



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

A very warm welcome back to you all! We are absolutely delighted to have all of the children back with us and I hope everyone had a restful and fun summer. I am very excited for the year ahead and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all.



### Staffing and Classes

In our Early Learning and Childcare Class we are saying farewell this week to Mrs Kerry McGrow and Mrs Sarah Hislop who have been with us here at Bushes since October 2014 and September 2019 respectively. Kerry leaves us to begin her journey towards becoming a Primary School Teacher and Sarah leaves us to take up a new post within the authority. Both staff members will be greatly missed and they leave with our best wishes for the future.

This year we are delighted to welcome a couple of new staff to the Bushes' team. We welcome Miss Leah Cole who joins our ELC team as an ELC Worker as cover for Mrs Rachael Murchie who is on maternity leave. Miss Jenna Stirling and Miss Nicole Wright are joining us and will work with Primary 4 and Primary 6 respectively. Mrs Kay Nicolson also joins us and will be working with Primary 3.

<b>Primary 1a</b>	Mr Scott Bannerman	<b>Primary 4/5</b>	Miss Laura Sweeney
<b>Primary 1b</b>	Miss Emma Roseman	<b>Primary 5a</b>	Miss Laura Thomson
<b>Primary 1/2</b>	Miss Katie Boyle	<b>Primary 5b</b>	Mrs Michelle Moseley and Mrs Kirsty Macleod
<b>Primary 2a</b>	Mrs Kathryn Wake and Mrs Kirsty Diver	<b>Primary 6a</b>	Miss Nicole Wright and Mrs Alison Warnock
<b>Primary 3a</b>	Mrs Ann Marie Bowden	<b>Primary 6b</b>	Mrs Laura Robertson
<b>Primary 3b</b>	Mrs Diane Irving and Kay Nicolson	<b>Primary 7a</b>	Mrs Pauline McIntosh and Mrs Kirsty Macleod
<b>Primary 4a</b>	Miss Jenna Stirling and Mrs Lynn Paterson	<b>Primary 7b</b>	Mr Andrew Forrester
<b>NCCT and pupil support</b>	Mrs Lynn Paterson Mr Neil Ramsay Mrs Abi Bryan Mrs Kirsty Macleod		

### Appointments



We would ask that wherever possible children attend appointments out with the school day. I am aware however, that this is not always possible, and I would ask that in such cases you telephone the office to inform them. This will allow office staff to accurately record any appointments and inform the teachers, so they are aware. Thank you for your help with this.

### **SAFETY** Safe Entry to School

I would like to remind you of the advice we issued at the start of term regarding access to the playground at the beginning and end of the school day. Thank you to you all for following these closely to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

- Pupils should not be arriving more than a few minutes before their start time
- Parents will be encouraged where they feel their child is old enough, to drop them off and collect them without entering the playground.
- Parents of younger children may want to bring their child into, and collect them from, the playground and this is possible however, it is imperative that you socially distance at all times.
- Only 1 parent from each family should enter the playground to drop off/collect their child and they should then leave the playground as soon as their child has entered the building.
- Anyone who wishes to accompany their child into the playground should not stand with their child in their class lines or approach members of staff.

- If you have missed your child's allocated timeslot, please do not bring your child to school without contacting the school office to verify a suitable arrival time where a member of staff will then be in attendance to receive any latecomers and safely escort them to classes.
- At the end of each day, please arrive just a minute or two before your child's allocated dismissal time to avoid congestion.
- The climbing frame and the upper paved area in the garden at the P1 entrance are not currently in use. Please do not allow your child to play on these.
- Children and parents should leave the school grounds as soon as the school day has finished.

## Keeping in Touch



Following our successful use of Seesaw during the past 18 months, we will be continuing to use it this session and beyond. Please make sure your details are up-to-date and you can access your account on this app. Using this app will enable us to send home letters and newsletters via this system without having to print them – this will be good for the environment and for the school budget too allowing us to buy more resources to support your child's education. All letters and newsletters are also available on the school website. If you need to have a letter or newsletter printed, please contact the school office.

