

Bushmills Primary School  
&  
Nursery Unit



September 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.

## September - Over already!!!

On Monday 2nd September, Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit opened its doors yet again as the new term got underway! All too soon we have reached the end of September and tomorrow marks the beginning of a new month.

As you are aware all activities here in school are now well underway and pupils and staff are settled well into the daily routine of school life here in Bushmills. Can I just say "Thanks" to you the parents for your continued support in helping your child/children settle into the new school term. (Please continue to check school bags as from time to time notes are sent out and quite often these can be overlooked!)

Please also be reminded that from time to time updates are posted on our Facebook page and through our new SeeSaw app. If you haven't already signed up to the free app, I would encourage you to do so as it is a good way to enhance home-school communication between school and you, the parents. Please be reminded that only parents are allowed to comment not pupils.



# House Captains

Our newly appointment House Captains for 2019-2020 are as follows:

<b>Lissanduff</b>	-	Teya-Louise Cummins
Deputy	-	Alison Nutt
<b>Portcamon</b>	-	Kayleigh Parke
Deputy	-	Kelbie Burns
<b>Klondyke</b>	-	Millie Parke
Deputy	-	Matthew Mairs
<b>Blackrock</b>	-	Charlie Millar
Deputy	-	Daniel Kerr

Congratulations to our newly appointed Captains and Deputies and we wish them well for the coming year as they each take on this new and exciting challenge.



Also congratulations to our incoming Head Boy and Head Girl (Alex Hogg and Lucy McKay) as they represent our school on what we hope will be another successful year for Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit.

## Eco-Committee and School Council

The new committee had their first meeting on Wednesday 25th September to elect new officials for the year. They are as follows:

Chairperson	Alex Hogg
Vice-Chairperson	Alfie Neill
Secretary	Lucy McKay & Alison Nutt
P.R.O.	Matthew McAleese & Sophie Greer



Committee members: Becky McKay, Cameryn Greer, Ruby-Jane Waller and Sam Thompson

The committee have lots of exciting ideas for this year. Further details will follow in due course.



## Medical Information

As you are already aware there is now a requirement for schools to update their pupil's records with regards to 'medically prescribed needs'. This also means that the responsibility lies with you, the parents/guardians to ensure we as a school are informed **immediately** if your child requires 'special medication' such as an inhaler to treat asthma, an EpiPen to treat severe allergies etc.

As a school we are now obliged to seek a letter from your GP to confirm any such conditions. If this is the case, please make contact with your GP and the school to confirm any such conditions. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Logan or your child's class teacher as soon as possible!



## Charity of the Year

Just a quick reminder that the school's chosen charity for the remainder of this calendar year (up to the end of December) is Portrush R.N.L.I. All pupils have been reminded to continue collecting 5p coins for their jam jars and all class totals are due to be collected again at the end of October. (Don't forget a prize is awarded to the class with the highest total. Only 2 opportunities left!!) A few jam jars are still available from the school office if any pupils has lost theirs!



# Lifeboats

## RADAR Visit

Thursday 19th September proved to be an exciting day for our Primary 6 and 7 class as they travelled (along with Mrs Sheridan and Miss Milliken) to the RADAR (Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource) Centre in Belfast.

This is not the first time our school has visited the centre and once again the class represented our school well.

Opened in December 2015, RADAR is interactive, informative and fun and is Northern Ireland's first fully interactive, safety and life skills education centre. Throughout the visit pupils took part in a range of interactive workshops on Road Safety, Fire Safety, E-Safety, Personal Safety and Youth Justice. The centre contained a full sized street scene with a house, bus, train, court room, prison cell, shop, police station and much more. As you can imagine a great day out was had by all and the evidence can be seen in just a few of the photographs below.



## Safety Reminder

Sadly, over the month of September I have noticed (and have been made aware) of a few actions which I feel could put the safety of our pupils (your children!) at risk. I would again ask you to take note of the following:



Some parents are still continuing to drive into the school grounds in order to drop off or collect pupils. If you feel this is something that you have to do (perhaps for health reasons) then I would ask that you come and speak to me and I am sure we can come to some agreement. Sadly, this is not the case with a number of people therefore I would insist that you do not drive in the school grounds as pupil's safety is our top priority!

Due to Health and Safety concerns which have been raised, when dropping off and collecting your child/children, I would ask that you walk children along the path and not over the driveway. Also when crossing the road please use the school's crossing patrol, as failure to do so can cause confusion for drivers passing by who concentrate on the designated crossing patrol outside school gates especially in the afternoons when it can be extremely busy.

I would urge you all to adhere to my requests as unfortunately too many accidents happen outside school gates and I am sure you would agree we do not want the gates of Bushmills Primary on the news for this reason!

