

Welcome to Bushes Primary's August & September Newsletter!

A very warm welcome back to you all! I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

Over these first few days, it has been wonderful to see our new P1 pupils settle in so well and to welcome back our P2-P7 pupils. I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to you all for the positive attitude children have returned to school with, and for your efforts in ensuring your children come to school every day looking smart in their uniforms. I am very excited for the year ahead and I am sure, by continuing to work in partnership, it will be another very successful one for all of our pupils.



Staffing and Classes

In our Early Learning and Childcare Class, we welcome Mrs Deborah Wilson who will be joining as our Early Year's Graduate – welcome Deborah!

In the school, we welcome Miss Chloe McManus who is joining us and will work with Primary 5. We are also delighted to welcome back Mr Neil Ramsay following his successful spell as Transition Teacher at Gleniffer High School. Lastly, we say goodbye to Mrs Leanne Feeney, ASNA, who leaves us to take up a new role within another school within Renfrewshire. We wish Leanne every success in the future and thank her for her service during her time with us.

Primary 1a	Miss Laura Sweeney-Gardner	Primary 5/4	Miss Chloe McManus and Mrs Lynn Paterson
Primary 1b	Mrs Emma McMullan	Primary 5a	Miss Evie Fowler
Primary 2a	Miss Katie Boyle	Primary 6a	Miss Laura Thomson
Primary 3/2	Mrs Kathryn Wake and Mrs Jennifer Hendry	Primary 6/5	Mrs Kirsty Diver and Miss Amy Carrigan
Primary 3a	Mrs Ann Marie Bowden	Primary 6a	Mr Scott Bannerman
Primary 4/3	Mrs Laura Collin (formerly Miss Thomson)	Primary 7a	Mrs Pauline McIntosh and Mr Neil Ramsay
Primary 4a	Mrs Michelle Moseley and Mrs Diane Irvine	Primary 7b	Mrs Kirsty Macleod and Mr Neil Ramsay
NCCT and pupil support	Mrs Lynn Paterson Mr Neil Ramsay Mrs Abi Bryan Mrs Alison Warnock Mrs Donna McConnell Miss Amy Carrigan		

Keeping in Touch



We will be continuing to use the Seesaw app this session. 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.

Please note that although Seesaw is an excellent tool for communication, we would ask that any queries, reporting of absences etc. is made directly with the school office and not through Seesaw. Teachers may choose to communicate through Seesaw following the initial contact however, I must ask that the initial contact is made through 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, if you wish to discuss something with a member of staff or the Senior Leadership Team, please contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time as it is not always possible to meet a member of staff on demand. We work hard to respond to such requests as quickly as possible. Thank you for your support in this matter.



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.

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 continue to have in place a 'PEF teacher' for a few days each week whose work will focus on working closely with identified pupils to raise their attainment. We will also continue to invest in software to support children's learning both in school and at home (Sumdog, IDL, GL standardised assessments and Seesaw) as well as materials and supports for health and wellbeing (PATHS). Look out for further details regarding these initiatives this session.



School Photographs

Monument photographers will be visiting the school and ELC Class on **Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th September**. Please ensure your child comes to school or the ELC Class on both days ready to have their photographs taken. 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 £5500!) 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. Dates are advertised on Seesaw with the first meeting of the year to take place on **Tuesday 5th September**.

I am also also delighted to confirm that the work on the new play equipment has been completed and can now be enjoyed by the children. Thank you for all of your support during the process and raising money towards its completion. We are very happy with the final result!



Meet the Teacher / Key Worker Evening

An opportunity to attend a 'Meet the Teacher/Key Worker' evening is being offered on **Wednesday 6th September between 4pm and 6pm**. A letter with further details will be sent home and will be available on Seesaw and the school website.



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 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

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.

Water Bottles



Staying hydrated has many proven health benefits including increased levels of concentration. With this, I would ask that you provide your 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.



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 are key to ensuring your child has the opportunity to achieve to their fullest potential and as such it 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.



Dates for diary and school holidays

Please find on the next page a note of dates for your diary for this school session. Can I also draw your attention to the link on our school website to Renfrewshire Council's website page which details the school holiday dates. Go to <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/bushes/> click on the 'information' tab at the top of the page and then choose 'school holidays'.

