



Welcome to Bushes Primary's April and May Newsletter!

Staffing



In the final few weeks of term 3, we were delighted to welcome a new Senior Facilities Officer within the kitchen. Mrs Laura Todd joins us from Langcraigs with Mrs Rosalba DI Paolantonio joining Langcraigs. I would like to thank Rosalba for her efforts during her short time with her and wish her every success in her role at Langcraigs.

We also welcome two new members of staff. Christine Carty, a new Additional Support Needs Assistant (ASNA) and Nicola McGowan, a new Clerical Officer, were successful at interview and start with us this term.

Parent Council



Our Parent Council have run a number of successful events so far this year and are a credit to our school. From raffles to movie nights to discos and winter fayres, a number of events have been offered to all pupils and their families. The money raised from these events goes directly to improve the educational experiences of all pupils funding new resources, trips and visitors to our school. This is only made possible with your continued support of, and attendance at, the events run by the Parent Council. Thank you!

Our next disco is scheduled to be held on **Thursday 30th May**.

Our Parent Council are always looking for new recruits so if you are interested why not come along to one of their meetings?! These usually take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. However because of holidays, the next meeting of 2024 will take place in the staff room on **Tuesday 23rd April at 6.30pm**. It will also include an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss proposed changes to the constitution. We look forward to seeing you there!



Primary 1 and Primary 7 Induction

On Wednesday 15th May and Thursday 16th May, our Primary 7 pupils will be attending Gleniffer High School for their induction days. They will also attend on Friday 17th May for a sports event. Further details will be shared via Seesaw before these dates.

On Thursday 16th May, we will be welcoming our new Primary 1 children and their parents/carers to Bushes, and we are very much looking forward to meeting and working with them all!

P6 Residential Trip



A huge thank you to Mrs Paterson, Mr Bannerman, Miss Fowler, Miss Carrigan for looking after our Primary 6's on their residential trip - what a fantastic week everyone had! 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 them. I was delighted when I heard how much our Primary 6 pupils enjoyed their week and how well they had represented the school.



Staff Car Park

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. I appreciate your understanding and support in 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. 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.



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:

Evan P3/2 – writing stories in his own time at home

Euan P3 – Trophy for best boy at Anchor Boys and also won Anchor Boys' Christmas card competition

Lewis P2 – medal for taking part in a football competition

Scarlett P3 – medals and certificates for merit for 2 dancing styles.

Leon P4 – Gold medal for sparring and Bronze medal for patterns in Taekwon-Do competition

Adam P5 – Trophy for '6 of the Month' at Cubs. Also presented with 'Cub of the Month' award

Evie P5 – certificate for passing Level 5 and Level 6 trampolining

Carson P4/3 – trophy for hard work at football club

Olivia P3 – medal for taking part in a dance competition

Amber P5/4 – 7 x medals for different Scottish dances at a competition

Adam P5 – Cub of the year trophy

Lewis P5 – Lots of badges earned from Cubs

Evie P5 - Lots of badges earned from Brownies

Emily P5 - Lots of badges earned from Brownies

Leon P4 – 2 Gold medals for Tae Kwon Do competition and a Bronze for participation

Marla P4 – 2 medals and certificates for Latin and Ballroom dancing

Eilish P2 – medal for taking part in a music competition. Also been learning about different flags at home.

Rosie P1 – medal, trophy and certificate for winning a skiing race

Charlie P6 - achieved a Merit Pass in his grade 1 piano exam.

Emma P7 – medal for finishing second in a netball competition

Edi - P1 Medal for winning a dance competition

Roma P2 – Certificates and medals for dancing in ballet, tap and disco

Sophie P2– Certificates and medals for dancing in ballet, tap and disco

Dylan P2 – gained blue stripe belt in mixed martial arts

Daniel P3/2 – raising money for diabetes charity by doing a sponsored walk every day

Lucy P6 – medal for taking part in gymnastics competition with her club

Rhys P4 – medal for football competition

Matilda P1a – 2 x certificates and medals for ballet and tap dancing



Health

I would like to remind you of the NHS' guidance that children should not return to school or nursery until 48 hours after a bout of sickness or diarrhoea (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>).