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Money, Money, Money

Could I please request that when organising your child for the week ahead at school, you complete the money slips provided and send, where possible, the exact amount required, if you are aware of the plans for the week ahead (regarding dinner money and extended school's money). Please where possible send all monies on a Monday morning.



Please be reminded that all pupils now go to the canteen at snack time in the morning and I am delighted to report that this is going well.

Please only send small amounts of money each day for your child's snack as on occasions money is being lost and is causing distress and upset to both parents and pupils.

## Water Bottles

Just a quick reminder that all pupils in Primary 2- Primary 7 should now have their own "School Water Bottles" which have been marked clearly with their name. Rather than paying for water on a monthly basis, pupils can now bring their own personalised bottles with them to school each day.



Please note, that these bottles should be filled at home with water only, if required these can be refilled at school throughout the day. If for any reason your child requires another water bottle, these can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.50.

## School Bags

Please note that new school bags have been ordered with the school logos and these are now available from the school office at a cost of £4.50. Can I remind you that these are only available for pupils in Primaries 1 to 3.



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20am to 8:50am at a small charge of £1.00. Pupils can choose from a selection of cereals (Cornflakes, Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Shreddies, Weetabix) as well as toast and apple juice or milk.

Once pupils have finished breakfast and if time is available there is the opportunity for them to relax and read a book! (Please note older pupils even use this opportunity to read to the younger pupils)

Please note that supervision in the playground begins each morning at 8:50am - sadly I see an increasing number of pupils (in the senior playground (P4 - P7)) arriving in school very early before supervision begins. I would love to see those arriving early coming in to Breakfast Club!

\*\*\* Please remember Breakfast Club is for **all pupils** -  
Nursery to Primary 7\*\*\*



## Music Lessons

I am delighted to report that 10 pupils are currently taking piano lessons with Mrs Lynne White every Thursday.

Four of our pupils are also taking violin lessons with Miss Leeson (EA Music Service Tutor) and 3 of our pupils undertaking woodwind tuition (Flutes and Clarinets) with Music Tutor, Mrs Kutlu. Both on Tuesday mornings!



## Library Van Visits

Just a quick reminder that the mobile library van will be visiting our school on the following dates:

- Monday 7 th October 2019
- Monday 21st October 2019
- Monday 4th November 2019
- Monday 18th November 2019
- Monday 2nd December 2019
- Monday 16th December 2019



## Swimming lessons



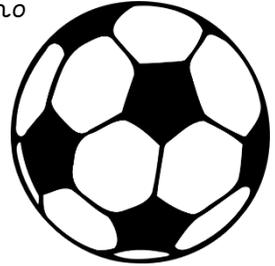
Swimming Lessons for Primary 4/5 pupils have now commenced. These take place on Friday mornings at Coleraine Leisure Centre and will run until Friday 14th February.

## Football Practice

Football practice takes place on Thursday afternoons from 2:00pm to 3:00pm (P1 to P3) and 3:00pm to 4:00pm (P4 to P7). Please be reminded that Football practice is only aimed at pupils who have an interest in this sport.

Sadly, over the first few weeks' a number of pupils attending the football sessions are not participating willingly which results in wasted time for those children who are interested in learning football skills.

I would therefore ask that you discuss this with your child and would ask that only pupils who are interested in football attend the club!



## Extended Schools

Sadly, we have notice a decline in the number of pupils attending our Extended Schools Clubs. Please be reminded that these take place on the following days:

### MONDAY

P1 + P2 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00

P1 + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00

P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00

### TUESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00

P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm-3pm) - £2.00

P1, P2 + P3 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00

P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm-4pm) - £2.00

## WEDNESDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00

P1 + P2 - (2pm - 3pm) - £2.00

P1 + P2 - (2pm - 4pm) - £3.00

P3, P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00

## THURSDAY

Breakfast Club - (8.20am - 8.50am) - £1.00

Football - P1, P2 + P3 (2pm-3pm) - £2.00

Football - P4, P5, P6 + P7 - (3pm - 4pm) - £2.00

Please find below a list of the different planned activities that will be taking place during Extended Schools Club

Monday - Arts and Crafts

Tuesday - Homework Club / Team building activities and challenges

Wednesday - Adult led activities / Construction / Team building activities and challenges  
**Cookery Club will commence after Christmas**

Thursday - Football

Additional activities will be added in due course and information will become available when confirmed.

Staff put a lot of thought and effort into organising the range of activities on offer and your on-going support would be greatly encouraged and much appreciated.