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

Yours sincerely,

Craig McCrorie

Dates for Diary 2023-2024

September	
Tuesday 5th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 6th	Meet The Teacher/Key Worker 4pm-6pm (ELC Class and P1-P7)
Wednesday 13 th and Thursday 14 th	School and ELC Class Photographs
Friday 22 nd - Monday 25 th inclusive	Holiday
Tuesday 26 th – Friday 29 th	Maths Week Scotland
Thursday 28 th	Parent Council Disco
October	
Tuesday 3 rd	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 11 th	Parents' Night (3pm-9pm P1-P7) (ELC Class 5pm-7pm)
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th inclusive	Holiday
Monday 23 rd	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
November	
Wednesday 1st to Tuesday 7 th	Primary 1 Enrolment
Thursday 2 nd	Parent Council Disco
Tuesday 7 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 16 th	Fluoride Varnish team visiting
Saturday 18 th	Winter Fayre
Thursday 30 th	Holiday
December	
Tuesday 5 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Tuesday 12 th (morning and afternoon)	ELC Class, P1 and P2 Nativity
Wednesday 13 th	P4s Christmas Party
Thursday 14 th	P3s Christmas Party
Friday 15 th	P5s Christmas Party
Monday 18 th	P6s Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th	P7s Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 th	P2s Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st	P1s Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st	ELC Class Christmas Party
Friday 22 nd AM	P1-P7 Pantomime
Friday 22 nd	Finish at 2.30pm
Monday 25 th – Friday 5 th January inclusive	Holiday
January	
Tuesday 9 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 22 nd	Primary 6 Residential Trip Meeting 6pm-7pm
Thursday 25 th AM and PM	P1-P7 Scottish Showcase
February	
Thursday 1 st	Parent Council Disco
Tuesday 6 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 12 th and Tuesday 13 th inclusive	Holiday
Wednesday 14 th	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Thursday 22 nd	World Thinking Day
March	
Wednesday 6 th	Parents' Night (3pm-9pm P1-P7)
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day
Tuesday 12 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd	P6s Residential Trip to Lockerbie Manor

Thursday 21 st	Parent Council Movie Night 6.30pm
Thursday 29 th	Finish 2.30pm
April	
Friday 30 th – Friday 12 th inclusive	Holiday
Tuesday 23 rd	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
May	
Thursday 2 nd	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Friday 3 rd	ELC Class and P1-P7 Sports Days (to be confirmed)
Monday 6 th	Holiday
Friday 24 th	Holiday
Monday 27 th	Holiday
Thursday 30 th	Parent Council Disco
June	
Tuesday 4 th	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 12 th and Thursday 13 th	P7 School Show
Wednesday 19 th	P7 Prom
Wednesday 26 th	P7 Leavers' Service
Thursday 27 th	Finish at 1pm

Please note some dates may be unavoidably changed.



Bushes Vision, Values and Aims

"Blossom at Bushes"



Our Vision

To create the happy environment our school community needs to thrive, all stakeholders have established a clear Vision and set of Core Values as well as our aims for the whole school community.

Our Vision

We believe that all children are created equal and are owed the best we have to give. As a whole school community, we will work together tirelessly to develop and advance the unique set of skills and talents each of our pupils have and encourage every one of them to believe they can be successful and empower them to achieve amazing things.

Our Values are at the root of everything we do at Bushes:

Build each other up through **KINDNESS** and **FRIENDSHIP**

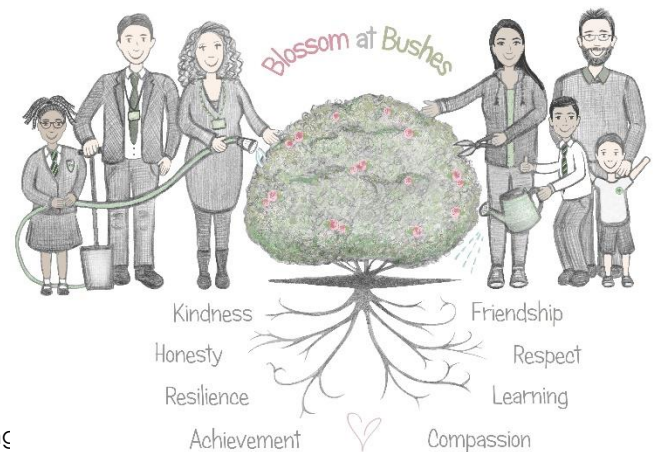
Uphold **HONESTY**

Share **RESPECT**

Have **RESILIENCE**

Encourage **LEARNING** and **ACHIEVEMENT**

Show **COMPASSION**



Aims for our Pupils

- To provide a happy, safe, stimulating, supportive and nurturing full potential as both learners and people, and can develop respect for themselves, others and their surroundings.
- To provide a rich, exciting and progressive curriculum which engages and motivates children and through which every child can develop fully as lifelong learners with skills to equip them for their future.
- To encourage children to be independent, motivated, curious, creative and resilient learners who have a love of, and are capable of leading, their own learning.
- To provide children with the opportunities to contribute their voice to, and play an active role in, the development of the School and ELC Class.
- To provide opportunities for every child to feel part of, and be able to positively contribute to, the school, local and global community, helping them to become responsible members of society.
- To actively promote good physical and mental health amongst all children.
- To celebrate children's achievements and ensure they receive recognition and praise for their efforts and achievements in all areas of their life, both within and out with the ELC Class and School.
- To provide equity for all children.

Aims for our Families and Community

- To provide a supportive and nurturing environment, working collaboratively and in partnership with parents and carers to help every child achieve their full potential.
- To empower parents and carers to play an active role in their child's education.
- To develop and sustain close links between parents and the local community to further children's learning.
- To promote, support, respect and value parental engagement in contributing to the ongoing development of the school.

Aims for our Staff

- To provide a supportive and nurturing environment wherein staff work collaboratively to provide the best educational experience possible for every child.
- To support them in keeping up to date with latest National and Council policies and procedures and continuing to develop their practice through Continual Professional Development opportunities.
- To nurture and respect each child as an individual and play an active role in their personal, as well as their educational development.
- To serve the community of Bushes with empathy, progressive learning and pride.