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.

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!

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. There are a number of pupils within the school with life-threatening nut allergies and it is imperative that this ban on nuts and nut containing products is adhered to. Thank you for your support in this matter.

We are also a school that promotes healthy eating. I would appreciate your support in not sending your child into school with fizzy drinks as we have found consuming them can make it harder for children to concentrate.

## Dogs in the Playground



A reminder that dogs are not permitted within the playground regardless of whether they are on a leash. This rule also applies to any dogs that are being carried by their owner within the playground. Anyone not following these guidelines will be asked to take the dog out of the playground.



## Pupil Equity Fund

As part of our Pupil Equity Fund Plan for this session I am delighted to announce that we will be able to continue to fund a Classroom Assistant and a teacher this session.

## School Photographs



Tempest photographers will be visiting the school and ELC Class on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. Class photos will be taken on the Thursday with individual and family portraits on the Friday. 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.



## 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, despite many challenges, a lot of money was raised (over £2000) with the money raised being used for a variety of actions which benefitted pupils. 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 however for the time being these meetings are taking place online.

The first Parent Council meeting of the new school session will be our AGM. This will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

We are also delighted to inform you that we have secured a donation from Cruden and Sanctuary Homes towards repairing the climbing frame area in the playground. We will be sharing our exciting plans for this revamp in the coming weeks.

### Wet Weather Arrangements



A reminder that I currently do not have the ability to allow children into the building before their allocated arrival time regardless of the weather conditions. On very wet days, please send your child to school as close to the start as possible and remind them not to wait at the top of the stairs or try to enter the building early. Thank you for your support and understanding.



### 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.

### P.E. and Jewellery PE

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. Children can wear comfortable trousers, leggings or joggers on P.E. days but should still wear a school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan as per the uniform guidance.



## Flu Immunisation Programme

Letters to permit your child to be administered with the flu immunisation will be issued soon. These immunisations are scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 20th October**. Please visit [www.nhsinform.scot/childflu](http://www.nhsinform.scot/childflu) for further information.

## COVID 19 Guidance Update



It is of the upmost importance that we all continue to be vigilant around COVID 19. Remember the following are the symptoms of COVID 19 listed on the NHS website:

1. a high temperature
2. a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
3. a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We must follow this advice from Renfrewshire Council and the NHS:

- If a pupil develops Covid 19 symptoms while at school - We will:
  - ✓ ask the pupil to wait in a well-ventilated isolation room away from other pupils and staff where they will be supervised until they can be collected
  - ✓ contact their parent or carer and arrange for the pupil to be collected (they should not use school or public transport)
  - ✓ ask the parent or carer to take home any siblings
- You should:
  - ✓ keep the pupil at home and self-isolate as a household, including siblings and adults
  - ✓ book a PCR test via Test and Protect
  - ✓ inform the school of your test results
- What happens if my child has symptoms but I don't get them tested?
  - ✓ If your child has symptoms, we strongly advise you get them tested. If you don't, you must not send your child to school and the whole household must self-isolate for ten days from the onset of symptoms.
- Can I send my child to school while we are waiting for a test or results for them or a person they live with?
  - ✓ No. Please keep your child off school until you have received your PCR test results and inform the school when you have them.
  - ✓ If your child tests positive they must self-isolate for 10 days.
  - ✓ If a member of the household tests positive but your child tests negative on a PCR test, then your child can return to school. You are advised to pay close attention to them in the following period and look out for them feeling unwell or developing COVID symptoms. If this occurs, you should self-isolate immediately and take another PCR test.

We understand parents may find the guidance frustrating at times however we are following the guidelines set out by public health and we must continue to follow these at all times to ensure everyone's safety. Please ask if you are unsure and need guidance, we are here to help.

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

Yours sincerely,

*Craig McCrorie*