



## Welcome to Bushes Primary's **August & September** Newsletter!

Welcome back to what I am certain will be another exciting year at Bushes and I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Over these first few weeks it has been wonderful to see our new P1 pupils settle in so well and to welcome back our P2-P7 pupils. I am extremely grateful to you all for your efforts in ensuring your children come to school every day looking smart in their uniforms. It really does help to create a united school with pupils who are proud to be a part of the Bushes family and who are ready to learn and succeed. I am very excited for the year ahead and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all.



### Staffing and Classes

At the end of term in June we said goodbye to Mr Clyne, one of our Primary 6 teachers. He leaves with our best wishes in his future teaching career.

This year we are delighted to welcome a number of staff to Bushes' team. Miss Lucy Bremner and Miss Laura Thomson join us and will work with Primary 3 and Primary 5 respectively and we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Jean Ann Lees in Primary 3. In our Early Learning and Childcare Class we are delighted to have Mrs Sharon Richardson join us on a permanent basis as an Early Learning and Childcare Officer.

In June, I wrote to inform you of Mrs Tracey McNally's success at interview to become Principal Teacher at Heriot Primary on a temporary basis. Mrs McNally will be with us until she starts her new post sometime in September.

I am also delighted to announce that following a successful Interview Charmaine Muir has been appointed as a Classroom Assistant, funded through our Pupil Equity Fund (PEF), until June 2020. We welcome Charmaine to Bushes and look forward to her joining the team.

<b>Primary 1a</b>	Miss Katie Boyle	<b>Primary 4/5</b>	Mrs Michelle Moseley and Mrs Jennifer Hendry
<b>Primary 1b</b>	Mrs Diane Irvine	<b>Primary 5</b>	Miss Laura Thomson
<b>Primary 1/2</b>	Miss Emma Roseman	<b>Primary 6a</b>	Mrs Kirsty MacLeod and Mrs Alison Warnock
<b>Primary 2a</b>	Mrs Anne Marie Bowden	<b>Primary 6b</b>	Mrs Lynn Paterson and Miss Hannah Flood
<b>Primary 2/3</b>	Mrs Kathryn Wake and Mrs Kirsty Diver	<b>Primary 7a</b>	Mrs Pauline MacIntosh
<b>Primary 3a</b>	Miss Lucy Bremner and Mrs Donna McConnell	<b>Primary 7b</b>	Mr Andrew Forrester
<b>Primary 3b</b>	Mrs Jean Ann Lees	<b>NCCT</b>	Miss Hannah Flood Mrs Kirsty Diver Mrs Jennifer Hendry Mrs Abigail Bryan
<b>Primary 4a</b>	Mr Scott Bannerman	<b>Pupil Equity Fund</b>	Mr Neil Ramsay
<b>Primary 4b</b>	Miss Laura Sweeney		



### Celebrating Children's Successes!

I have had some lovely visits over the past few weeks from boys and girls who have been very keen to share with me their successes outside of school. I have been visited by children who have received awards for all sorts of clubs; swimming, dancing and Boys Brigade to name but a few. I have been tweeting about each of these successes at the end of each visit – why not follow us @BushesPrimary to stay up-to-date with these. We are looking forward to coming together as a school soon to celebrate these and other successes at the first 'Celebrating Success' assembly of this school year.



## Keeping in Touch

The school has its own Twitter account. We regularly tweet reminders of important events and sharing successes. It is also a great place to ask any general questions you have such as start and finish times of school events however we would ask that any child-specific questions are directed through the school office. You don't need to have a Twitter account to access it, just search for @BushesPrimary in your search engine. If you do have Twitter, why not follow us!

We are continuously updating and adding new features to the school website. Keep checking our website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/bushes/> for the latest news and information from Bushes Primary.

Our annual Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan are also available on the school website.

Lastly, a reminder that due to a recent upgrade in the telephone system, when the school contacts you the message 'No Caller ID' may appear on your phone. If we do try to contact you, and there is the facility to leave a voicemail message then we will do so. However if you do not have this facility on your phone and you have a missed call from 'No Caller ID' please contact us to check if we have tried to contact you.

## Nut Free School



I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school. Nuts and products containing nuts e.g. Nutella, Snickers bars etc. should not be brought into school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

We are also a school that promotes healthy eating. A number of children have been bringing large bottles and cans of fizzy juice with them to school. I would appreciate your support in not sending your child into school with these fizzy drinks as we have found consuming them can make it harder for children to concentrate.