## Attendance

As we begin a new school year, we seek to continue to attain high levels of attendance within our school. The attendance cup for September will be presented in school on Wednesday (2nd October) at our whole school assembly. The overall attendance for September was 93.2%

Results are as follows:

1st:	Mrs Sheridan (P6/7)	94.6%
2nd equal:	Mrs Garrett (Nursery)	
	Miss Fulton (P2/3)	94.4%
4th:	Miss Logan &	
	Mrs Witherow (P4/5)	94.1%
5th:	Miss Troy (P1/2)	88.8%



**Well Done Mrs Sheridan's Class!**

## Punctuality

Sadly, it is with a tinge of sadness that now, with only one month of school past, I have to bring up the issue of punctuality. Unfortunately, already it has been noticed that a number of our pupils are continually arriving in school late and long after the starting time of 9:00am. As you are aware this causes some disruption to classes as registers are completed and monies collected and sent to the office by 9:15am. I would ask you as parents to ensure that this does not happen (I am aware that on occasions situations may arise which cannot be avoided) on a regular basis.



## 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!**

## Star of the Week

This year we are continuing to reward one pupil from each class every week for their achievements. Our special 'Feel Good Friday' assembly is held every Friday afternoon to celebrate these awards. As well as receiving a certificate each 'Star of the Week' pupil gets to dip their hand into a 'treat box' where they pull out a special treat for the following week. Treats include: ten minutes extra play for a whole class', sit on the teacher's chair for a day, get to the start of the snack line every day for a week to name but a few. Finally, on top of this each star of the week receives a ticket which will be raffled at the end of each term along with those pupils who have had full attendance (at the end of each month) and a special prize will be given!

During the month of September, the following pupils were awarded 'Star of the Week':

	6th Sept	13th Sept	20th Sept	27th Sept
Yr 1	Anna Simpson	Lola McKay	Logan-James McKillop	Oscar Liken
Yr 2	Adam McConachie	Jake Allen	Grace Mogy	Lucy Parke
Yr 3	Kaley Corscadden	Summer Montgomery	Cameryn Greer	Logan Scott
Yr 4	Harvey Gault	Emma Neill	Ollie Costello	Millie Montgomery
Yr 5	Kailan Boyce	Sam Hogg	Charlotte Hume	Iona Sharkey
Yr 6	Millie Parke	Megan Mulholland	Kelbie Burns	Alfie Neill
Yr 7	Charlie Millar	Teya-Louise Cummins	Ella McKay	Katie Jamieson

## Footballer of the Week

Again this year each week one pupils from each football session is picked as 'Footballer of the Week'. The following players have been picked for the month of September:

	20th Sept	27th Sept
Yr 1 to Yr 3	Ella McMullan	Leo McKendry
Yr 4 to Yr 7	Evan Cauley	Isaac Horner

## Car Park Reminder

Could I please remind parents that all pupils (when leaving school) will be walked by their teachers to the school gate, beside the bicycle shed, 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!

## Diary Dates

<h1>Term 1</h1>		
New School Year Begins	02-Sep-19	9:00am sharp
Harvest Assembly	16-Oct-19	10:00am
Parent / Teacher Interviews	23-Oct-19 & 24-Oct-19	2:00pm to 4:00pm
Half Term Break	25-Oct-19	School finishes at 1:50pm for all pupils
Half Term	28-Oct-19 to 01-Nov-19	Inclusive
Back to School	04-Nov-19	9:00am Sharp
Open Morning	28-Nov-19	9:15am to 10:30am
Christmas Production P1-P7	12-Dec-19	Further details to follow
Staff Training Day	13-Dec-19	School closed for ALL pupils
Nursery Christmas Production	19-Dec-19	Further details to follow
End of Term (Christmas)	20-Dec-19	Annual Carol Service @ 10:30am. Further details to follow
Christmas Vacation	23-Dec-19 to 03-Jan-20	Inclusive



Education  
Authority

# Free School Meals and Uniform Grant

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you receive a qualifying benefit, your child may be eligible for free school meals and assistance towards a school uniform.



## ELIGIBILITY

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** you can apply if your child is in full-time education and you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

**Student(s):** you can apply if the course you are studying is a full-time course and you are receiving a qualifying benefit in your own name.

## HOW TO APPLY

Application forms and instructions are available at:

- 📄 [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help)
- 📄 Jobs and Benefits Offices
- 📄 Your child's school or college
- 📄 Community Advice Centres
- 📄 EA Offices

## CONTACT US

You can call your local Education Authority office:

- EA Belfast Office 028 9056 4000
- EA Ballymena Office 028 2566 1355
- EA Dundonald Office 028 9056 6200
- EA Armagh Office 028 3751 2523
- EA Omagh Office 028 8241 1496



more information is available at:

**[www.eani.org.uk/financial-help](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help)**

Eligibility to Free Schools Meals and the Uniform Grant is subject to Dept of Education Criteria and Education Authority approval