this has become a somewhat major occurrence especially on Friday afternoons. Again can I remind you as parents, of the finishing times for all pupils as set out below:

<b>P1 &amp; P2</b>	1.50pm daily
<b>P3</b>	1.50pm Tuesday & Thursday 3.00pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday
<b>P4 -P7</b>	3.00pm daily

Please, please, where possible, help us to ensure that this situation does not get out of hand!!!

## 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!**

## Footballer of the Week

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



	2nd May	9th May	16th May	23rd May	30th May
Yr 1 to Yr 3	No Football	Sam Thompson	Leo McKendry	No Football	Hayden Parke
Yr 4 to Yr 7		Alex Hogg	Sam Hogg		Noah Cerutti

## School Collections

Can I please remind you that once you collect your child at the school in the afternoons, they are your responsibility! Sadly, it has been brought to my attention (and also noted by myself and school staff) that a number of our pupils are running around especially across the main driveway leading into the school and are also climbing walls just opposite the bicycle shed.



Please also be reminded that the school's crossing patrol, Mr Carleton, is there to ensure that children are crossed over safely (both to and from school) therefore we would encourage you to avail of this service.

Finally, I would urge all parent/carers to take responsibility before something serious would happen to one of our pupils!

## Diary Dates

Term 3		
P.T.A. Spring Fair	06-Jun-19	All out at 1:00pm (following lunch) to allow set up for the Summer Fair
Rewards Day	14-Jun-19	
P4 - P7 End of Year trip	19-Jun-19	Leaving school at 9:00am returning at 3:30pm
Prize Day	21-Jun-19	10:00am - please note school will finish for all pupils @ 12:15pm (following Prize Day)
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!