## Primary 7 Gleniffer High School Open Night

There will be an Open Night held in Gleniffer High School for parents of Primary 7 pupils on Thursday 26th September at 6.30pm. Primary 7 pupils are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by an adult.

## Pupil Equity Fund



As part of our Pupil Equity Fund Plan for this session I am delighted to announce that Miss Sweeney, Mr Bannerman, Mrs Wake, Mrs Moseley, Mrs MacLeod, Mrs Irvine, Mr Ramsay and Mr Forrester will be our Family Learning Coordinators. They will be offering a variety of events, workshops and information sessions, all aimed at supporting our pupils and their families. I am really excited to continue to build on the work begun by last year's Family Learning Coordinators and these posts are made possible by the money we have received as part of the Pupil Equity Fund. Further details will be announced soon-watch this space!



## School Photographs

Tempest photographers will be visiting the school on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October. Once the photographs have been taken, proofs will be sent home for you to decide if you wish to purchase any of the photographs. Instructions for ordering and payment information will be included with the proofs, however you are under no obligation to make a purchase. We would ask that all pupils come to school in full school uniform on these days.



## P6 Residential Trip

Our Primary 6 pupils will have the opportunity to attend a residential trip to Lockerbie Manor from Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March. Mrs Paterson will be holding an information evening on Monday 26th August from 6pm-7pm. Primary 6 pupils are invited to attend but must be accompanied by an adult.



## 'Meet the Teacher' Evening

An opportunity to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' evening will be offered on Wednesday 11th September between 5pm and 7pm. A letter with further details will follow shortly but for now, make sure you save this date!



## Parent Council

We have a very active and supportive Parent Council and I am very appreciative of everything they do for the school. Last year they raised over £6000 which was used for a variety of actions which benefitted pupils including: repairs to the outdoor trim trail; subsidised school trips; and purchasing new playground toys. We are always looking for new members and I would encourage you to support the vital work the Parent Council does for the school. Parent Council meetings are usually scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month and are held in the staff room at 6.30pm.

The first Parent Council meeting of the new school session will be the AGM. This is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd September at 6.30pm in the staff room. All parents and carers are invited and welcome and I look forward to seeing lots of you there.

The first Parent Council event for pupils this session will be a disco on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Further details regarding this event will follow in due course.

## Safe Entry to School



A reminder that children should enter and exit the school building at 9am and 3pm in their class lines through the doors allocated to their classes. No parent or carer should be entering or exiting the building through these doors. If a child arrives at school after the outside doors have been closed then they should enter the school through the main entrance and report to the school office. If as a parent or carer you need to collect your child for an appointment, accompany them when they are arriving late to school or wish simply to drop their lunch or school bag off, you must report upon your arrival to the school office and a member of the clerical team will assist you. I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this.



## Parental Support Videos

On our website we have recently added some videos which we hope you will find to be an innovative and useful resource as you support your child to complete homework and develop their learning at home. I first created these 41 videos in early 2016 in my last 2 weeks as a member of the Senior Management Team at Woodlands Primary in Cumbernauld to empower parents. By letting you see how your child is being taught key concepts in class we hope you can use these videos to help and guide you as you support your child's learning at home. They are also an excellent resource to use with your child if they are finding homework challenging. You can access these videos from the homepage of our website or specifically at this address:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/bushes/parental-support-videos-homepage/>



## Wet Weather Arrangements

A reminder regarding procedures for mornings with inclement weather. Entrance doors at the P2 and P3 classrooms will be opened at 8.50am by members of the management team. Pupils will be allowed to enter the school where they will be supervised. Please note that we do not have enough space to accommodate adults accompanying their children into the school building and would ask you drop off children at the P2 and P3 entrance points. Thank you for your support in this.



## Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices



If you deem it necessary for your child to bring a mobile phone with them to school it must be switched off and kept in their school bag at all times. Children are not permitted to use their mobile phones within school time and the school takes no responsibility if they are lost or damaged. Children should not be using their mobile phones to take videos or photographs within the school grounds.

Children should not be bringing other electronic devices to school to use at break times or golden time. At Bushes we like to encourage children to build friendships and relationships with one another and find that the use of such devices at these times does not support this.

I am grateful to you for your support in both of these matters.