I would also like to draw your attention to the following advice from the NHS about checking your child's hair regularly for Head Lice. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



Travelling to School

It is wonderful to see so many pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school. I have reminded pupils at assembly that as soon as they enter the playground in the morning they must come off of their bike or scooter and push it round to the bike shelter. At the end of the day children should push their bike or scooter whilst they are in the playground. I would appreciate your help in reminding your child of these rules.

School Sports Day



Our annual school sports day will take place (weather permitting) on the afternoon of Friday 3rd May. Parents and carers are invited to join us in the playground with children from P1-P7 taking part in a variety of activities. Our Sports Day has an Olympic theme this year, with each class representing a country that they have chosen. The afternoon will begin with an opening ceremony. Please note that children will be dismissed at the usual time of 3pm. Further details will be sent home soon.



Primary 7 School Show

Rehearsals are under way for this year's Primary 7 school show – 'Aladdin'. The show takes place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June with a 7pm start on both nights (Doors open at 6.30pm). Letters regarding how to acquire tickets will be sent home soon. As always, it is sure to be a fantastic event!

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. I appreciate your understanding and 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.

I would ask for you to support us in ensuring your child is using their mobile phones safely by:

- Regularly reviewing your child's social media accounts and their online communications
- Regularly reviewing their privacy settings on any social media accounts, they have
- Reporting any inappropriate behaviours or actions to the police

Also, children should not be bringing other electronic devices to school. At Bushes, we like to encourage children to build friendships and relationships with one another and find that the use of such devices does not support this.

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



Pupil and Parent/Carer Feedback

Thank you very much to all the parents and carers, 48 of you, who took the time to complete our recent parent/carers feedback questionnaire.

In the pupil survey:

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

- People (children and staff) are happy and kind and care about us
- Lessons are fun and interesting
- Good resources and equipment
- School Values
- Celebrating outside successes
- Easy to make friends
- Playground is fun

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

- More outdoor resources
- More after school and lunchtime clubs
- More rubbish bins and stop dropping litter!
- Picnic benches and improve the look of outdoors

In the parent/carer survey:

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

- Parents are listened to and supported
- Events for parent participation and opportunity to gain feedback- open afternoons, shows etc.
- Values and community ethos
- Nurturing, inclusive, and caring environment and staff
- Teachers' relationships with individual children and knowing each of them well
- Fun learning and good teaching approaches
- Communication and providing information on Seesaw
- Fairness and approachable
- Whole school events e.g., House prizes, Sports Day, Scottish Showcase, Hot Chocolate reward and Values assemblies
- Trips e.g., Lockerbie and whole school trips

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

- Further develop use of Seesaw to share updates with parents
- More clubs and opportunities for activities outside of classroom including non-sporting ones along with school teams e.g., netball and football
- Further supports for pupils both with their learning and when making poor behaviour choices
- SLT in playground at start and end of day

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

- School staff to support with pupils learning and making good choices
- IDL
- Sumdog
- Seesaw
- Sports Clubs

Lastly, please be assured that we do take on board all 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. We will add this feedback to the feedback from other stakeholders and utilise this to inform our improvement priorities going forward.

Attendance



On average, attendance **above 95%** is what would be aimed for across the school year as there are direct links between attendance and children's attainment. I monitor attendance across the whole school on a monthly basis, to ensure that children are attending as often as possible. I am fully aware children may need to miss school for occasional appointments or illness, but I would like to ask for your continued support in helping your child to attend school as much as possible. It is also extremely beneficial when children attend school on time as it sets them up positively for the day ahead. If you are facing any difficulties in supporting you child to attend school or to do so on time, please reach out to us and we will do all that we can to support you in this. The more children attend school, the better opportunity they give themselves to reach their full potential.



Dates for your Diary

April	
Tuesday 23 rd	Parent Council EGM and Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 25 th	P7s Parents and Carers Evening at Gleniffer High School 6.30pm

May	
Thursday 2 nd	Inservice Day (school only open to staff)
Friday 3 rd	P1-P7 Sports Day
Monday 6 th	Holiday
Wednesday 15 th and Thursday 16 th	P7s Induction at Gleniffer High School
Thursday 16 th	New Primary 1s Induction at Bushes
Friday 17 th	P7s Sports Day at Gleniffer High School
Thursday 23 rd	Non-Uniform Day
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
Tuesday 18 th	P7 Prom
Wednesday 26 th	P7 Leavers' Service
Thursday 27 th	Finish at 1pm

Please note some dates may be unavoidably changed

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

Yours sincerely,

Craig McCrorie