



Welcome to Bushes Primary's April and May Newsletter!

Staffing



It gives me great pleasure to begin this newsletter by sharing two lovely pieces of news with you all.

Firstly, Miss Roseman, one of Class Teachers, got married over the Easter holidays. She and her new husband had a lovely day surrounded by friends and family. We wish them both a lifetime of happiness together. Emma has decided to continue to be known as Miss Roseman at school for the time being.

Secondly, in a few weeks, it will be time for Mrs Sharon Walker in the ELC Class to start her Maternity Leave in preparation for the arrival of baby. We are all very excited to meet the new baby when it comes and we wish Mrs Walker a healthy and happy maternity leave.

In other staffing news, we have been very fortunate to have Mrs Karen Blair join our clerical staff and I am sure you will all make her feel welcome here at Bushes.



Parent Council

We continue to meet every month and are always looking for new members. Please support the vital work we do as it benefits every child within the school. Parent Council meetings are usually scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month and are held online at 6.30pm. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 26th April at 6.30pm** and Zoom codes will be sent out on Seesaw.

We recently held our Easter raffle and raised a fantastic £582! Thank you for your support!

We are continuing to work with our chosen supplier for the new climbing frame area in the playground. We are doing all we can to move the process along as quickly as possible but things are taking longer than we had originally hoped. Thank you for your patience with this and we hope to have some news on this to share with you soon.

P7 and P6 Residential Trips



Our Primary 7 pupils had a fantastic time on their residential trip in March. The sun shone and they loved all of the activities they took part in. I would like to state that the trip would not be possible without staff giving up their time and leaving their families for a week, and I am very grateful to Mrs Paterson, Mrs McConnell, Mrs McIntosh and Miss Carrigan who volunteered to accompany the children on this residential trip.

Our Primary 6 pupils are getting very excited for their residential trip from Monday 9th May to Friday 13th May. I am looking forward to hearing all about their trip on their return!

Staff Car Park and Parking

Please remember that the school car park is for staff use only. Parents should not be using the car park at the beginning and end of the school day.

We also have had a number of complaints from local residents about parents and carers parking on the zig zags outside the school when waiting to drop off/collect their children from school. Parking on these is dangerous and risks the health and safety of the children. I have asked for the area to be surveyed regularly to ensure no one is parking in these areas. I appreciate your understanding and support in this.

Parents' Evening



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our first virtual Parents' Evening with staff and parents both commenting on it being a really positive experience. I am very grateful to you all for being open to trying the new technology associated with this approach. I know that, despite our best efforts, some people did experience technical difficulties but your patience with this was greatly appreciated.



Pupil and Parental Feedback

Thank you very much to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent parental feedback questionnaire. We will add this feedback to the feedback from the questionnaires pupils did as a class and utilise this to inform our improvement priorities going forward.

In the pupil survey:

Examples of themes pupils fed back that they felt makes Bushes a good school:

- Easy to make friends
- Lessons are fun and interesting
- Good resources and equipment
- The adults are kind and helpful

Examples of themes pupils fed back that they felt would make Bushes an even better school:

- More outdoor resources
- Trips and visitors
- Assemblies and shows
- More adults to help and support

In the parent/carer survey:

Examples of themes parents/carers fed back that they felt the school does well:

- Approachable and supportive staff
- Fun and interesting lessons and learning opportunities
- Whole school bonding
- Helps children to grow in confidence and achieve their goals
- Good communication as a whole school
- Creates a safe and nurturing environment
- Celebrating wider achievements

Examples of themes parents/carers fed back that they felt the school should look to continue to develop:

- Parent and pupil input
- More information regarding what children are learning and how to specifically support them in their learning at home
- Reinstate school football and netball teams
- More clubs and opportunities for activities outside of classroom
- Playground equipment and make the outside of the school look brighter
- Homework online with hard copies being available if needed

Examples of themes parents/carers feel Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) money could be considered to be used for:

- School staff
- Seesaw and IDL
- Sports Clubs
- Class trips
- Health and Wellbeing focussed resources and activities
- Outdoor learning
- Smaller class sizes
- School renovations
- Life skill lessons
- School knows best and currently chooses well

From the questionnaires there are some things I would like to highlight:

- COVID Guidance has to implemented as per direction from the Scottish Government. Any decision that has been made has been done so following the guidance we have been given and applying it to our setting to ensure everyone's health and safety. I know it has been a frustrating period for everyone and we are looking forward to being able to interact with you in the ways we are familiar with as restrictions ease.

- We are always keen to involve parents – COVID has made this challenging, but we will continue to look to improve how we do this. Remember the Parent Council continues to run, as it has done throughout the Pandemic, and offers a great opportunity to become involved in the school. We will also look to continue to develop the ways pupils have the opportunity to express their views and how these are acted upon.
- Clubs and activities outside of the classroom have been severely limited in the past 2 years. I am not surprised by the survey response to this question but am keen to resurrect the great opportunities we did offer and more opportunities will be forthcoming as restrictions ease.
- Lastly, please be assured that we do take on board all of your views. I read every response and make sure that the themes are noted and analysed. Your views do genuinely matter, and we take them on board.

Celebrating Children's Successes!



I have had some more lovely visits from pupils who have been very keen to share with me their successes outside of school. A huge congratulations to:

Ethan P2 – Football trophy

Eilidh P5 – Passing level 1 of Gymnastics

Brayden P2 – Football trophy

Rory P2 – Football trophy

Emily P3 – Passing level 1 of gymnastics

Amelia P3 – Achieved Tae Kwon Do red stripe belt

Ben P1 – Football medal

Freya P5 - Netball trophy for player of the week

Isla P5 – Passed piano Prep Test

Blair P5 – Judo competition medal



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.

Dates for your diary



Tuesday 26 th April	Parent Council at 6.30pm
Monday 2 nd May	Holiday-school closed to all pupils
Thursday 5 th May	Inservice day – school closed to all pupils
Monday 9 th May – Friday 13 th May	P6s at Lockerbie residential trip
Tuesday 10 th and Wednesday 11 th May	P1 and P7 induction days
Friday 27 th May	Holiday-school closed to all pupils
Thursday 2 nd and Friday 3 rd June	Holiday-school closed to all pupils
Wednesday 22 nd June	P7 prom/party/end of school event – Further details will be shared about this soon. Please do not purchase anything for this event until further details have been shared.
Monday 27 th June	P7 Leavers – Further details will be shared about this soon.
Tuesday 28 th June	Finish at 1pm
TBC	Sports Day – date will be confirmed soon.

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

Yours sincerely,

Craig McCrorie