## Car Park

Just a quick reminder that the school car park is for staff use only. Unfortunately, we only have enough space to accommodate staff's cars and by entering the car park to drop off or pick up, you may be placing children at risk. I would ask that you do not enter the staff car park. Thank you for your understanding and support in this.

## Medicines



If your child requires to take medicine during the school day please ensure this is given to the office in the morning. Children should not keep medicines in their school bags or self-administer medicine. If your child has an inhaler at home can I ask that you send in a second one to school. I have attached to this newsletter a copy of a medication form which should be completed anytime you need to send medicine into school for your child.

## I ♥ P.E. and Jewellery

A reminder that we strongly recommend that for best health and safety practice, children do not wear earrings to school on days they have P.E. However if this is not possible, parents wishing their children to wear earrings must ensure that they are studded and not hooped. Parents must also ensure that earrings are either taped up before the start of the school day, provide tape to your child to administer the tape if you feel they are capable of doing so independently or that the pupil is able to remove the earrings by themselves. Please note that adults in the school do not take responsibility for taping up pupil's ears and that pupils are responsible for the safekeeping of their jewellery.

Children will also be asked to remove watches and other jewellery during P.E. lessons as per council policy.

## Water Bottles



Staying hydrated has many proven health benefits including increased levels of concentration. With this, I would ask that you provide you child with a refillable water bottle and encourage them to bring it to school each day filled with fresh, plain water. They will have the opportunity at break and lunchtimes to refill these bottles from our water fountain.



## Class Assemblies, Open Afternoons and Scottish Showcase

Following on from the success of the whole school open afternoon last March and feedback from parents in our annual survey which stated they wanted more access to classrooms and their children's work, we have decided to alter the format of the opportunities we offer for parents to come into the school and have their child share their learning with them. You will notice from the attached 'Dates For Your Diary' sheet that there will once again be a whole school open afternoon in March but that there is also one scheduled in October on the afternoon of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. This extra whole school open afternoon will replace the individual class assemblies that have been performed in previous years. Pupils will still have the opportunity to share their learning with their parents but in a classroom setting where parents can interact with their child and investigate their learning with them.

We know, however, that you love to see your children perform on stage so in January we will be holding a 'Scottish Showcase!' Every class will perform a Scottish themed piece and can choose anything from a poem to a song or even a dance. This concert will be held on the afternoons of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Further details regarding times and how to get tickets will follow in due course.

## Science and Autoimmune Disease Fayre



During the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> August, Pupils in Primary 1-7 will be taking part in experiments and creating posters about science and autoimmune diseases which will be used as part of the 'Science and Autoimmune Fayre'. This fayre will be held at the Glenburn Community Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September between 11am and 3pm. Further details about attending this fayre will follow in due course, however we are all very excited about working towards this exciting event.



## Bushes Nursery

You may have noticed that our Nursery is now referred to as an 'Early Learning and Childcare Class'. This change in name has taken place amongst all Nursery classes within Renfrewshire but does not change what our Nursery does. It is still an excellent environment for our youngest children at Bushes and has devoted staff who provide an excellent first experience of education for our children.

I would also ask that if children are playing in the playground after 3pm that they do not approach the Nursery and ask them to use their toilets. Nursery children are still working after 3pm and staff will be unable to grant access to their toilets for school pupils from now on. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

## Attendance and Timekeeping



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority of parents/carers who ensure that their children come to school regularly and on time. Attendance and timekeeping has improved for many children and this will continue to be monitored closely. If attendance and timekeeping percentages fall below certain levels I am duty bound to inform you of this and will do so via letter.

Parents/Carers are kindly requested, whenever possible, not to take children out of school during term time as holidays out with term time are having a negative impact on children's learning and in some cases there is a clear link to children's attainment. Children are being assessed formatively by their teachers throughout the school session and children are missing out on key assessments due to unauthorised absences during term time. We **will not** fulfil any requests for work to be issued for children to complete whilst they are on holiday during term time.



## Grant Success

During the summer holidays I received word that our Parent Council had been successful in their application to the new Local Partnership Grant Fund and as such have secured a grant of £5000 for playground developments. These developments are geared towards outdoor physical education resources and include the installation of line markings on the playground to promote the participation in the 'Daily Mile' initiative. As the plans are finalised and installation begins we will update you further however for now, I am delighted and grateful to our Parent Council for securing this funding and for their ongoing support.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's education, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Craig McCrorie*